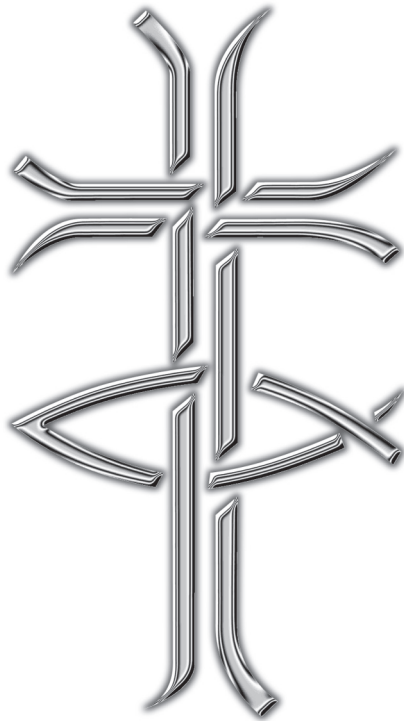


ESTD 1901

The Recorder

July / August 2011

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



www.redlandparkchurch.co.uk

New Brunswick | July/Aug Diary

Preachers for 11am Services 2011

July	3rd	Trevor Ranger	Aug	7th	To be Advised
	10th	Angus Gregson (Communion)		14th	Brenda Munden
	17th	Dolfuss		21st	Peter Rouse
	24th	Deb Harrison		28th	Rev. Ivan Fowler
	31st	Friends from Redland Park			Communion

Speakers for Womens' Guild

July	6th	Joyce Johns	Guild will then close for the summer break and recommence on Wednesday September 7th.
	13th	David Fudge	
	20th	David Fudge	
	27th	Derek Marsh	

We were sorry to hear that Jo and Lou had suffered a minor car accident we send them our best wishes and hope they will soon be over the shock.

We up hold in prayer all those of our fellowship who are still not feeling 100% especially Ivy Pickett. We also remember Sheila who is still having to attend hospital.

It was with great joy that we heard of the success of Joyce Groves eye operation. She described it as a 'Wow moment' and she give God the praise for the hands that have enabled her to see more clearly.

We are now entering the 'holiday season' and we wish all those who are taking a 'break from routine' a happy and restful time. For those staying at home lets hope the sun shines and we can all enjoy sometime in our gardens just enjoying Gods wonderful creation. May He 'recharge' our batteries so that we are able to serve Him better in the coming days.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear all,

The summer is upon us. For the Burnett family the summer holidays mean a trip back to Fife. Our activities will involve seeing Granny, Raith Rovers, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Edinburgh Book Festival. With the Book Festival this year we have booked tickets to hear Julia Neuberger. For those who might be fans of Radio 4, you will know that Julia Neuberger is the most senior woman within the Jewish religion in this country. In the past year she has been appointed as the rabbi at the West London synagogue. Needless to say if she is featuring at the Edinburgh Book Festival that can only mean that she has written a book. It carries the title of "Is that all there is? Thoughts on the meaning of life and leaving a legacy." For the Book Festival she is being interviewed by Richard Holloway, previously the Bishop of Edinburgh, and it carries the title of "In Search of a Renewed Sense of Purpose." A critical quote that seems to sum up much of the book is this:

'If we focus on the meaning and purpose of our lives, we might acquire a better way of living.'

In a sense it is something that we have all heard before, but then again it is always relevant and it always needs to be heard anew. The nature of holidays, of course, is that they are holy days. Originally they were not so much time off work as time to focus on what really matters in life. The church focused these celebrations on certain events in the Christian year and most certainly on particular saints.

The idea of the saints is that they had lived with clear purpose, that purpose being very God-centred, and that by celebrating these saints something of that divine purpose might be replicated or reproduced in our own lives.

