

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

September '18

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | September Diary

Preachers for **September** 11am services

2nd John Waines

9th Rev. Douglas Burnett (will include Communion)

16th Les Fry

23rd Debz Spinney

30th Harvest Thanksgiving led by Brenda Munden

Preachers for **October** 11am services

7th Barb and Rick Klrby

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 6th September at 7:30pm is our next church meeting.

Friday 28th September at 7pm Quiz Further details below.

Wednesday September 19th Girls' Brigade will commence after the Summer Break. Please remember this organisation in your prayers. Praying for both the girls who come week by week and the leaders who give of their time so freely.

Information about the Quiz. This was formerly known as THE GREENWAY QUIZ. It has been several months since one was held. It is now going to be known as THE SOUTHMEAD QUIZ and will be held at New Brunswick. There will be NO supper but there will be nibbles on the tables. Tea and Coffee will be available or you are invited to BYO.

The cost of entry will be £3 per person. There will be a raffle. All proceeds will be given to the Southmead Festival. Come along and enjoy a fun evening.

We uphold to God in prayer the following folk. Thinking of Matthew (Jenny's son) whose health is giving cause for concern. We remember Carol's brother-in-law Brian who is still going through difficult times healthwise although is making some progress. Our thoughts are also with Jen who has been undergoing test and we pray that the results will enable treatment to commence and she will feel better. We continue to uphold Dave and Ivy in our prayers that God will be with them in their need.

Let us remember, at this time, all the young people who will be returning to school after the summer break. Some will be starting new schools and will be apprehensive about this big step. We pray that all will go well for them and they settle soon in their new environment.

We send warm Congratulations to Jim, who this month, will be celebrating his 90th Birthday, we wish him a very happy day and God's Blessings for the years to come.

Dear friends,

With another September we find ourselves at another Harvest celebration. It can be quite comforting to see the passing of the seasons, though quite challenging as well.

So far this year we have seen various weather extremes including the so-called "Beast from the East" during the winter months, and then the drought in the summer. All these come as reminders of the challenges of climate change.

In church circles these days the celebration of Harvest can also be known as creationtime. This places Harvest within the wider context of the environment, which is right and proper.

At the end of July we had a joint service with our friends in the Bristol Korean Church, the emphasis of the service was on ecology and understanding those challenges from a theological point of view. Hyunte, one of the members and ministers currently with the BKC, gave us an interpretation of the Genesis story that made clear that our role in creation was one of stewardship and care and not domination in terms of "lording it." The latter is what has happened over the past two centuries, the former is what we are trying to relearn. Good things are happening.

Since this time last year there has been much in the media about the use of plastics, that resulting from David Attenborough's BBC TV series, Blue Planet. The Administration of Donald Trump hasn't helped the battle against climate change by withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, but the other nations remain committed to making it happen.

For our Harvest Service this month we shall focus on the sense of blessing that God brings to the world. It may not be a perspective known in our secular world, but it is a profound insight that we celebrate. It reminds us that there is another dimension to all that we do. It is a reason for hope, but also a reminder of responsibility.

The other thing that we shall be doing at Harvest this year is to celebrate the holy habit of eating together. Eating together is more than just getting in some nutrition, it is an experience of community and mutual up-building. What we do on September 30th will signal our embarking on the URC initiative of Walking the Way, discovering what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the 21st century. Be sure to be part of this and follow the up-dates.

This is well resourced by the URC, but works in common with the other denominations as well. We are entering into a very different world and society with some real challenges, but the constant is that presence of God.

Dougie



Several of our friends have had health issues this summer and we hope that all are now recovered and feeling better, or have successful outcomes to treatment and surgery.

It is good to see **Jane Penrose** recovering from her eye problems; we wish her well. We also send congratulations to Jane and Dave's son, **Simon**, and his wife **Shakira** who had baby **Isaiah** in July.

