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# The Recorder

September '17

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



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

# New Brunswick | September Diary

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## Preachers for **September** 11am services

3rd John Waines

10th Rev Douglas Burnett ( will include Communion)

17th Rev Ian Thornley ( Followed by our Fellowship Lunch)

24th To Be Advised

## Preachers for **October** 11am services

1st Rev Helena Mckinnon will lead our Harvest Thanksgiving Service

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**September 7th.** Church meeting at 7:30pm.

**September 9th.** Quiz and Cream Tea from 3-6 pm. Cost £5 per person in aid of Church Funds.

**September 13th** Girls' Brigade re starts at 6 pm after the summer break.

**September 23rd** Festival of Male Voice Praise at Stoke Gifford. Tickets £10. Please contact Brenda Drake if you require a ticket.

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We send belated birthday greetings to Carol Hawker who celebrated her 70th Birthday at the end of July. She has also retired from her work at Southmead Hospital so we wish her a long and happy retirement. To celebrate this special event Carol and her husband David had a trip of a lifetime to Australia and we look forward to hearing all about the adventure over the coming weeks.

Others who have celebrated birthdays over the summer have been Brenda, John and Wenda, we hope they all had lovely days and ask God's Blessing on them all.

We think, too, of those who have birthdays in September especially wishing Jim a very happy day. We also wish him and the family a very happy holiday. But as we think of those who are celebrating we also uphold to God all those who have suffered bereavements over the summer. Thinking especially of Mary Piggott who lost her brother and the family of Rev. Robin Diffey who passed away recently. We pray for God's Comfort and Peace for all those who have lost loved ones.

We uphold, too, all those who have received distressing news of any sort over the past few weeks. Whether that be to do with their health, job or financial matters may God be with them in their hour of need.

We were sorry to hear that Angus Gregson had had another accident on his bike and send him our best wishes for a full speedy recovery. We also send him good wishes as he retires from teaching. Praying that he will have a long, happy and healthy retirement.

As our young people return to school after the long summer holidays we pray for God's blessing on them. Some are apprehensive going into new classes whilst others are concerned about moving on to the next phase of their education and moving schools. May they all know that our thoughts and prayers go with them.

# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

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Dear friends,

I hope that summer has been good for you. There is something about those sunny summer mornings that helps you to get out of bed and look forward to the day ahead. Friends on Facebook will often post stunning photographs of the beauty of nature that they have seen and experienced. It is perhaps fitting, then, that as we move into autumn that we spend some time giving thanks for creation and God's gifts to us through creation. Our service on Sunday the 24th September will be a joint service with our Korean friends and will once again express these Harvest insights and theological themes.

One of the things that Helena and I did during our summer holidays in August was to go and see Al Gore's new film, An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power. It follows on from his film of 2006, An Inconvenient Truth. That film did much to bring the whole climate change debate to a wider audience and won many plaudits. In this latest film Al Gore points up the many challenges that we still face with regard to climate change, and how certain big business interests in the United States can seek to obstruct the movement to cleaner and renewable forms of energy.

Al Gore, who did so much to tackle the issues of climate change while he was vice president of the United States, confesses that at various times he has

had cause to despair, but that alongside all of that it is his faith tradition that all causes him to hope. Without naming the Old Testament, in the film he quotes Deuteronomy 30:19:

*I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and*

*death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,*

This Moses speaking to the people of Israel as they are about to enter the promised land and he is asking them to always remember to centre their lives on God. Of course this is the same God who in Genesis calls us to be stewards of creation and not lords of misrule.

So with our Harvest service we shall again seek to choose life. And after the glories of the summer months, and as we once again celebrate the wonderful tastes and colours of autumn, we might also think about the ways in which we can safeguard creation for future generations. The challenge that we hear in that Deuteronomy text is always before us. With God there is always an answer and there is always hope.

