

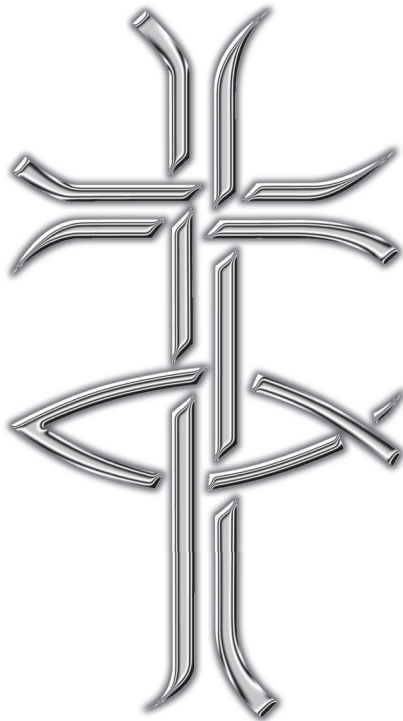
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The Recorder



May 2009

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



www.redlandparkchurch.co.uk

Preachers for 11am Services

3rd	Rev Douglas Burnett (Gift Sunday)
10th	Angus Gregson
17th	Angus Gregson
24th	Barbara Kirkby
31st	T.B.A.

Speakers for Womens Guild

6th	David Fudge
13th	This is your Life!
20th	This is your Life!
27th	No guild - Spring Bank Holiday

A tribute to Mrs Joan Philips is on page 3 of this months Recorder

On Saturday 28th March we celebrated the anniversary of moving back into our new church premises after the devastating fire. What a wonderful occasion it was? Yes it was a time to remember the awfulness of the fire but also a time to thank God for His goodness to us in the last 10 years. It was good to see the church full of our church folk and the many friends who have helped and supported us during the last 10 years. Some of those folk we would never have met if it had not been for the fire. The service was lead by Rev. Dougie Burnett and our Moderator Rev. David Grosch-Miller and it was good to have contributions from Rev. Pat Cemlyn-Jones and Rev. Mary Piggott. We shared memories and laughed together.

After the service it was good to meet with folk in a less formal situation over a cuppa and a piece of cake. Yet again memories were shared, some going back much further than 10 years.

Thanks to everyone who came along and shared in our celebrations and continue to support us in many ways not least by remembering us in your prayers. We now look forward to the coming years, what will they hold for New Brunswick? We don't know but one thing we know for sure is that God will be with us each step of the way as we continue to be a witness for Him in this area of Southmead. Brenda Drake

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Thursday 7th May at 7:30pm Church AGM. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 30th May Church Party 3pm-6pm

Dear friends,

The month of May sees the celebration of Pentecost. What does Pentecost mean to you? Obviously it is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and thus the true beginning of the church, but what about beyond that? How does it strike you emotionally? How we answer that depends largely on where we stand on the theological spectrum. If you are more charismatic-evangelical in tradition then no doubt you might connect more closely with the story of Pentecost as told by Luke in the Book of Acts. (Acts 2.1-11). There the particular inspiration of the Holy Spirit gives rise to some spectacular scenes of proclamation. However for those in a more liberal tradition the chances are that you come to Pentecost with a bit more wariness. In reality there is room for both traditions in relation to Pentecost. While the Holy Spirit can give rise to some dramatic experiences it is also fair to say that within the bible there is also the experience of God as the "still, small voice." Typically life is never a series of continual series of fireworks and neither is the experience of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is that presence of God in our lives that moves us to worship and service.

So with that have you noticed that in the bible there are actually two very different accounts of how the disciples received the Holy Spirit. The most famous account is that in the Book of Acts. The less recognised version is to be found in John's gospel, John 20.19-23. Therein it is just after Jesus' resurrection and not 50 days after Easter (as with Luke in Acts). Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and then commissions them with the task of making forgiveness known. When you think about it that is a crucial task. But the way in which this episode happens is so very understated.

It is difficult to reconcile the two accounts, but perhaps we need both nonetheless. Some of us are very at home with the spectacular. Some need the understated. I suppose that it depends in part as to whether we are extroverts or introverts. The point is that the Holy Spirit is present in both, and the important thing is to recognise and celebrate that presence no matter how we come to it. Have a great Pentecost! Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Dougie



Joon Ho Song has recently emailed a few people with his latest news:

“How are you? I am doing well, my family is also. I’m in India and there are a lot of changes here since we were last in India so sometimes I am surprised by them. It is very hot at the moment. I have met old friends from India who are Korean missionaries too. My family will be coming here next month and I am looking for a school for my children at present but it is difficult. Please pray that I find one and that my family gets a visa. I miss you. Thank you, Joon Ho.”

Elizabeth Graham has not been able to come church for some time but we are thinking of her and wish her well.

Peggy Thomas has now moved to Glenavon Nursing Home, St John’s Road, Clifton and has a lovely room on the second floor which is gradually being furnished with her own things. ~We hope she will be happy there.

We’re sorry to hear that **Christine Lloyd** is still awaiting an operation – we pray that this will be soon and be successful, and will help relieve some of her pain.

It was good to see **Bob Weir** return to church recently after his operation, although he will need another one shortly. We pray for his return to good health.

We are sorry to hear that **Dot Dakin** (now worshipping at Trinity-Henleaze) is unwell and our thoughts are with her.



FLOWERS

If you appreciate the Church flowers and would like to contribute to the ever increasing cost please contact me.