Julia Neuberger's argument is set against a very secular and consumerist society. She writes from a Jewish perspective which offers something very different. I'm only too well aware that as a Christian minister that one can sound far too easily like a grumpy old man when looking at the secularism and consumerism around us. But then again there is so much more on offer that is so much better. A sense of purpose energises and animates us like nothing else, it makes you feel so much better! I've heard to said by a holiday company rep that very often when holidays makers arrive at their holiday destination that they can have almost unreal expectations of what the holiday will bring. Also we can all recognise that "down" feeling when it comes to going back to work. Perhaps the way to avoid both is to have a greater sense of being rooted in God? It is very much about that connection with things that really matter.

In the meantime we look forward to our Fife holiday. I hope that the summer is good for you as well. There is something about the light days and the colours of this time of year that stimulate our enjoyment of life and remind us of God's presence.

Dougie



Please pray for Lydia Edwards and her children; Lydia's mother died suddenly in June and she held a day of mourning in her house on Sunday 26 June. We send her our condolences and prayers in her distress.

Erica Siddall has asked us to pray for her uncle, who was diagnosed with leukaemia and has been undergoing treatment since then. We hope he recovers with medication, love and prayers.

We think of Linda Croft as she goes through difficult times at work and hope that things get resolved. There are many people suffering work insecurity at the moment and we think of them all.

Teame Mebrahtu is undergoing treatment for cancer of the liver and was operated on recently; we pray for his recovery and strength for his family.

Les Fry is off to Pemba (an island just north of Zanzibar and part of Tanzania) to undertake work through Voluntary Service Overseas. He will be supporting five schools in Wete, the capital, where education is from 5 to 13, with girls often being taken out earlier to help at home, and the 'teachers' are not much older with little more education than their pupils. Les will help to train the teachers and support the head-teachers, develop a curriculum and an appraisal scheme, and generally help to develop the education system. Please pray for him as he settles into a new culture and country. Further instalments to follow.

We pray for all those members and friends we know who need our prayers at this time.

Change of telephone Nos. and email address

Brian and Wendy Day

01275 543062 | brianday@hotmail.com | briwenday@hotmail.com

Teame and Teblez Mebrahtu

0117 9247791 | mebratuteame@yahoo.co.uk

If anyone else has changed their numbers and e mail address please send me an e mail we would like to keep these up to date. sallyeking@blueyonder.co.uk

Fair Trade Versus Supermarket?

People often wonder what the benefits are in buying fair trade goods from Traidcraft stalls or if it is better to buy from supermarkets to encourage them to continue. The following information comes from Traidcraft itself.

WHY DO YOU WORK WITH SUPERMARKETS?

Although the sales of fair trade organisations like Traidcraft have grown significantly, we are still relatively small and this limits our impact on the producers that we deal with. Supermarkets can access a far greater number of consumers and make it easy for them to buy fair trade products.



DOES THE FACT THAT SUPERMARKETS ARE SELLING FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS PRESENT A PROBLEM FOR TRAIDCRAFT?

One of the most unusual things about Traidcraft as a commercial company is that we encourage competitors to enter the market! If we want to have a real impact on world poverty, we must get the big, powerful companies involved. It has long been our vision that Traidcraft should become a catalyst for this.

IF IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN FAIRTRADE GOODS IN A SUPERMARKET, OR FROM A DEDICATED FAIR TRADE COMPANY LIKE TRAIDCRAFT, WHICH IS IT BETTER TO SUPPORT?

Although it is good to shop in supermarkets to show that there is a demand for fair trade, there are a number of benefits to buying from exclusively fair trade companies such as Traidcraft. Although we do sell some products directly into supermarkets, we recognise that, as a small organisation, we need partners to help us grow our sales in supermarkets and provide the logistical expertise which they require. We therefore often work through licensing relationships.

AND TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO BUY FAIR TRADE, we now can offer five sorts of biscuits, seven sorts of chocolate and four types of sweets, three sorts of sugar, three sorts of dried fruit, three types of coffee, two of tea, muesli, toilet paper, kitchen rolls, tissues, orange juice, olive oil, garden twine and cards to cover all occasions!

