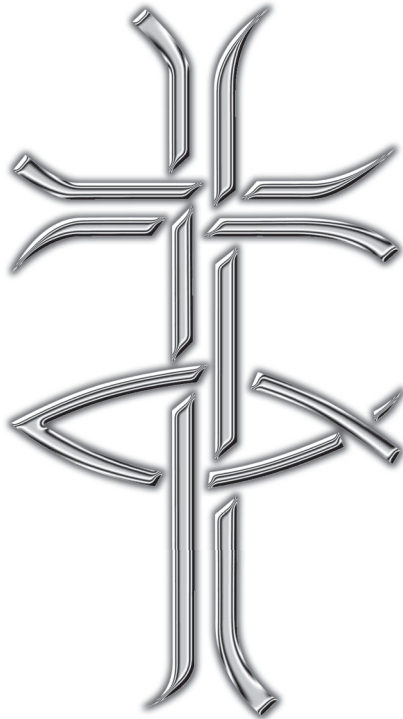


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The Recorder

July/August 2009

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



www.redlandparkchurch.co.uk

New Brunswick | July/August Diary

Preachers for 11am Services

July	5th	Angus Gregson
	12th	Rev. Douglas Burnett, Communion. (Induction of Elders)
	19th	Angus Gregson
	26th	To be Advised
Aug	2nd	To be Advised
	9th	Brenda Isherwood
	16th	John Waines
	23rd	Carol DeBerger
	30th	Doulfuss

Speakers for Womens Guild

1st	D.I.Y.
8th	David Fudge
15th	Ruth Eddolls
22nd	Derek Marsh
29th	Holiday Plans

Guild will then close for the summer and recommence on Wednesday 9th September

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On the 19th September we shall be holding one of our Restaurants in aid of church funds. As always places will be limited so get the date in your diary. Further details will follow during the summer..

When: Saturday 19 September 2009

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

The month of June saw Redland Park taking on the issues of climate change in a big way. First of all we held our all-age day, "Going Green." This was held on the first Saturday on June at the church. Altogether some 70 or so people came to join in the various activities. This included some 50 parents and children from St. John's School. The rest of the numbers were made up with staff from Redland Park and the Korean Church. Sustainable Redland and Solar Sense UK (the firm which installed our solar panels) also had a presence.

On July 2nd the Noah's Ark project had a particular climax with the visit of 27 of us from Redland Park and St. John's School to Westminster, Downing Street, and Operation Noah's national day of action. We presented something of the national Operation Noah petition to the door on Number 10 Downing Street. We met and had our photo taken with Ed Milliband, the minister for climate change.

All in all there has been a huge amount of activity from Redland Park in taking on this hugely important area of work. There will be more to

come as a number of us are thinking up further events in the run up to the climate change conference at Copenhagen in December. Watch this space!

It is curious that come churches don't see climate change as an essential or mission issue. But the fact is that some see it as not central to their outreach. For some outreach remains purely about the "saving of souls" rather than anything to do with God's creation. This does nothing to enhance the church's reputation in secular society. In a recent BBC Radio Bristol interview the reporter put it too me that it was surprising that a church should be so concerned about the environment. I had to admit that he had something of a point. Thankfully, though, many churches are now rediscovering the concern for God's world that has always been there.

We need you to be part of this, if you can please come to the events we are planing. The more of us that turn up the better this outreach becomes.

Dougie



Apologies to Peggy Thomas for making her a year older than she actually is, as she recently celebrated her 93rd birthday, but we were glad to see her in church again last Sunday, pushed from Glenavon House in St John's Road, Clifton, in her wheelchair by Bryan Jenkins! Apologies also to Arthur Graves as we made him older than he actually is in a recent Recorder.

Congratulations to David and Caroline Jones on the birth of Martha Ellen on 25 May – a sister for Corinne, grand-daughter to Derek and Myra Jones, Roger and Wendy James.

Congratulations also to Lucy Pedlar who gets married on 25 July and our very best wishes to Nik and Lucy for their future together.

Olive Howell has also been in hospital but hopefully is home by the time you read this.

Mary and Norman Crick have been unable to come to church for a while as Mary underwent an operation which has not been completely successful. We wish her well.

We remember also Joyce and Henry Dickenson who also have been unable to come to church for a while, and Henry had an overnight stay in hospital recently.

Our prayers are with all these friends, old and new.

Adam Stewart, our Premises Officer, has now moved into the Lower Flat in No.1 so you can find him there if necessary, but please respect his privacy when he is off-duty.

One Ark (*plastic*), 19 "Animals" (*from St. John's School*) and 7 other assorted characters, left Bristol at 8am on July 2nd to show support for the OPERATION NOAH campaign.

