Preacher for 11am Services

MAY
23rd To Be Advised
30th Delwyn Tilke

JUNE
6th To Be Advised
13th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th May. Southmead joint churches meeting on Zoom at 7.30pm. Please contact Brenda if you would like the link to enable you to join us.

Friday 14th May. Will be our next church meeting on Zoom at 2.30pm.

Wednesday 19th May. This will be the next Southmead Joint Churches Meeting. Please remember this meeting in your prayers as we plan for events in the coming months.

We have heard news of Carol ‘H’ who has now completed her treatment and is feeling well. She has a further appointment later this month. John W is not feeling quite so good after a recent procedure but is hoping that meetings with the medical people will lead to some better pain relief. We continue to uphold both of these friends in prayer asking for God’s healing.

As mentioned earlier we are hoping to return to ‘face to face’ worship later in the month. We will be following guidelines issued nearer the time. But think we will be wearing face coverings, keeping social distance, and booking to attend services. I think that singing will still not be allowed but ‘watch this space’!! We will contact everyone in the days prior to ‘re opening’.

Dear all,

I hope that you are feeling able to take some of the advantages of the easing of lockdown to start getting out and about again, and with a little bit less trepidation and anxiety than has been the case over the period of the past year. Living in the centre of Bristol here in the manse, we get the sense that Chapel Green Lane has once again become something of the rush hour rat-run that it used to be. Whitleadies Road seems to have recovered a degree of vibrancy, whereas for most of the past year it has seemed more like a ghost town. If, in the past few months, tumbleweed had blown past me, I wouldn’t have been surprised. Life is getting back to normal. All over the world people are dealing and responding to much the same issues at much the same time. Why do we do what we do?

The end of this month of May sees the celebration of Pentecost. Apart from being the “birthday” of the church, this is about a group of people of faith experiencing the same drive to “get out here” and do something to change the world for the better. The thing is that within this faith narrative this isn’t just something that happens to happen. Instead of that it is all put down to the very real and personal presence of God, which we understand as the presence of the Holy Spirit.

As I write there has just been the outcome of the George Floyd case. That might be the opportunity for a race relations reset in the States. In the UK the Church of England is also dealing with issues of race relations. With regard to the issues of climate change, those challenges will come to the fore again as we emerge from the pandemic. There are major climate change conferences about to happen. As we emerge from the pandemic we shall have to reflect on divisions within society and why some have suffered more than others.

So, let’s take our experience of God, which impels us to get out here, and use that whole faith tradition to shape our future for the better.

This is the world of Pentecost. Let’s celebrate what comes our way through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dougie
Redland Park People

For those who remember Sheila Radford, who was a member with us several years ago, she has had much ill-health over recent years and is now in Southmead Hospital with coronavirus; we pray for her and her recovery.

We continue to pray for members and friends who aren’t able to attend online church at present, Sheila Smart, who has recently had a fall and hurt her leg, Margaret Prigg, who is not feeling well at the moment, Bryan Jenkins, Christine and Malcolm Johnson, Janet Lockyer, and all those we know. We pray for them and hope to see them before too long.

We continue to pray for Margaret Donadel who is undergoing treatment for cancer, and we hope that things go well for her.

Please pray for all our of members and friends, especially Glyn and Margaret, Bennett, Rosemary, Ken grieving for a friend, Jeff suffering from cancer and back in hospital with sepsis, and any others known to us, who need our prayers at this time, whether through mental or physical health issues, financial problems, conflict, or family matters.

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, especially in Afghanistan, Mozambique, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Myanmar, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Cameroon, the DRC, Syria and Yemen.

Prayer page:

When I feel alone, your presence is ever with me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.
When I am in the dark, your light is all around me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.
When I am in the cold, your warmth will enfold me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.
When I feel weak, your strength will seek me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.
When I am sad, your joy will make me glad. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

Spirit be about my head
Spirit peace around me shed
Spirit light about my way
Spirit guardian night and day
Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

Amen

Please pray for:
Margaret Donadel
Mal and Janet Owen
Sheila Radford
Rosemary
Jeff
Ken
Dougie and Helena, Andrew and John.
The bereaved - especially the Queen and the royal family.
The housebound and the lonely.
The homeless and the agencies that help them.
The people of India, fighting the virus with insufficient resources.
All who have lost their income or livelihood.
All who face discrimination because of ethnicity, colour, gender or sexual orientation.

Help us, God, to stand against injustice and to put the needs of others before our own
for you care for all your children equally.
Amen
Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill

What is the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill?
The CEE Bill is a ground-breaking piece of legislation drafted by scientists, lawyers and academics, and sets a viable pathway for the UK to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Bill is the only legislative plan before MPs that aims to address the climate-nature crisis at the speed and scale the science demands.

Please contact your local candidates for all the elections happening in Bristol on May 6th and ask them to pledge to support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill if elected.

This is the Pledge they are being asked to commit to.
If elected on 6 May 2021, I will work to make the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill law to:

- Limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5C
- Restore our natural world
- Involve citizens in the just transition to a zero-carbon society

For more information please use this link.

