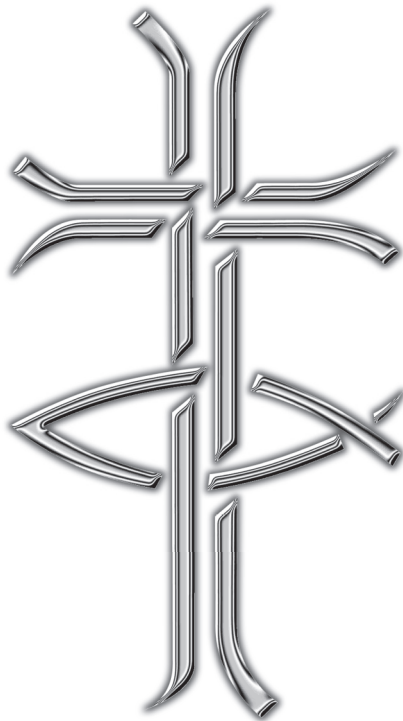


ESTD 1901

The Recorder

June 2009

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



www.redlandparkchurch.co.uk

Preachers for 11am Services

7th	Rev Mary Piggott
14th	Angus Gregson (Cradle Roll)
21st	Rev Tim Harrison
28th	Angus Gregson

Speakers for Womens Guild

3rd	To be advised
10th	Dorothy Frampton
17th	D.I.Y.
24th	Dolfus

I went to Triodos Bank AGM yesterday and one of the speakers Satish Kumar editor of Resurgence Magazine said 2 things that I that made me think.

“The words crisis and opportunity in Chinese are written using the same characters”

And he quoted Mahatma Ghandi,

“Be the change you want to see happen”

Myra Jones

Church, Politics and M.P.s Expenses

Religion and politics can be a strange and curious mix. That is especially at the time that I write this. The big story for the past two weeks has been that of M.P.s expenses. There have been any number of casualties and there is no sign of it calming down as yet. There is talk of the whole political system having been damaged. Into this steps the two Archbishops, Rowan Williams and John Sentamu. First of Rowan Williams called in the ending of this humiliation being handed out to M.P.s, while also recognising that some behaviour has been less than what it should have been. Then the two together urged voters not to vote for the BNP. The reaction to this has been curious. Nick Griffin wants the church to sit down with the BNP and talk about the issues that they are getting from their supporters. At the same time a BNP spokesman was saying, “These church leaders don’t represent the views of the public. The archbishops were trying to make themselves relevant in the modern world and the church should stay out of politics.” It is also interesting to note that in a recent European election campaign poster the BNP has used an image of Jesus suggesting that he would vote for the party!!!

Mixed messages indeed. Personally I would thank the Archbishops for saying what they have said. The church involves itself in politics because what we proclaim is much more than a message of personal salvation. When Jesus proclaimed the coming of God’s Kingdom he had in mind a particular social order where all values find their roots in God. If we miss this then we have also missed much of the point of the Gospel. While also being in part very human and also subject to human fallibilities the church has always had a prophetic role to play. Where certain things are not of God the Church is called to stand up and say so. Rowan Williams is right to say that certain aspects of the reaction to the M.P.s expenses row have got out of hand. The archbishops are also right to point out the dangers that come with the BNP. When we vote we need to have in mind what Jesus might do. I seem to recall that he had certain hard words to say about those who dehumanised others.

Dougie



Nigel Terry has written to let us know that he and **Mary Herbert** would be married on 23 May and they will be worshipping at Redland Parish Church in the future. We are sorry to see him go but wish him every happiness in the future. They will be moving to 18 Raglan Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8EH.

We send our best wishes to **Sheila Dennison** who is not well at present, and we wish her good health. Our best wishes too, to **Laura Jones** and it was good to see her back in church and singing in the choir.

Gwyneth Hebblethwaite has been unwell and in hospital for some time; she has now moved to The Willows, Westbury Fields, St. Monica Trust, where we hope she will be very happy.

Peggy Thomas sends her best wishes to all her friends. She recently celebrated her 94th birthday.

Congratulations to proud grandparents, **Andrew and Suzie Sims**. Their son **Matthew and Anna Sims'** daughter, Sophie was due in early May and arrived on the 5th. Their daughter **Hannah**

and **Daniel Hirsch's** twins, Alexander and Emily, were due at the end of May and arrived on the 6th! Very good wishes to them all.