Since the last issue of the Recorder, **Janet Lockyer** has undergone cataract surgery in her second eye, which has gone well; best wishes to her.

Congratulations to **Andrew Hayden's** two step-daughters – **Hannah White** has graduated with a degree in Social Science, and **Gemma** has had a baby. Best wishes also to Andrew's dad who is now well on the way to recovery after his latest operation.

We think about all those younger members who are changing schools or entering exam years at school, and we wish them all success, and we welcome back all those who have been away this summer.

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.

Thank You

In Church this morning (26 August), we were asked 'Where have you found the presence of God this Summer?' For me, that question was simply answered 'In the kindness and love shown to me and the family by both friends and strangers but, particularly, in the support given to us by the community of Redland Park Church.' We were overwhelmed by the many messages, telephone calls, flowers and visits. The support we received from you was a dynamic example of God's love.

Our love and thanks to you all , Jane and David Penrose

Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

May the lips that bring you praise **bring life and peace to those around.**

May the hands I lift in adoration to you **bring healing to those I touch.**

May the ears I use to hear your voice. **be open to the cry of others.**

May the gifts I bring in worship **be offered to those in need.**

May all that you have given me **be used for the glory of others.**

May all I use to bring blessing to you **be extended to bless a hurting world.**

Infuse my worship so that everything I do brings hope, joy, and comfort.

Permeate my life with so much grace, that other lives may be transformed.

Amen



From the prayer box

Anastasia is praying for "no homeless people"

Emma prays "I've had a very sad year so far – 2 failed relationships that totally broke my heart. I pray with your help to find peace, happiness and love again someday."

For Sarah ,that she may find courage, peace and happiness and be able to enjoy life again.

Jo requests, " Please pray for calm in a new work opportunity and a reduction of anxiety and stress for me"

Andrew asks us to pray for him and his family.

Please pray for:

Walking the Way, which is being launched in Redland Park this month.

Dougie and the Elders as they lead us in our discipleship.

Those who have lost lives or homes because of fire and flood and the emergency and rescue services.

Those undergoing hospital treatment or waiting for test results.

The lonely, the housebound and the unloved.

All suffering from addiction to gambling, smoking, drugs, or alcohol.

The victims of human trafficking.

God our Father, we pray that you will enfold all these people in your loving embrace. Amen

If only you listen By Derek Skelcher

(Inspired by James 1 17 -27)

If only you listen
He'll tell you what to do.
But if you listen, only,
Don't what He seeks, pursue,
Your love for Him is somewhat less
than true!

If you only listen
And the don't follow through,
Obey His wishes tot'lly,
Do what He asks of you,
Then showing Him more love is
overdue!

If you listen only
To make believe you do,
You're lying to Him, boldly,
An action that's taboo,
And one His love does not deserve
of you!

Only if you listen
And action does ensue
Will He have proof that, wholly,
He can rely on you
And He will know that you still love
Him too!

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Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for September 2018

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Ray Adams
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 16th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Launch of "Walking the Way"
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	11.45am	Church Meeting
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 30th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	11.45am	Harvest "Soup & Pud" Lunch

October

Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 4th	2.30pm	First Thursday
Sat 6th	7.30pm	Zimbabwe Evening
Sun 7th	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

Redland Park has a great tradition of Christian music and I believe that we are often at our most united when we are all lifting our voices and singing God's praises to rich organ accompaniment.

One of the lilting Mission Praise hymns that consistently generates that "feel good" atmosphere is

"I want to walk with Jesus Christ,
All the days I live of this life on earth;
To give to Him complete control
Of body and of soul"

Maybe that should be the theme hymn of our "Walking the way" commitment which begins on Sunday 16th September, because each and every one of us is choosing to walk with Jesus Christ and to share this journey with others within our congregation and community. We come from a range of Christian backgrounds and traditions and bring with us a range of experiences about how to "do church" and our own preferences about ritual and practice. However, God brings us together, God gives us the opportunity to celebrate what we share and to learn from each other's experiences and understanding, and He equips us to work together as a church.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone" (1 Corinthians 12 v 4) and Paul goes on to detail many of those gifts before describing Jesus as "a single body which has many parts" (v 12).