*Dougie*



Congratulations to **John and Anne Neugebauer** who have become grandparents for the second time. Their daughter **Ruth** gave birth to twins, **Jemima and Thea** at the end of July. We send God's blessings to all the family.

Congratulations to **Wendy and Brian Day** who have just celebrated their Diamond Wedding (60 years) anniversary. God's blessing to them and their family.

Congratulations, too, to **Owura Edwards**, who has been offered and accepted an apprenticeship with Newport County Football Club, so will be studying and training in Newport.

**Janet Lockyer** underwent a cataract operation on her eye in early August so we hope her sight will be much improved after this. We pray for her for good health.

We also send blessings to **Aida Mebrahtu** (daughter of **Teblez and Teame**) who has had health problems recently but is now better. She is a solicitor in Wales.

**David Hayden** has had another minor operation and we send God's blessings to him for a good recovery.

**Maxine Davies** has returned to her Quaker roots after many years coming to Redland Park but we shall continue to see her from time to time; we wish her well.

We hope everyone has had a good summer and welcome back to those who have been away, including the minister.

Thank you to all who took part in the prayer vigil for those concerned about the situation in North Korea and the reaction in the United States. The church was open for prayer and meditation on Saturday 2 September while the Book Sale was going on, and beyond, and staffed by a rota of volunteers. There was also a book available for those who wished to record their thoughts or anxieties.

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.

## Christmas Cards

I deliberately waited until schools were back and September was here before mentioning the word 'Christmas' so here it is. I will have Christmas items on the Traidcraft stall and cards, and for the cards I have a large poster showing the whole range. If you would like to order cards, you can order yourself from the Traidcraft online website <http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/c-169-charity-christmas-cards.aspx> (but you would have to pay postage) or order from me in which case postage is free.



## Prayer page:



You visit the earth, watering it, enriching it, so we thank you for abundant water.

We pray for those who live with drought, for those overwhelmed by flood, for those who bring help.

May creation shout and sing for joy.

You crown the year with fruitfulness so we thank you for abundant crops.

We pray for those who transport food from fields, for those who distribute it to the shops, for those who set the price and those who bear the cost.

May creation shout and sing for joy.

You cover meadows with flocks and fields with grain, so we thank you for all farmers.

We pray for farmers, dependent on soil and sea, for fair treatment for all your creatures, for future generations who take up this work.

May creation shout and sing for joy.

Amen.

Please pray for:

Those affected by the floods in Southern Asia.

The people of Sierra Leone after the death of so many in the mudslide.

The leaders of North Korea and the USA that they may seek a peaceful solution to their differences.

Refugees and migrants trying to start new lives far from home.

Victims of terrorist attacks.

Those who have no harvest because of crop failure.

Those suffering from illnesses that could easily be prevented - all who do not have clean water to drink and no sanitation.

Those suffering from mental illness.

The lonely and the bereaved.

Those starting new chapters of their lives.

Our minister, Elders and congregation at Redland Park, that we may discern God's will for our Christian witness.

**We thank you, God, for all your gifts to us. Help us to care for your creation so that there is plenty for all your people. Amen.**

## VERSE

*I met a chap who had a problem*

*Just the other day*

*And when I asked him what was wrong*

*This was what he had to say!*

When first I joined the church I didn't know what I should be  
And so I went along to join the local C of E,  
But all that kneeling down soon gave me water on the knee!  
Oh! Oh!  
I left them so  
A Catholic I could be!

The local priest was very kind and listened to my pleas.  
Then gave me a special dispensation for my knees;  
But I get bad Hay Fever and the incense made me sneeze,  
And so  
I left to go  
To the Salvation Army.

So I enlisted in the ranks at the local Citadel  
And, but for just one simple thing, all might have gone quite well,  
The trouble was that marching caused my feet to swell!  
So I  
Went to try  
What the Methodists had to sell!

But once again I found that I had made a great mistake,  
The thirty minute sermons were much more than I could take;  
On top of which the wooden benches made my backbone ache'  
Ho hum  
The time had come  
Another choice to make.