We heard that **Miss Joyce Davey** had died early in May at the age of 101 and her funeral was held at Canford on 13 May. She had not attended Redland Park for many years but continued her membership and lived all her life immediately opposite at 100 Whiteladies Road, which had been the family shop all her life.

Our thoughts are with **Irene Jones**, a member for several years and a regular attender at the Toddlers Group, whose mother, **Violet Symmons**, died recently.

We also remember **Dot Dakin**; she transferred her membership to Trinity-Henleaze several years ago but many still knew her here; she died after a short illness on 21 May and will be sadly missed, not least by Rose Pope.

We also heard of the death of **Joy Marsh** who moved away many years ago and died recently in Cheltenham.

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

A couple of years ago we brought into being the Church Friends scheme. This is a way of enhancing the pastoral care system and ensuring that no one goes unnoticed. The elders and the minister also seek to provide pastoral care, but this is most effectively done when everything takes some responsibility. It is part of our calling as Christians. Many thanks to those who take part in the scheme. The Pastoral Committee and elders are very grateful for your input. If by any chance you haven't got around to remembering your Church Friend recently then a phone call might be all that is needed. The idea is that you make contact in such a way perhaps once a month. If you can do more than a phone call and perhaps meet up for coffee or something similar then all the better. If you have forgotten who your Church Friend is then Christine Johnson has the full listing, our contact Carol Fry or Dougie. If you would like to join the scheme then please contact Christine. St. Paul talks about the church as being like a body. This is in the way of a small encouraging nudge to make sure that all the parts of the body are remembering their calling to look after one another. With thanks.

Dougie

A Tribute to Dorothy Dakin OBE

Miss The Red Maids' School and the Red Maids Society are sad to announce the death of former Headmistress, Miss Dorothy Dakin OBE.

Miss Dakin was Headmistress from 1961 – 1980 and will be remembered by many for her modernisation of the school and for her fight against the abolition of direct grant funding in Bristol.

There will be a local memorial service following a private cremation on Friday 29th May, 2pm at the United Reformed Church in Henleaze.

The Red Maids' Society are planning their own memorial service in the Autumn to celebrate Miss Dakin's life as part of the school, and further information will follow.

Contributions for an obituary in the next newsletter should be sent to the Society email address, redmaidsociety@gmail.com, by 15 June.

Elizabeth Spallanzani, *Newsletter Editor Red Maids' Society*

Go and Spread the Word Around!

Go.

And spread the word around
That salvation
Can be found.
In the word of the risen Lord.

Tell

The people that you meet
Everywhere on
Every street,
Spread the good news about the Lord.

Show

With every thing you do
What this news has
Meant to you.
By your acts represent the Lord

Make

The whole world realise
That there is no
Greater prize
Than the word of the risen Lord.

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First Thursday: "Read all about it..."

could well have been a suitable title for Stan Hazell's talk at the meeting held on May 7th.

Some 40 years of journalism had provided Stan with a wealth of material to draw on, and in his presentation he selected some items that provided headline news over the years.

Stan started his career as a news reporter working for a local paper in South Wales before joining the staff of the Western Mail, based in Cardiff. It was not long before he was asked to report on the Aberfan disaster in October 1966 and the horrors associated with the event. At that time preparing the news was not as straightforward as it is today and it often involved meeting a representative at a predetermined point who would collect the package and take it back to Cardiff so that a news story could be featured as soon as possible.

Stan later moved on to join the news team for what later became ITV West and early in his time there he was asked to report on the flooding which hit Pensford in 1968. Graphic film of the event was shown, bringing back memories to those who had lived through it.

It would have been surprising if the maiden flight of the British-built Concorde in April 1969 had not been included in Stan's talk.

Stan finished up as news editor for ITV West, and counts himself fortunate to have acquired so much material.

Those who attended the meeting enjoyed looking back at past events and listening to Stan's view of things from a journalist's view.

Mal Owen



June 4th **Play Reading**

Laura Jones will invite us to show our thespian skills - or just be entertained by others doing so

July 2nd **Garden Party**

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

August **No Meeting**

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.