We were met by Stephen Williams MP. at Portcullis House. Having passed through high security and had our photos taken, Stephen and his research assistant took us by way of an underground passage to the Houses of Parliament, the Great Hall and the lobby, as the Houses were sitting we couldn't see in to the Chambers. After our packed lunch back in Portcullis House, we made our way to Downing Street.

Six of the children, the Headmaster and Dougie were allowed in to present our paper origami ARKS and petition, unfortunately the Prime Minister was in Manchester.

The rest of us were then able to go and have our photo taken with the "Bobby" at the door of No. 10 Poor man had been stood there for 2 hours in the 30 degree heat. Then back along the Embankment, this time carrying the plastic ARK (Which got many a puzzled look from passersby) to board a boat for a trip on the Thames with the Bishop of London and 4 other schools and a brass band.

We disembarked upstream from the Houses of Parliament for a rally in the nearby park, together with a wooden Ark, banners and a range of wildlife (real this time) including 2 Alpacas with great hairstyles! Then a few speeches from Mark Dowd, Bishop of London and Ann Pettifor of Jubilee 2000 fame and the singing of "All creatures of our God and King"

Lastly Ed Milliband, Minister for the Environment, came to join us and give his support and lots of photos were taken and interviews done. A tired but happy band of people returned to Bristol, feeling pleased with our contribution to make our Government realise how important it is that great strides are made to reduce Global Carbon Dioxide emissions at the Climate Change talks in Copenhagen in December.

We must keep up the pressure, so please carry on campaigning.

Myra Jones

Who Are You This Morning?

Who are you this morning, Mr Harrison?
What's the part you're playing out today?
Are you gentle as a lamb
In the role of family man,
Or do you wear the mantle of a ruthless businessman?
So what are you this morning, Mr Harrison?
What's the mask you're putting on today?
What's the mask you're putting on today?

Look into your mirror, Mr Harrison,
Who's that looking back at you today?
Is he honest and sincere
His reflection bright and clear,
Or is he false and shallow, always ready with a sneer?
Reflect upon your image, Mr Harrison,
What's the face you're putting on today?
What's the face you're putting on today?

Which of you is talking, Mr Harrison?
Who's the voice you're speaking with today?
Are your words of hope and praise,
Is there love in every phrase?
Or are they words of anger, setting tempers all ablaze?
Rephrase your conversation, Mr Harrison,
Moderation is the word today;
Moderation is the word today.

How do you know the real Mr Harrison?
How do you know which character is you?
If you play too many parts
Even in your heart of hearts
You'll find it hard to recognise the man you were to start.
So give up all your posing, Mr Harrison,
Why not be yourself for once today?
Why not be yourself for once today?

Going Green – a great afternoon

On a damp Saturday afternoon in early June, the sight of a polar bear (or at least a large man in a polar bear suit) dancing down Whiteladies Road in front of a snake of children carrying an ark made from plastic bottles and wearing animal masks was designed to attract attention – and it did. Literally stopping the traffic as it crossed the road from the St John's side to the Redland Park side, the procession caused a number of people to break off their afternoon activities to find out what was going on.

When they got to the church they found Mr and Mrs Noah in wellies and yellow waterproofs dancing to accordion music, the children and their families being invited into the building for an afternoon of activities and worship on a "green" theme.

Using appropriately coloured tissue paper, a large rainbow was created and put on display for the whole body of the church to enjoy. The families split into groups which enjoyed green-themed games, made stencilled calico bags, and created sculptures out of used plastic drinks bottles under the expert guidance of professional artist, Peter Margerum, who had already helped the children at the school to make the ark.

All the activities were designed to draw attention to climate change issues, highlighting the work of the Christian charity Operation Noah which will be taking delegations (including one from St John's School) to 10 Downing Street on 2 July. Among the items that will be presented to the Prime Minister on that day are the origami arks that have been made in their dozens over the last few months and will be added to the thousands of arks that have been made across the country with a view to influencing government policies in the run-up to the UN conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

The afternoon came to a close with worship, including prayers which were written on labels and stuck to the ark and action songs on a world theme. Refreshments were provided by our Korean congregation. It was a great afternoon involving about 70 people, 50 or so of whom were new to our church. A big well done to Dougie and everyone else involved.

Jane Rogers



What's On?



Advance Notice – that Redland Park URC will, as usual, be helping with the soup run for one Saturday in August and all Saturdays in October. Help is appreciated for making sandwiches or cakes, providing underwear or toiletries, or helping deliver these on one or more Saturday from about 11.00am to 2.00pm. Jane Pedlar is our contact and would be glad to hear from you if you can help in any way, or if you would like to make a donation towards this outreach work.

WEDDING SERVICE

The Pedlar family would be very pleased if church friends would like to join them for the wedding service at 2pm on 25th July when Lucy will be married to Nicholas Pollard. They would also like to express their thanks to the choir who will be taking part in the service.