Redland Park offers us all opportunities to use our individual gifts and play our part for our common good.

The essence of church life surely demands that we support each other as we walk with Jesus all the days we live of this life on earth and as we respond to Jesus' command to "Go to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples" (Matthew 28 v 19). This calls us back to the success of the early church in spreading His good news so that "every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved" (Acts 2 v 47), so we return to the core inspirational text at the heart of the Walking the Way initiative- not only walking the way individually but walking the way together and including others on this journey, a shared journey of Christian discovery.

Acts Chapter 2 records ten aspects of good practice which combine to grow the church, and here (as promised in the last Recorder!) are the ten;

1) Eating Together, 2) Prayer, 3) Making more disciples, 4) Gladness and Generosity, 5) Breaking Bread, 6) Service, 7) Fellowship, 8) Biblical teaching, 9) Sharing, 10) Worship.

I hope that everybody has now received an individual letter from Dougie about the background to this material and to the Redland Park launch and our exploration of the first of these holy habits- Eating Together.

In anticipation of the launch, please pray for God's blessing for this initiative and for the outreach into the wider world that we believe it can generate as we continue to sing;

"I want to walk with Jesus Christ,
All the days I live of this life on earth;
To give to Him complete control
Of body and of soul"

Les Fry

Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 15/7/18

PRESENT

The Minister and 25 members. Apologies for absence were received from 9 members.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Linda Croft asked why the minutes contained two different figures relating to Redland Park's financial commitment to the Holiday Club for Third Agers. Dougie explained that the figure of £2,500 was the amount Redland Park had been willing to contribute, whereas £1,000 was the total we actually contributed. The minutes of the previous meeting were then 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 gave details of the events planned for the rest of the year:

- 30th September – Harvest with Bristol Korean Church; soup lunch
- 6th October – Zimbabwe evening
- 22nd to 28th October – "Uprooted" exhibition (Christian Aid)
- 3rd November – Sing-along day
- 15th December – Christmas Fair in aid of CLIC Sargent

She also thanked Richard and Jane Pedlar for hosting a successful garden party on 16th June.

BROAD PLAIN

Andrew Sims gave an update on the work of Broad Plain. At the Riverside Club, one member had gained a training contract mending cars, and Dennis Stinchcombe was planning to take around 20 youngsters to Cotswold Water Park, a trip that would be part-funded by Broad Plain.

The Knowle West site, excluding the social club, was being sold, which required additional trustees to be recruited. Les Fry and Jane Rogers had agreed to join Andrew, Dougie, Sally King and Richard Pedlar on the board of trustees, whose main task would be to oversee the sale of the site and disbursement of the income from it. Historic complications meant that the sale was not straight-forward.

David Hayden asked if the Banksy picture had been sold and, if so, what had happened to the money. Andrew explained that the picture had been sold to a private buyer for £403,000, with the money being used to support other voluntary youth groups and to upgrade Riverside Park, with around £100,000 left over.

Sally King thanked Andrew and Les Fry for all the time and hard work they put into Broad Plain.

WALKING THE WAY

Myra Jones reported on behalf of the small working group that had been set up to look at how Redland Park might adopt "Walking the Way", the aim of which was to use the example from Acts 2:42-47 to enhance discipleship within the URC.

The Elders had agreed that we should study the ten Holy Habits over the next two years, and the working group had decided to start with "Eating Together" on Sunday 16th September. In addition, Les Fry had written an article in the Recorder and Dougie had already made mention of it in his sermons. More information was available on the URC website, and everyone was encouraged to subscribe to the daily devotions that were sent via SMS.