CHURCHES REFUGEE NETWORK CONFERENCE (URC)

From Asylum to Sanctuary – restoring wholeness: refugee journeys to social integration. A day which will include new ideas, new good practice, new contacts and workshops, music and worship. Cost is £15 (concessions £10) and includes lunch.

When: Saturday 6 June 2009

Where: Holy Apostles Hall, Cumberland Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 4LY

Trinity College, Stoke Hill, Bristol - Invite you to...

CHURCH WITH A FUTURE AND A HOPE, 24, 25 AND 26 June 2009

Study Day with Eddie Gibbs, 24 June (free but must book)

The Morphing of the Church, 10.00-5.15pm (Prof Eddie Gibbs, mission specialist and writer, is on the staff of Fuller Theological Seminary, California)

Garden Party, Public Lecture by Lord Carey, 25 June

Garden Party 4.00-5.30pm and Leadership in a World of Flux 7.30pm (free but must book). Lord Carey of Clifton was Archbishop of Canterbury 1991-2002 and Principal of Trinity 1982-1987.

Study Day with Eddie Gibbs 26 June

Making All Things New 10.00-3.00pm (£15 inc lunch)

*Book through Mrs Mary Parson, Trinity College, Stoke Hill, Bristol BS9 1JP
Tel 0117 968 2803 email prinsec@trinity-bris.ac.uk*

Christian Aid Round-up Janet Owen

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 – 16 May 2009

A big thank you, from me, to all those who collected in the streets of Redland during Christian Aid Week. Altogether we collected a grand total of £1351.47 (+ £189.16 Gift Aid). This is a little short on what we raised last year but still a very good total, especially considering the present economic climate.

I must give a special thank you to Susan Harker who helped me count on the Tuesday morning, it took us four hours.

As usual some of our collectors did much better this year whilst others found their roads rather disappointing! Everyone who collected, whatever the amount, knows that the money will go to help the poor of our world through Christian Aid.

So again a big THANK YOU to all our collectors.

CHRISTIAN AID DAY and QUIZ 16 May 2009

We had another Christian Aid day of 'mixed weather' which meant that we could only have the plants and one of the White Elephant Stalls outside. However, the books did a good trade within the church, as did the coffee.

A big thank you to all helped beforehand and on the day. Without their efforts we could not make this day such a success.

A big thank you, also, to the members of the congregation who came along to support us. The total for the day was £605.00 with some extras coming in afterwards.

The Quiz in the evening was as challenging as ever! We learnt some very interesting facts. Everyone who attended enjoyed the evening which was won by the 'Ecumenical Four'. Their was a profit of £55. Thanks to Derek for a most enjoyable evening.

All the money raised will go to Christian Aid

Redland Park Church Calendar



June		
Wed 3	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
	7.45pm	Taizé Service (1/2 hour of reflection and meditation) at Victoria Methodist Church
Thu 4	2.30pm	First Thursday – Quiz by Peter Ambrose
Sat 6		Messy Church
Sun 7	10.30am	Morning Worship, Commitment for Life (Linda Mead)
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
Sun 14	10.30am	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
	7.30pm	Service of Prayer and Praise
Sun 21	10.30am	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
Sun 28	10.30am	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Korean Church (Upper Room)
	7.30pm	Service of Prayer and Praise
July		
Wed 1	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu 2	2.30pm	First Thursday
Wed 8	7.30pm	Church in Society Meeting
Sun 12	10.30am	Morning Worship with Revd Spi Lewis
Sun 19	11.45am	Church Meeting
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

2010

February		Proposed visit to the Holy Land
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Bristol University Free Church – Chaplain’s Report May 2009

The Multifaith Chaplaincy has been particularly busy during April and May as students prepare for their exams. Our Reading Room and Common Room continue to prove popular with students (and their revision notes, books and laptops). I’m anticipating that by the time you read this, most exams will have been sat, dissertations will have been handed in, and students will be enjoying the Summer Vacation.

For many students the Summer Term is full of strains and stresses, whether revising for exams, applying for jobs / postgraduate courses, or looking for accommodation for next year. As a Chaplain I am very aware of this as I meet with students, lead worship on a Wednesday lunchtime, share in the Sunday evening MethSoc meeting and generally participate in the community life of the Multifaith Chaplaincy and University.