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for May 2021

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5th</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Elders Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 9th</td>
<td>10.40am</td>
<td>Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett</td>
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<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Evening Worship led by members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 16th</td>
<td>10.40am</td>
<td>Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 23rd</td>
<td>10.40am</td>
<td>Pentecost Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett</td>
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<td>*** In Church and live-streamed via Zoom (tbc) ***</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Evening Worship led by members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28th</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Quiz in Aid of Christian Aid (via Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 30th</td>
<td>10.40am</td>
<td>Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett</td>
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June 2021

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 6th</td>
<td>10.40am</td>
<td>Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett</td>
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Here you will find a template that you can email to the Candidates.
We all need to do what we can to highlight the Climate Crisis in the lead up to COP 26 and put pressure on our Government to make good it’s promises.

-Myra Jones
Minutes of the Church Meeting

17.03.21 (via Zoom)

Ministerial Deployment in Bristol

Andrew Hayden outlined the background to the decision of the Synod Pastoral Committee (SPC) to reduce the scoping of several pastorates in the Bristol area, including Redland Park & New Brunswick. Nationally, the URC was experiencing a decline in the number of ministers, with only two new ministers emerging from training in the last year. As a result, the 13 Moderators had resolved that no new vacancies could be declared in any synod where the number of ministers was greater than their agreed allocation; in the case of the South West Synod, we currently had just over 23 ministers whilst our allocation was 21. Thus, no new vacancies could be declared in the South West until the number of ministers had been reduced to (or below) 21.

The SPC’s solution in the Bristol area was to reduce the scoping, i.e. the percentage of ministerial deployment, of a number of pastorates. The criteria used for all such reductions is the number of members, with a national guideline of 140 members to every one minister being suggested. In the case of Redland Park & New Brunswick, with 87 members in total, the proposed reduction was 40%, meaning that we would only be entitled to 60% of a full-time minister’s time, and Dougie’s stipend would be reduced by the same percentage with effect from the start of 2023. This had come as a shock to us, especially Dougie and Helena, and to the other affected ministers whose reductions would be 50%, taking effect from 1st September 2021.

The Elders acknowledged the need to allocate ministers fairly across the country and had known of the general issue of deployment for some time. However, they were greatly disturbed by the proposal, presented as a fait accompli with no prior consultation, which would have a devastating effect on the lives of the ministers and pastorates concerned.

David Hayden described the proposal as indefensible and suggested that we should take whatever action is needed to mitigate its effects so that Redland Park remains within a 100%-scoped pastorate.

Carole Atter asked if the proposal was underpinned by financial concerns. Dougie explained that this was definitely not the case as the URC has fewer ministers than can be afforded. The issue is that ministers are retiring at a far greater rate than new ones are being recruited, and it is up to each synod to determine how to allocate its ministers.

Andrew Sims expressed his concern at the tone of the letter from the SPC dated 2nd February, which was very downbeat and demoralising with no positive notes. He also asked how other synods were dealing with this issue, and thought that the proposal as it stood could lead to the death of the URC in the Bristol area and beyond.

Anne Neugebauer had attended the recent Synod meeting and had felt great hostility towards churches in Bristol, with at least one person calling the Bristol representatives “selfish” for having the numbers of ministers that Bristol does. On the other hand, one minister, Rev. Helen Pattie (Bath URC’s), had spoken of her concern at the proposal as it would adversely affect her if it was to be implemented in her area.

Dougie explained that other synods were faced with the same issue but were addressing it in different ways. Some synods were clustering churches together under shared ministerial oversight, but no other synods were cutting stipends. The proposal as it stood would leave Bristol with only one full-time pastorate (Trinity-Henleaze), which would make it difficult to attract ministers to the area.

Helena McKinnon was concerned that the proposal was not in the spirit of the URC’s tradition of discerning God’s will through discussion and consultation via Elders, members, areas and synods. She also pointed out that Church Meetings were the supreme council within the URC, but this had been set aside with the imposition of the SPC’s proposal. Furthermore, scoping changes have hitherto been made when a pastorate is vacant; Helena had never encountered any pastorate being re-scoped with a minister in post. She also asked what part of Dougie’s ministry would be cut if his stipend, and thus time devoted to the pastorate, were to be cut by 40%.

The Recorder | May
Carol Fry raised her concern that, by treating ministers so badly, recruiting ministers to the area and synod would become very difficult.

Malcolm Johnson supported Helena’s concern that the proposal was not in the spirit of the URC’s tradition. He suggested that we ask for the proposal to be dropped and to make changes only when ministers move on naturally or there had been a period of proper consultation. He also questioned how full-time ministers would be recruited if no full-time pastorate were available, and wondered if the proposal was legal.

Jane Penrose was also shocked by the way that ministers were to be treated under the proposal, which she described as “shameful.” Andrew Hayden agreed, stating that he believed the proposal amounted to constructive dismissal.

Les Fry urged a conciliatory approach to our future actions and to support all churches across the synod.