Truida Mutare asked if there was a connection between Walking the Way and Stepwise. Dougie explained that Stepwise was a replacement for TLS and, as such, would be influenced by Walking the Way.

Finally, Dougie emphasised that Walking the Way was intended to be of benefit to the whole congregation and encouraged everyone to participate from September.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie reported that the Holiday Club for Third Agers had been well received, although the target numbers hadn't been achieved. In particular, he felt that the connections with LinkAge and Active Ageing had worked well. The main issue was contacting people who were isolated, the difficulty being the very fact that they were isolated. Another may have been people's wariness of engaging with a church-sponsored event. However, having been well received, he felt the event may well be repeated next year; if so, planning would start earlier.

Dougie was pleased to announce that Rev. Hyunte Shin and his wife, Min Kyung Kim, had applied to become members of Redland Park URC for the duration of their stay in the UK, expected to be around two years. They were both taking Master degrees at Exeter University and wanted to join Redland Park, rather than the Bristol Korean Church, because the BKC was a mission project and Redland Park is a fully-fledged URC. Their application was agreed.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Andrew Hayden reported that, with Dougie preaching at New Brunswick URC on Sunday 18th November, the Church Meeting scheduled for that day would be postponed one week to Sunday 25th November.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

In John Neugebauer's absence, Andrew Hayden reported that the cost of repairing the roof at the Hurl Rd Club Rooms had been a little less than the revised estimate of £15,000, and that Dougie's car was being replaced as it had broken down and would be uneconomic to repair.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of members was shared.

AOB

None.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

Next meeting: Sunday 16 September 2018, following the morning service

Holy Habits in action

In the summer issue of the Recorder Les Fry drew our attention to Walking the Way and invited us to read the short extract from the book of Acts that is to be our guide on the journey. He also introduced us to the idea of Holy Habits. Nothing new or startlingly controversial there but a question of going back to basics and a reminder of what we may have forgotten in the complexities and moral dilemmas of modern life.

Some of us have already started looking at a series of guides to the Holy Habits and a very thought provoking exercise it has proved to be. Picking up the expression 'with glad and generous hearts' from verse 46 of Acts 2, we have been taken back to the Gladness of the early church in celebrating the goodness of God in the home, the temple and out on the streets.

We have also looked at the challenges of Generosity. Redland Park people are very generous in many respects, supporting charitable and voluntary organisations as well as the church with money and time. However there is one aspect of this habit where we could be said to be found wanting and that is being generous with our buildings.

The bricks and mortar on Whiteladies Road and 1 Redland Park represent some very valuable real estate. In recent years, due to the freely given efforts of the finance committee and individuals such as Sally and Terry King, they have been well maintained. They have also been fully let to generate the income for such maintenance. But what is the purpose of having such spacious and attractive buildings if not to glorify God and fulfil his purpose?

Currently the sanctuary is used for worship by Redland Park members for one hour each Sunday morning and an hour and a half every other Sunday evening. There are occasional weddings and funerals. The upper room is used for worship by the Korean church and other parts of the building are used for choir practices and school assemblies. Most other uses are secular, which is not necessarily a bad thing in itself, but have we got the balance right?

I am not going to try and answer that question now or to suggest how we should be using the buildings if not as we currently do – although I do think we can look at our neighbouring church in Whiteladies Road for examples of what we might consider. In Walking the Way over the next 2 years, we will come up against the holy habit of generosity and I am urging the elders and members to give serious thought to the generous use of our buildings as we do so.

Jane Rogers, August 2018

First Thursday

There will be no meeting of First Thursday in September, but we shall meet again in October, (4th.), when Joan Turner, who has been to China several times, will talk on 'China; reflections of a tourist' Audrey

The Persecuted Church.

Eritrea is Africa's most repressive state. Although the Eritrean Coptic Church has relative freedom other Christian denominations are seen as agents of the West, and are arrested, harassed and killed with impunity.