Regular Activities

Monday Soup Lunch
Wednesday Worship
Friday Fair Trade Café

‘Chaplaincy as a Presence, Pastoral and Prophetic Ministry’

Other Activities

Green Impact Awards
Meal for Christian Union and other Christian Student Society leaders
Memorial Service
MethSoc ‘visit’ Ephesus
Meeting with the Vice President of the Methodist Conference

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

Rachael Fletcher

*University of Bristol Free Church
Chaplain*

> Please look out for more detailed information in next month’s Recorder.

Mission – Joined up thinking required?

In our cells and elders’ meetings we have been looking at the idea of mission. Most of us are familiar with the Five Marks of Mission, we know what a missionary is and we sing from the hymn book, Mission Praise. Redland Park Church has its own mission statement, albeit one that nobody can remember without consulting the website, and the United Reformed Church is about to introduce us to Vision 2020, which will include ten statements of mission and purpose.

This is all very well but what exactly is mission? The Church of England engaged with the idea of mission very fully in its 2004 report Mission-shaped Church (although having read it from cover to cover I struggled to find a direct answer to the question!). The report concluded that the church is an expression of God’s mission and quoted, from author Robin Greenwood, “What is mission if not the engagement with God in the entire enterprise of bringing the whole of creation into its entire destiny? A local church cannot claim to be part of this if it only serves itself”.

So what does mission mean for Redland Park Church? We are familiar with the idea of service but do not always with the idea of making God’s mission the centre of our life. We fret about the idea of evangelism, if that means sharing the good news of God’s kingdom with strangers. We pay lip service to diversity and ecumenism but only in so far as they are compatible with our existing way of doing things. We

tolerate children but do little to make ourselves a child-friendly church. This all underlines the fact that there is no strategy for mission.

That we have no clear view of what our mission should be is demonstrated by the way we use our time and skills. On the afternoon of 6 June we will be running an all age activity day called “Going Green”, which involves a lot of work behind the scenes and in particular working with the local community including St John’s School.

Our Minister, who does a large proportion of the work, has a very clear vision about what we are doing and why we are doing it. It is part of Redland Park’s mission and an important focus for the energy and resources of the church. We should be 100% behind him, and I hope we are, but for those involved there is always the sense that occasions which are not part of our Sunday morning corporate worship are fringe or add-on activities and not a core part of our church life.

My heading refers to joined up thinking – a vision in which all the elements of our church life work together to produce a better result. If our aim is to fulfil God’s mission by introducing the Kingdom of God to all people, we need that sort of thinking because there is still a mighty task ahead of us. I invite you to engage with that idea.

Jane Rogers

Did you know...

Arches were often likened to hands clasped in prayer, or arms thrown up in worship of God. Michelangelo defined an arch as two powerful forces that meet at their weakest point to make a stronger whole, and as couples are usually married under the chancel arch, the metaphor seems rather apt. Some rounded arches in large churches, built under the classical tradition, are 'triumphal' characterised by their size and thickness. Triumphal arches were originally free-standing, built by Roman emperors to march beneath with their army, in celebration of a victory. When incorporated into a church – in the entrance for example - they symbolise the victory of Jesus. The priest and congregation as they pass beneath them are imitating the emperor's triumphant victory marches. The term 'triumphal arch' also refers to the wall above the arch that separates the nave from the chancel.



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 **Annie Manuel** or **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.

Secretary's Notes by Carol Fry



The Elders regularly discuss the decline in many churches in the UK which is happening in many denominations, including the Catholic Church and Jewish Synagogues. The phrases below are points for discussion for the whole church, not just the Elders:

Marks of a Healthy Church:

Energised by faith
Outward-looking faith
Seeking to find what God wants
Faces the cost of change and growth
Builds community
Makes room for others
Does a few things - and does them well

Quality Characteristics of Healthy Church:

Empowering leadership
Gift-oriented ministry
Passionate spirituality
Functional structures
Inspiring worship services
Holistic small groups
Need-oriented evangelism
Loving relationships

Signs of Church Growth:

Constant prayers
Respect for Biblical authority
Effective leadership
Mobilised membership
Eventful worship
Continuous evangelism
Community life
Compassionate service
Openness to change
Released resources

Deadline for contributions for the **July Recorder** is **28th June**.

Please send to the editor

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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The Recorder is the monthly magazine of
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