Angus Gregson suggested that the URC should embark on a drive to seek out vocation. He also pointed out that the URC was not the only denomination facing this issue and acknowledged the need to allocate stipendiary ministry fairly, but considered the proposal to be wrong.

Andrew Hayden drew the meeting’s attention to the conciliatory responses by the Elders to the SPC and had hoped that the same tone was being adopted by the SPC. However, the hostility towards the Bristol area at the Synod meeting left him doubting that this was the case and even doubting the SPC’s intention to roll out the plan across the synod, instead opting to reduce scoping in the Bristol area and then stopping the plan.

Dougie thought that the SPC had been taken aback by the level of anger and distress felt in the Bristol area. Other ministers had also expressed grave concerns at the proposal given the effect it would have on them if it was to be implemented across the synod. Dougie and Helena had also told the Moderator, in a recent conversation, that they had felt as if they were being treated as collateral damage.

Dougie also described the deep distress being felt by other ministers in the Bristol area, whose stipends were to be cut by 50% with effect from 1st September.

Andrew Hayden outlined the changes that were due to take place in the Bristol area in the near future, regardless of the SPC’s proposals. Sian Collins was due to retire next year, Horfield URC was effectively closed making John Gray’s pastorate untenable, and Stephen Newell would be leaving Zion United Church next year, at which point a Methodist minister would take over. Thus, by the end of 2022, the Bristol area faced the prospect of losing 2.5 ministers.

Summing up, Andrew Hayden said that the meeting had given a clear mandate to invite representatives from the SPC to the next Elders meeting to discuss the proposals in great detail. He would ask again for the proposal to be withdrawn ahead of the Bristol-wide discussions on May 25th, and would continue to assess the SPC’s attitude based on the discussions with the Elders and response to the request to withdraw the proposal.

The meeting also asked Andrew Hayden to draft a letter from Church Meeting to the SPC expressing the concerns and views noted above.

News of members
News of member was shared.

A.O.B.
None.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th May at 7.30pm (via Zoom)
Christian Aid - not just one week a year!

Christian Aid commemorates 75 years this year, and unfortunately is still as needed as ever.

Last year Christian Aid lost its main fund-raising efforts when the lockdown meant that the house-to-house collection had to be cancelled. Although this was a great method for getting their message out to many households, not many people will miss delivering envelopes and then going back for them. However it did mean that CA had to curtail much of their aid and support around the developing world.

Redland Park was always a great fund-raiser for Christian Aid with both the CA Fair and the house-to-house collections that many of us carried out, raising about two thousand pounds each year. This year, we hope that a delivery-only envelope collection in May will try to raise some funds for CA, as this will get the message out without breaking any lockdown restrictions, and without the difficulties of having to go back for the envelope.

* * * * *

We are also planning to hold two online quizzes in aid of Christian Aid, on Friday 30 April, and Friday 28 May, both at 7.30pm. A zoom link will come out nearer the time, but we hope to see many of you there and to raise some money for Christian Aid.

You can donate online via (www.justgiving.com/christianaid)

Christian Aid 300,000 Step Challenge.

As we can’t have our normal Christian Aid Fair in May, the Tuesday Cell has decided to accept this Challenge. If you would like to sponsor us please send money to the Redland Park’s bank account , asking for it to go to Christian Aid .
Dear Redland Park Church,

We are writing to confirm receipt of your generous contribution of £987.00, received on 17/03/2021, towards the costs of running the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter project. Your donation will be held in a restricted fund by inHope and used only for expenses related to this project.

We are excited to be supporting the growth of this project for winter 20/21. We will keep people up-to-date with progress via regular newsletters. Please contact BristolChurchesWinterShelter@gmail.com to request updates.

Please pray for Amanda Munday, the Project Coordinator, and for this provision of shelter for the homeless.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Lee
Chief Executive

jonathan.lee@inhope.uk

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Keeping up with the vicar Pt 114 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for May and the first Sunday in June. As we move from Easter to Ascension Day, the Old Testament reading is replaced by one from Acts. Pentecost – the church’s birth day – is celebrated on May 23rd this year. And hopefully we’ll be able to celebrate worshipping together in person again at last.

In the reading from John in this morning’s service (I’m writing at the end of April), Jesus says “I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice.” The readings this month see the start of that outreach - the Ethiopian on May 2nd, Peter realising the Gentiles are included too on the 9th. All building up to Pentecost when people from all over hear the gospel in their own languages.

As we return to worship in our buildings in Redland and Southmead, how do we reach out to those around our buildings, to those who don’t know they have a shepherd, that they too are part of his flock?

“Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?” And how?

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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>OT or Acts</th>
<th>Psalm</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
<th>NT</th>
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<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</td>
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<td>John 17:6-19</td>
<td>1 John 5:9-13</td>
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<td>Pentecost</td>
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<td>30th</td>
<td>Isaiah 6:1-8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>John 3:1-17</td>
<td>Romans 8:12-17</td>
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<td>Trinity Sunday</td>
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Deadline for contributions for the
May Recorder is 23rd May

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg
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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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