When: 2pm on 25th July 2009

BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

The Case For God – what Religion Really Means, led by Karen Armstrong, one of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs, author, writer and broadcaster, and a passionate campaigner for religious liberty.

When: 14 July 2009 – 6.00-7.00pm

Where: St George's, Bristol

Vision4Life events

VISION4LIFE – A DAY TO THINK ABOUT...
LEADING PRAYER IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Designed for Ministers, Pay Preachers and anyone interested in leading or encouraging others to lead prayer at worship services or any other kind of meeting in preparation for the Vision4Life Year of Prayer 2009-2010. Bring a packed lunch – drinks provided. The church is 5 minutes from Newton Abbot railway station, 2 minutes for a car park.

Event is free but booking necessary through Dinah Firmin at Synod Offices 01823 275470 doftraining@urcsouthwest.org.uk by 26 June

When: Saturday 4 July from 10.30 to 4.00pm

Where: The Avenue Church, Newton Abbot

VISION4LIFE - BIBLE STUDY DAY

Revd Dr Janet Tollington, *Director Old Testament Studies*

Westminster College, Cambridge, has kindly agreed to talk at Princes Street on Saturday 25th July on how some of the books of the Bible emerged as the story of Israel unfolded through nearly 2000 years of history before the coming of Jesus; and to say something about the emergence of the New Testament.

The plan, as yet to be confirmed, is that the talks will be from approximately 10.00am until 4.00pm in the church, with a break for lunch.

This is a unique opportunity to hear a real expert talk on this important subject so Princes Street is inviting other churches to share the experience.

Visitors are asked to bring their own packed lunches; Princes Street will provide tea, coffee etc. In order that we can supply full details later, it would help if you could let us know, as soon as possible if any members of your church are interested. We will ask you later to say roughly how many people are likely to attend.

When: Saturday 25th July 2009

Where: Princes Street

Redland Park Church Calendar



July

Wed 1	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
	7.45pm	Taizé Service (1/2 hour of reflection and meditation) at Victoria Methodist Church
Thu 2	2.30pm	First Thursday
Sun 5	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
Wed 8	7.30pm	Church in Society Meeting
Sun 12	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Spi Lewis
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
	7.30pm	Service of Prayer and Praise
Sun 19	10.30am	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
	11.45am	Church Meeting
Sun 26	10.30am	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
	7.30pm	Service of Prayer and Praise

August

Sun 2	10.30am	Revd John Salsbury
Sun 9	10.30am	Revd Tony Coates
Sun 16	10.30am	Meryl White
Sat 22		Garden Party at Richard and Jane Pedlar's house
Sun 23	10.30am	Revd Ernest Marvin
Sun 30	10.30am	Geoff Lunt

September

Wed 2	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu 3	2.30pm	First Thursday
Sun 20	11.45am	Church Meeting

October

Saturdays		Soup Run for the Homeless
Wed 7	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu 8	2.30pm	First Thursday

November

Wed 4	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu 5	2.30pm	First Thursday
Sun 15	11.45am	Church Meeting

December

Wed 2	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu 3	2.30pm	First Thursday

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE AND GLOBAL CEASEFIRE

The UN International Day of peace was first instituted in 1981, but was changed in 2001 to make it also a day of 'Global Ceasefire'. The Peace Fellowship has been asked to have the issue raised and to work for persuading our Government to set an example by living up to the promise it made by supporting what was proposed by them in 2001. We are hoping that URC members who as Christians are committed to seeking peace will contact their MPs to ask them to urge the government to take the Day seriously. The MPs should be asked to raise the profile of the UN International Day of Peace within the country so that **September 21st** achieves similar support to that for Remembrance Day and secondly, where British troops are engaged in military conflict, they should in conjunction with the UN to bring about a cessation of hostilities to fulfil the ideal of a Global Ceasefire. Of course it will be difficult, but surely the British Government could do something in other conflicts. Our individual members are of course being encouraged to raise awareness and become involved.

Andrew Jack, Convener URC Peace Fellowship

'Should the church spend its limited resources on youth and children's work?'

Meryl White

You might have an instant answer and think it is not even worth debating. That's what I thought but a small group of young people and youth leaders got together reflect on it theologically. The discussion was rich, the outcome surprising and the spin off could be really exciting.

Theological reflection is a method of systematically reviewing a topic to get a Godly conclusion. There are lots of different methods; we used 'critical conversation'. The idea is that the three voices of, ourselves, theology (bible and Christian heritage), and our society need to be expressed and heard before any conclusion is made.