Going out for lunch? *Take some fair trade dinner mints as a thank you.*

Unexpected gift needed? *We have some fancy soaps.*

Friends abroad? *Fair trade paper and envelopes will help keep you in touch! As well as envelope labels to recycle your old envelopes.*

Carol Fry

Redland Park Church Calendar



JULY

Wed 6th	7.30pm	Elders
Thurs 7th	2.30pm	1st Thursday - at The Owens Abbots Leigh
Sun 10th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room
	6.00pm	Service of Prayer and Praise
	til 7.15pm	
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room
	11.45am	CHURCH MEETING
Sun 24th	10.30am	Family Worship – Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room
	6.00pm	Service of Prayer and Praise
	til 7.15pm	
Sun 31st	10.30am	Café Style Worship – Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room

AUGUST

Aug 7th	10.30am	Morning Worship Rev Janet Sutton Webb – Communion
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room
Aug 14th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Rev Tony Coates
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room
	6.00pm	Service of Prayer and Praise
	til 7.15pm	
Aug 21st	10.30am	Morning Worship -Rev Jeondeok Seo
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room
Aug 28th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Mr Philip Fowles
	10.30am	Korean Worship – Upper Room
	6.00pm	Service of Prayer and Praise
	til 7.15pm	

First Thursday Laura Jones

The month of June was a special time for First Thursday: it was five years since its inaugural meeting and celebrations were in order. Viv and David Hayden had arranged a special mystery guest speaker followed by a tea party.

Our guest speaker was the Reverend Cyril Grant who arrived in a co-ordinated red outfit and was in his usual good form. He entertained us with stories from his life as a minister, travelling around on public transport and meeting some interesting people. Always a good raconteur, he again had us all laughing and gave us a good appetite for our tea.

The sit-down tea was nicely presented with flowers on the tables and a sumptuous array of sandwiches, cakes and scones, followed by trifle and a

special rich fruit cake made by Viv and decorated (with icing and candles) by Sally King. We are grateful to all the members who contributed. It was a very happy afternoon.

The occasion marked the end of Viv and David's term of office. They have been our leaders for the last five years and done a wonderful job getting the meeting established. They have shown a kindly interest in all our members and provided us with an interesting programme of topics and speakers. Now they are handing over to a new team; Janet and Mal Owen, Audrey Bryant and Carol Atter. I'm sure they will maintain the same level of interest and friendship. Why don't you join us?

Laura Jones

CELL GROUPS

A 'Cell' is a group of people who meet in each other's home once a week. The meetings operate loosely around a structure of: Welcome - Worship - Word - Witness, using Dougie's sermon from the previous Sunday as material for discussion. It is a very safe and relaxed environment in which faith can be explored openly, honestly and prayerfully.

There are now three Cell groups who meet at the following times:

- Monday, 7:30 -9:00pm: contact **Les Brentley** and **Les Fry**
- Tuesday, 7:30 -9:00pm: contact **John Neugebauer**
- Saturday, 10:00am -11:30: contact **Dougie Burnett**

If you'd like any more information or would be interested in joining a Cell group, please contact any of the above leaders.

What's On?

£10 CHALLENGE – Carol Fry

Sally King reported at church meeting on the £10 challenge being given to all members and friends at Redland Park to raise money to support the church in its 150th year. I have taken up this challenge and will be making jam – plum, damson and bramble jelly – and will bring this to church on Sundays and I hope to find customers!

HARVEST SALE September 24th.

Start preparing now! We hope this will be a good fundraiser, so we hope everyone will be able to contribute in some way.

What is the harvest from your talents?

Plants – perhaps you can sow some seeds now [e.g. Sweet Williams], pot up plants that have self-seeded, divide up some of your perennials.

Make things out of your glut of produce, jams, pickles etc.

Are you artistic? Paintings, photographs, other crafts.

What else?!

£10 CHALLENGE – Myra Jones

As part of this Myra is offering her gardening services for £ 10/ hour at a mutually convenient time.