Christians who live in Muslim areas are made vulnerable by Islamic militancy. Conversion to Christianity is seen as a betrayal of community, family and Islamic faith. Arrests and forced disappearances are common, with more than 300 Christians arrested last year. Many believers are held in miserable conditions, some in shipping containers in scorching temperatures.

Thousands have been imprisoned, some for over a decade. "Senet" was arrested for refusing to put the state before her faith in Jesus, she was put in a small cell with 55 other women.

We were so tightly crammed in that we could not sit properly, let alone lie down to sleep. We were forced to work long hours without rest.

Senet was asked to recant her faith several times, but refused; as a result, she spent over six years in prison. But she says it was an honour to suffer for the name of Jesus

Through strategic partnerships with the local church in Eritrea, Open Doors strengthens believers in the region by offering practical assistance to persecuted Christians.

Please Pray

- For Christians incarcerated in horrific conditions, that God's gracious strength will enable them to reflect Jesus to their captors
- For a change of heart for the President – that he may find true life in Christ
- That those who've fled Eritrea due to persecution or war will receive comfort and support

For more information www.opendoors.uk.org

Single use plastic

For those of us who are used to tea-bags, did you know that they are made using plastic to stick the two sides of the tea bag together, and so they are difficult to recycle? If you would like to return to the old-fashioned tea leaves, the Traidcraft stall now has packets of Breakfast Tea leaves for sale!

Have a look on Sunday at the tea, coffee, sweets, biscuits, chocolate and even garden twine now for sale. There is also a range of eco-friendly laundry liquid, washing up liquid, soap, handwash, etc.

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 87 Angus Gregson

After a month of John's gospel we return to a good chunk of Mark. I think Mark 8:29 is a sort of hinge verse. Up till then Jesus has called the twelve, taught and healed people, but often told them not to talk about it, leaving people to ask, "Who is this man?" Now Jesus puts Peter on the spot and Peter acknowledges Jesus is God's chosen one, the Messiah. From now on, although there will be more teaching and more healings, Jesus is heading towards Jerusalem for the last time, and trying to get the disciples to understand what messiahship really means.

And also in the New Testament, from the glory of the letter to the Ephesians we move on to James, one of the most practical letters. It's a shame the set readings miss the start of chapter 1 with James' encouragement to persevere with our faith, even when we're tested, to ask God for the wisdom we need and to ask in full confidence. Maybe you could read those 16 verses as homework.

At first glance it may seem that James' emphasis on the need to do "good works" is in conflict with Paul's teaching about faith being all you need for salvation. Paul's right, but if that faith is real it's going to lead to action in our lives. "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" Paul writes (Phil 2:12); your salvation is assured but living out the consequences is of vital importance and should underpin everything else you do and say. That's what James' letter is all about. Seems appropriate as we focus as a church on developing our Holy Habits.

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

SEP	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
2nd	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	15	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	James 1:17-27
9th	Isaiah 35:4-7a	146	Mk 7: 24-37	James 2:1-10, 14-17
16th	Isaiah 50:4-9a	116:1-9	Mk 8:27-38	James 3:1-12
23rd	Jeremiah 11:18-20	54	Mk 9:30-37	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
30th	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	19:7-14	Mk 9:38-50	James 5:13-20
Oct				
7th	Genesis 2:18-24	8	Mk 10:2-16	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Clubs and activities at Redland Park

	Morning	Afternoon
Mondays	Dog Training Hurle Road	Perform
Tuesdays	Sing and Sign AA	AA lunch time Hurle Road
Wednesdays		
Thursdays		1st Thursday (1st of month)
Fridays	Dragon bird Theatre	Blue Spirit Choir AA Hurle Road
Saturdays	Jung Lectures 2nd of month Lilliput 3rd of month	Violin lessons
During the month NCT use the conference room		
Term time	St John's School Assemblies	

Deadline for contributions for the October Recorder is 29th September.

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