The Quakers and the Baptists and United Reformists,  
Plymouth Brethren, Mormons and the Seventh Day Adventists,  
I found there's something wrong with every one that's on my list!  
Ah me,  
Just have to be  
An agnostic Atheist!

## SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun 3rd	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 7th	2.30pm	First Thursday: Looking Forward...
Sun 10th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Ken Marsh Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members
Sun 17th	10.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Church Meeting
Sat 23rd	5.00pm	Harvest Dinner
Sun 24th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members

## OCTOBER

Sun 1st	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 5th	2.30pm	First Thursday: Desert Island Hymns with John Turner

# Zambia Festival Of Action 2017

## Join The Treevolution!

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was advertising this project in church and asking you to sponsor me to buy trees, and now I've been to Zambia, planted many trees and returned!

When people ask me about my experience my first response is how bowled over I was by all the people I met, both participants in the project and the local farmers, alongside whom we worked on a daily basis. I was surrounded by people young and young (I was almost 3 times the age of most!) who oozed positivity, were passionate about the environment and were determined to put into practice all that they learned when they returned home. Despite all the dreadful things happening all around us at the moment, I felt heartened and hopeful amongst all those young people, who showed love and compassion and a resolve to change the world! God does have a plan!

Greenpop, the charity which organises the Festival of Action (formerly Festival of Trees) in Zambia each year, came to the conclusion a few years ago that their mission was not simply to plant trees, though this is of course key in attempting to combat deforestation, but also was about sustainability, waste management, upcycling and education.



So we went out several days planting saplings in an area of land called Sons of Thunder. Mainly we planted Moringa trees, whose leaves can be cooked or eaten in salads, and the roots, bark and seeds can be used for medicinal purposes. They are also very fast growing. In addition we planted many citrus trees and worked to maintain trees which had been planted a few years ago. The local farmers, both men and women (a number of whom carried babies on their backs while digging in the hard ground or wielding pickaxes!) worked with us, and it is they who manage the trees the rest of the year.

We ourselves learned about sustainability, permaculture, building effective compost heaps (they get so hot inside – about 75 degrees – that you can bake bread in there – as long as the dough is placed in a sealed 'wonderbag'!) bee-keeping and upcycling. We then went into schools to assist in teaching the children about planting, waste management and upcycling.



The creativity and imagination involved in using waste products to make usable items was stunning! Place mats and coasters made from metal bottle tops covered in fabric; laptop cases and handbags made from milk cartons; toy vehicles made from plastic bottles and bottle tops; jewellery made from plastic bags, stones, magazines; the list is endless! Many of these items were sold at local markets.

However, the most stunning of all is the eco-brick. This is the use of plastic bottles and non-recyclable waste, such as sweet wrappers, crisp packets, etc. The empty bottles are filled with such waste materials and tamped down hard with a stick, until the bottle is really hard. Together they are used to make the structure for furniture – chairs, sofas, beds.



Amazing! My decision to volunteer this year in Zambia was made possible through the sponsorship of generous people like yourselves, who care about the environment and want to help to restore as far as possible the balance of Nature. Together we planted hundreds of trees over the three weeks of the festival, and Greenpop continues to work throughout the year, planting thousands more. I would like to thank all of you who baked cakes, bought cakes and who just felt moved to give a donation.

THANK YOU! Les Brentley

## First Thursday July 2017 Garden Party

On a beautiful summer's afternoon we met in Ernest's garden for a relaxing time of conversation, eating and drinking. To prove that First Thursday is not just for the elderly, Sally and Terry brought little Florence with an array of soft toys and Christine brought her dog.

We sat under the plum tree for shade, hoping that none would fall on our heads. There was a varied selection of hats to protect us from the sun's rays and Tere looked very elegant in her Henley regatta hat.