THE SOUP RUN 20TH AUGUST 2011

Please help us with the Soup Run. This is an ecumenical initiative organised by the Clifton, Redland, Cotham and Hotwells Churches which has been running for a number of years. We take a lunch to the homeless and street dwellers on each Saturday throughout the year. Redland Park is usually responsible for all the Saturdays in October. This year we have been asked to do an extra Saturday in August.

Can you help? Can you spare Saturday morning 20th August? We need 4 people, a car driver and 3 who would be willing to take out the lunch. We need lots of sandwich makers, and gifts of small cakes, flapjack, bananas, toiletries, dog food, socks and underpants. Gifts of money would be much appreciated too.

Please get in touch with Jane Pedlar if you can help. Tel. 0117 9507303. Thank you so much

Apocalypse Now!

The environmental crisis and the book of Revelation



Tuesday 25 October 2011

Lecture begins 7:30pm

Woodlands Christian Centre
Belgrave Road,
Clifton, Bristol BS8 2AA

Entrance fee £5

bsocs
BRISTOL SCHOOL OF
CHRISTIAN STUDIES

How the URC pays for Ministry & Mission

The largest single item of expenditure for Redland Park Church and for most other United Reformed churches is what is commonly known as M&M (Ministry & Mission). What is this and why is it so large?

All our ministers are paid centrally from the URC offices (Church House) in London. The total expenditure of the URC in 2011 will be nearly £23m about 75% of which is to pay the stipends (currently £23,232 pa), pension costs and NI of our 500 or so ministers. The remainder is to cover the costs of training, mission and administration.

Where does this money come from? Simple – US and others like us! The enclosed leaflet “Cutting Edge Stuff” gives more information, especially about the Mission element of our giving.

The URC has very little income apart from that which we as members contribute each month to keep the URC afloat. In fact if all churches stopped contributing no minister would get paid following two months of income ceasing and all other activities would stop.

Each year the URC Honorary Treasurer advises Synods the anticipated expenditure for the coming year and relies on the 13 Synods to collect and send to London sufficient to cover this cost. Each synod has its own way of deciding what it can afford to send and how to collect this money from churches. No two synods use the same system but by and large the total raised each year is just about enough to cover costs. In 2011 the South West will contribute £1.4m.

We use a system which aims to ask every church to pay its fair share. At the end of 2009 and into 2010 we carried out a wide consultation to give treasurers the chance to change the system but it was generally agreed that whilst it may not be perfect it works very well to the extent that last year we only had 2 churches out of 120 who did not meet their target in full. No one was able to suggest a better alternative.

So how does this work?

The amount each church is asked to pay is worked out by a combination of the number of members and “ability to pay”. The aim is that stronger churches are able to help weaker churches to have ministry. In general no account is taken of whether or not a minister is in place although after a church has been in vacancy for over two years their assessment is reduced until a new minister starts.

The concept of “ability to pay” is calculated from the average of what a church has paid out during the previous two years. No direct account is taken of income as it is felt that payments actually made are a better guide to the financial strength of a church. There are some “allowable expenses” which are not taken into account such as Junior Church, Minister’s Car and Premises maintenance but most other costs such as heating, lighting and M&M contributions make up what is called the “Net Annual Expenditure”. The same basic formula is used for all URC churches in the South West.

How does all this translate into the 2011 assessment of £64,908 for Redland Park which not only pays all Dougie’s stipend and associated costs such as NI and pension but assists with over half of the cost of another minister somewhere else as well as the costs of mission activities, training and running the URC?

As with all other churches we are charged at £105 per member (119) plus 47% of the net Assessable Expenditure averaged over the previous two years. Thus for every £1,000 we spend on gas or new equipment our M&M Assessment for the following year is increased by £470. Conversely if we save £1,000 by not incurring an expense this will result in a £470 reduction. Payments on refurbishment of premises will have no effect on the assessment.

By synod resolution, for 2011 and 2012 only, all churches have been asked to pay £8 per member each year to help plug a large shortfall in the Minister’s Pension Fund. Thus we shall pay £952 this year (and again next year) which is included in the total of £64,908. This will raise about £31,000 each year from the SW churches and is being matched by a similar amount from Synod funds.