We started with questions. What is church for? What is youth and children's work for? What was important to us? All shared their thoughts and experiences. It was clear that it was invaluable for everyone in formative years, nurturing faith and giving a sure foundation for the future. Discussion, debate, and being given room to reach personal decisions about faith, was highly valued. Church involvement with opportunities to serve gave a sense of belonging and personal development.

Reviewing Luke 8 v 15 – 17, we saw that; Jesus thought children were important, it is important to come to know Jesus when you are young, you need to have a simple childlike faith, adults were involved in bringing the children to Jesus – they didn't just come on their own. Other Bible readings showed the importance of sharing faith from one generation to another and with the 'alien' in the land. (This needed some explanation as there were visions of ET and UFO's!!)

We considered our heritage in the work of Rev Urijah Thomas. He was Redland Park's first minister, an ardent activist for children and young people. Using the talent and wealth of the affluent Redland Park he developed work to support families in the poorer parts of the city. Some of that work continues and is still supported by Redland Park members in very practical ways such as sharing expertise.

This led on to considering society's voice. Local ward level statistics show that there are many children and young people in our local population. Over 50% of the population claim to be Christian, 30% no religion with the other 20 % of other faiths. The indices of deprivation showed that this is



continued...

generally a comfortable area with no obvious social needs. Government policy puts needs of the children high on the agenda. Every Child Matters targets are that children should; be healthy, be safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic wellbeing. It was encouraging to hear that the church is helping young people to achieve all of these targets.

So back to the question, 'Should the church spend its limited resources on youth and children's work?' Junior church is highly valued by those who attend and they would love for more young people to be able to benefit from what it has to offer. The conclusion was that church resources, financial and otherwise, should really be spent on outreach to other children and young people so that they can benefit too. As one young person said, youth and children's work is needed – 'To ensure a healthy and bright future for the church.' Amen.

First Thursday

Thursday 4th June, a date not to be forgotten - First Thursday and voting. However, voting did not deplete numbers too much and a stimulating time was spent working on Peter Ambrose's quiz.

We were in teams of four and all managed to do pretty well. There were some original answers and some tricky questions.

We were very grateful to Peter for his organisation of what proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon.

Jennie Gudge

July 2nd Garden Party

The Cote, Old Gloucester Road, Alveston. Michael & Elizabeth have invited us to their beautiful garden for tea.

August No Meeting

Redland Park Handbooks

We are able to finally distribute an updated version of the church handbook, and your Elder will be contacting you with your copy. Many thanks to Dougie and the Elders for checking details, and to Terry for all his hard work in formatting, printing and collating the pages. As you will appreciate, details will be changing regularly, so amendments will be printed in the Recorder and I would be grateful to be informed of any others. The first ones are as follows:

- P2 Should be Committees
- P5 Carole Atter's email address should be carole-atter@talktalk.net
- P7 Delete one 'Bristol' in Dougie's address
- P7 Derek Jones is not a current serving Elder
- P12 Vimbai's name is Federick without the 'r'
- P18 Alexander and Emily should be added to Hannah and Daniel Hirsch
- P21 Tim Jenkinson's email address should be tim.jenkinson@ndds.co.uk
- P21 Sarah Jenkinson's mobile is 07795 403669
and her e-mail is sjenkinson@bristolcathedral.org.uk
- P22 Corinne and Martha should be added to David and Caroline Jones
- P26 Lunt – Dr Peter and Dr Alison
- P32 Rogers, should be Maldwyn and Dorothy (not Roger)
- P33 Jane Rogers' email address is janemrogers@hotmail.com.
- P35 Matt Slater has moved to Southampton
- P37 The Thomas family are on Linden (not Lindon) Road
in Westbury Park

Carol Fry

Secretary's Notes by Carol Fry



I wish you all a happy summer as people go off on holiday or have a rest from the usual routine. There will still be lots going on, such as church meeting on Sunday 19th, a garden party on 22nd August thanks to the Pedlars, one Saturday soup run in August - please support them all.

The church handbooks have been a long time coming but everything comes to they who wait. Please let me know of any errors or amendments and I will print them in the Recorder.

Please also remember your church friend and make contact if you haven't seen them for a week or two. If anyone needs more support, the Elders and minister are available so please let them know.

Best wishes, Carol

Did you know...

Columns resonate with ancient pagan beliefs and practices. The first columns would have been made of wood, hewn out of single tree-trunks. Early stone carvers copied this idea, adding leafy decoration at the top so that the central space of a church resembled the sacred groves in which our ancestors worshipped. In other cases, columns were used to represent human figures, much like ancient standing stones.

In a church the columns stand like these stones, their human shape flanking the congregation. The tops of the columns may fly into buttresses, like arms raised in perpetual praise to God. The nave may be flanked by columns which draw the eye further towards the altar.



Deadline for contributions for the **September Recorder** is **30th August**.

Please send to the editor

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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