We had lots of cups of tea, a variety of tasty sandwiches and homemade cakes. My prize for the best cake goes to Peter Ambrose. (don't forget to ask him next time we have a church party) Ernest had worked very hard to make the garden look its best and gave tours to those with horticultural interest and to those who just like pretty flowers.

Thank you Ernest for a lovely afternoon. Linda

# Keeping up with the vicar Pt 77 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for September and the first Sunday in October. August's readings ended with what could be thought of as a pivotal moment in the synoptic gospels, when Peter, put on the spot by Jesus, acknowledges him as the Messiah (16:16 - or Mark 8:29, or Luke 9:20). From here on in Jesus begins to explain what that Messiahship will actually mean for him, and challenges his disciples (us?) to work out where they/we fit into his story.

One of the advantages (for a preacher) at this time of year is that you get a big chunk from the gospel, very often following on directly from week to the next. You can see how they follow on, how one week's readings might be another part of the same teaching as the week before. Sometimes it seems a shame that they're broken up the way they are to fit them into the service. And some parts of the narrative are taken out and used at other times. (The Transfiguration, for example, which seems so apposite after Peter's confession, always appears on the Sunday before Lent. Why?) So maybe it would be worth reading back through Matthew chapters 13-18 in one go in preparation for each week's segment.

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.

Sep	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
3rd	Jeremiah 15:15-21	26:1-8	Matthew 16:21-28	Romans 12:9-21
10th	Ezekiel 33:7-11	119:33-40	Matthew 18:15-20	Romans 13:8-14
17th	Genesis 50:15-21	103:8-13	Matthew 18:21-35	Romans 14:1-12
24th	Jonah 3:10-4:11	145:1-8	Matthew 20:1-16	Philippians 1:21-30
<b>Oct</b>				
1st	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	25:1-9	Matthew 21:23-32	Philippians 2:1-13

## Harvest Supper

Please come to the Harvest Supper at 5.00pm on Saturday 23 September, in the Conference Room at church. This is a Bring and Share Meal, so come along with a dish of food, perhaps some soft drink, meet and chat. It should be a happy sociable occasion.

# Secretary's Notes by Andrew Hayden



Welcome back! Assuming, of course, you've been on holiday. It's not been a scorching summer by any means, but hopefully you'll have had a break of some kind to recharge the batteries.

Whilst the summer months are usually quite quiet at Redland Park, there has been one major change: we have new tenants in the Garden Suite. "Kumon" provide study programmes in maths and English, their aim being to encourage children to have a positive attitude to study.

Please set aside one date in particular: Saturday 23rd September is the date for our Harvest Supper. More details will be announced in due course.

Wishing you all God's blessings.

*Andrew*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



**(the last article until 2018!)**

Dan Doherty gave an enthusiastic talk to church meeting in March about Christian Aid – the fact that the house-to-house collection was their main fundraiser, that the publicity generated was equally important to the work of the charity, and he told us of all the vital work that Christian Aid does around the world.

Despite this, those who volunteered were the same group as usual, and they found it as equally difficult as usual, although there are always times of great responses which make up in some part for the challenging ones!

However, despite not covering as much ground as usual, we more than made up for it in money. The actual house-to-house collection raised £911 (over £200 more than last year), the Big Brekkie organised by Les Fry raised £146, and the collecting tin in Redland Park and a bucket collection at the Farmers Market raised another £50. Added to this, our Christian Aid Fair raised another £628, so not a bad total to send to Christian Aid.

Some difficulties in a H2H collection are that younger people living in flats claim not to have cash, or just don't answer the door phone, older people don't necessarily like us coming to the door asking for money, and people don't tend to give to charity this way any more. Despite this, we are thinking about how we can support Christian Aid next year, for example another Big Brekkie, and more bucket collections, as well as spreading the word by continuing with the H2H envelopes. I hope you will support us.

Carol Fry

Deadline for contributions for the October Recorder is 30th September.

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