I hope you find this note helpful in understanding the major item of our expenditure; by all means ask me for any further clarification.

David Hayden

Premises Officer

At Redland Park we have always been very fortunate to employ a full time caretaker, Custodian, or Premises Officer, whichever you like to call the person looking after the premises.

As you all know our financial situation is not good. We are running at a large deficit.

The finance committee are now charged to find big savings in all areas.

John Neugebauer and I met with Adam to discuss our problems and he has agreed to work for 20 hours per week instead of 40 hours. This will be the first of our savings.

This will begin from 1st September this year.

As so many of the congregation have keys we will need to call on them to help with some opening and closing of our premises especially when it is a church function.

We will keep you all informed of the hours Adam will be working.

Sally King

This Summer Term may have been shorter than usual, but there has still been plenty of activity at the Chaplaincy. Our building has been a busy revision hub; students comment on the calmness our space offers, and of course there are always chaplains ready with encouragement and willing to discuss essay plans and mind maps (!), as well as matters of faith. Soup Lunch, Fairtrade Café, Christian Meditation and Taizé Worship continued this term, as did my involvement with Sunday Morning Worship at Wills Hall Chapel. Throughout the term pastoral care and spiritual support have been offered to many students and staff.

Several significant projects took place:

I co-ordinated our submission to the University's Green Impact Awards, and am delighted that we gained a Silver Award for our commitment to sustainability – we now grow herbs for soup and have a bird (or should I say squirrel!) feeder. Training as an Assessor for the Awards was an excellent opportunity to meet others throughout the University.

I applied successfully for an Alumni Foundation grant to buy new books for our Library. We are looking forward with excitement to a Library re-launch in the Autumn.

Our access throughout the University allows us to listen to the concerns and share in the joys of the community. I have attended meetings of the University and College Union (which represents academic and academic related staff) and heard unease as to increased workloads and pension scheme changes. I have shopped at the weekly student-run Food Coop. I attended the Vice Chancellor's termly Forum. I was invited to the Bristol Plus Awards Ceremony where students, employers and staff celebrated student achievements. As term ends I am preparing our contribution for the University's Open Day in the Victoria Rooms.

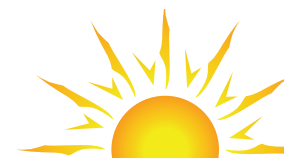
Change, review and reflection have been key themes of the term. Our Jewish Chaplains, Quaker Chaplain and our Chaplaincy Assistant are moving onto new opportunities, and we have welcomed another Muslim Chaplain to the team. I was involved in the recruitment process for our new Chaplaincy Assistant who will join us in the Autumn. We are reviewing how to continue this vital contribution to the Chaplaincy, following a reduction in funding from various organisations towards this position. The Local Ecumenical Partnership of Christian Chaplains was reviewed this term by Churches Together In Greater Bristol, and within the wider context the Multifaith Chaplaincy will be included in the University Student Services Review: we await the two Reports with interest.

A student recently said to me that the Chaplaincy was a unique place within the University – we trust that through God's grace we will be enabled to continue to offer this uniqueness.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the work of Chaplains within the University.

Rachael Fletcher, University of Bristol Free Church Chaplain June 2011

(The Free Church Chaplain at the University of Bristol is funded by The Baptist Union, The Methodist Church and The United Reformed Church on a national, regional and local basis.)



Good morning, Lord, the sun's ashining,
Good morning, Lord, here comes the dawn.
Good morning, Lord, it's time for rising
Another brand new day has just been born.

CHORUS

Good morning, Lord, good morning, Lord.
Good morning, Lord, good morning, Lord.
Good morning, Lord, good morning, Lord.
Good morning, Lord, good morning, Lord.

Each morning, Lord, we should be praising,
Each morning, Lord, the joy you bring.
Each morning, Lord, we should be raising
Our voices as with gratitude we sing.

CHORUS

That morning, Lord, when it's a-raining,
That morning, Lord, when skies are grey,
That morning, Lord, I ain't complaining
I know the sun will shine another day.

CHORUS

One morning, Lord, you will be calling,
One morning, Lord, for me to go.
The morning, Lord, I hear you calling
Will be the happiest day I'll ever know!

CHORUS

Here are the Lectionary readings for July, August and the first Sunday in September. In the earlier part of Jesus' ministry, as recorded by Matthew, Jesus has been straightforward in his teaching (e.g. the Sermon on the Mount) and there have been lots of healings. Now we move more into parables, where the listeners have to think for themselves; although the crowds still love him, opposition begins to grow. From countless sermons and bible studies we may "know" the meaning to these parables, but looking at them afresh, how would we respond to them at a first hearing? How would we respond?

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. Now that the nights are drawing in (!), what better way to spend the evening?

July	(not the) OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
3rd	Zechariah 9:9-12	145:8-14	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Romans 7:51-25a
10th	Isaiah 55:10-13	65:1-13	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Romans 13:1-9, 18-23
17th	Isaiah 44:6-8	86:11-17	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Romans 8:12-25
24th	1 Kings 3:5-12	119:129-136	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Romans 8:26-39
31st	Isaiah 55:1-5	145:8-9, 14-21	Matthew 14:13-21	Romans 9:1-5
Aug				
7th	1 Kings 19:9-18	85: 8-13	Matthew 14:22-33	Romans 10:5-15
14th	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	67	Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
21st	Isaiah 51:1-6	138	Matthew 16:13-20	Romans 12:1-8
28th	Jeremiah 15:15-21	26:1-8	Matthew 16:21-28	Romans 12:9-21
Sep				
4th	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Psalm 119:33-40	Matthew 18:15-20	Romans 13:8-14

FLOWERS

Just at the moment all we seem to be asking for is money. Every Sunday there are flowers in our church. Thanks to the team that arrange them every week, and give extra time for special occasions.



As the flower fund does not receive any direct funding from the church, therefore donations would be gratefully received.

Thank you very much to members of the congregation, who have been giving towards the flowers, some for many years. Best wishes, Sally



When you read this Les Fry will have left for his VSO to work on the Island of Pemba which is part of Tanzania. Les has wanted to extend his educational career in this way for a long time. We shall miss him during the next few months but wish him well and our prayers will be with him during his time away. I am sure Carol will be up dating us with news from him.

You will have seen an article from David Hayden (if you read the recorder from the beginning) explaining the MMF payments we make to The URC. I urge you all to attend the next Church Meeting on **17th JULY** after the morning service as we will be explaining our financial situation plus the nomination papers will be available for the elders election on the last Sunday of October.

There are 3 advanced dates for your diaries. **24th SEPTEMBER** we are having a Harvest Sale at the front of the church to raise funds for the 150th celebration. This is a chance to use your talents to support and raise as much as possible on that day. The Koreans will be taking part. The Harvest Service is the next day **25th SEPTEMBER**.

The next important date is **SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER** when the 2012 Olympic Project is being launched. This will take place after the morning service.

So Watch This Space...

Dougie will be on holiday for the month of August. We wish him a good rest and come back invigorated for our 150th anniversary and the Olympic Project which he has been working on with St John's School.

A happy holiday to everyone else who will be taking a holiday. Don't forget Redland Park will be having services as normal !

Best wishes *Sally*

Deadline for contributions for the **September**
Recorder is 28th August.

Please send to the editor

e. petejhawkins@mac.com

t. 07947 405 453 / 0117 941 3668

or by post to The Recorder at the Church
address at the bottom of this page

Minister | Rev. Douglas Burnett

0117 330 9910

douglasburnett@wwmail.co.uk

Secretary | Sally King

0117 962 1000

sallyeking@blueyonder.co.uk

The Recorder is the monthly magazine of
Redland Park United Reformed Church,
Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS8 6SA 0117 973 5850

info@redlandparkchurch.co.uk