Sally King 0117 9621000

A Tribute to Esme Rawlings

Esme died just before Easter. Though she had been in hospital at various times and had moved into a residential and nursing home her death came quite unexpectedly. Essentially the whole of her life was spent in the same part of Bristol, on Sutherland Place. She went to school at St. John’s on Worrall Road and throughout her life came to Redland Park Church. She always sat in the same place. The place where she sat in the post-war building was the same place where she sat in the pre-war building. There were two Jacks in Esme’s life: her step-father and her husband. When she got married she simply moved from one house on Sutherland Place to the house next door. She got married at Redland Park. It was a great loss to her when she lost both her Jack’s within a couple of years of each other. Within Redland Park Esme was a constant and gentle presence. She was part of Doris Coy’s Sunday lunch catering team and until very recently was one of our “communion fairies,” helping prepare the elements for each first Sunday. She was always neat and tidy and expressed an active care for others. We give thanks to God for her life.

Dougie Burnett

A New Brunswick tribute to Joan Phillips

It was with much sadness that we heard of the death of Mrs Joan Phillips on 2nd April. She had not been able to attend church on the past year due to her failing health. Despite this she continued to be a great supporter and took much enjoyment from reading The Recorder which kept her up to date with the goings on at the church. She also very much appreciated the phone calls from Guild members who rang to let her know she was being thought of. We shall miss seeing Joan sitting on her motorised chair at the the back of the church. We remember her family at this time as they come to terms with her parting. May God bring them all His comfort and peace.

Brenda Drake

Seeing Is Believing

Seeing is believing, so the saying goes.
The world is round, as the whole world knows.
But some folk disagree with that;
They can't see the curve, so
Believe it's flat.
Like Thomas they demand the proof
Before they will accept the truth.

Believing without seeing is a test of faith,
Strong in belief through the doubts that chafe.
As, Daniel, in the lion's den,
Had faith that the lions would
Not eat him, then
Survival would be witness to
What having faith in God could do.

Seeing was believing for the three who came
To tend His body; they were there in vain.
They found it was an empty grave.
Believing He'd risen
All the world to save,
They ran to tell the others, who
Were quite uncertain what to do

Believing helps us seeing what we have to do,
Shows us the way, helps to see us through.
It guides us down the path that's straight,
And then on our way through
The narrow gate.
And those, who our belief may see,
Will see, believing, sets you free!

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First Thursday: Team Quiz

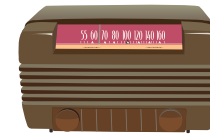
To be honest the conference room did not much resemble a desert island, even with the sun shining outside and the odd seagull flying overhead. However it was the music and the memories which mattered.

Various members had given Peter Ambrose a tape or CD of a favourite piece of music which he then put together for the programme with each item being introduced by the person who had suggested it. We had organ music, including a recording made on our own magnificent organ played by Stanley Parker who was the organist here for many years. There were various choral pieces chosen for different reasons; one took the person who chose it back

to her days of singing in the school choir, another the haunting sound of a Russian church choir heard on holiday and another inspired by a lifetime of being immersed in Welsh choral singing. Something quite different was a Maori song – memories of growing up in New Zealand and then a return holiday there. On the really light side was a highly amusing song about the WI Calendar!

As to be expected from First Thursday members, the afternoon was varied and interesting and we are grateful to Peter who put it all together with professional skill!

Audrey Bryant



May 7th From The News Desk

Stan Hazell with a behind the headlines look at journalism

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?

ENERGY4LIFE – The URC Inter-Assembly Celebration 2009

Come and be energized for mission in today's church. Cost £30 per adult, £15 per child, including evening meal, refreshments, workshops and entertainment. (Overnight accommodation will be arranged separately)

www.energy4life.urc.org.uk

When: Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 July

Where: Loughborough University

REDLAND MAY FAIR

The organisers of the Redland May Fair are looking for volunteers who would be able to help with stewarding for an hour or two between 12 and 5pm on Monday May 4th. It's a free event but they need people who are willing to hand out free programmes, help with a collection to raise funds for the local Princess Royal Trust for Carers and a variety of other tasks. There will be over 100 interesting stalls and a busy entertainment programme of music, puppets and of course Morris Men. If you are able to help please contact Beth Symmons 946 4691 mayfairinfo@rcas.org.uk

Beth Symmons, Chair of Redland May Fair committee

A DAY OUT IN MINEHEAD ON 6 JUNE 2009

Minehead URC would like to encourage members and friends to a day out in the beautiful West Somerset countryside! As well as Minehead you may like to visit Dunster, Porlock and Lynton. Since the demise of District Councils we don't have much opportunity to meet together so that is what this day is about. During the day we will be open from 10.00am for tea or coffee, bring your own sandwiches at lunchtime. In the sanctuary a Craft Exhibition will be on show all day – some of the items will be for sale. At 3.30pm an organ recital will take place and at 4.30pm a service of Thanksgiving will be held followed by refreshments in the Hall.

(There is a poster on the noticeboard and the church secretary will contact us again in May for numbers)



Beth Penrose is walking the entire South West Coast Path this summer, in aid of Médecins sans Frontières, and would greatly appreciate your support. Her aim is to leave Minehead on the 10th of June, and arrive 631 miles later in Poole Harbour on the 18th of July.

MSF is such a fantastic charity, working in over 60 countries, delivering emergency medical aid in the event of natural disasters, armed conflict and epidemics. It also provides longer term health programmes to marginalised groups. They won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1999 for their services to humanity.

We all understand the current financial climate is not one in which spare cash is abundant, and therefore although any financial support for MSF would be greatly appreciated, Beth is especially asking for thoughts and prayers during the five and a half weeks.

If you would like to donate, then you can do so online at www.justgiving.com/bethpenrose, or give donations in person to Beth's Mum or Dad (Dave/Jane Penrose).

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ SATURDAY 16 MAY 7.30 IN THE UPPER ROOM

We will be having a Christian Aid Quiz in the Upper Room in the evening. We will be inviting people from other churches to attend so do hope we will have a number of teams from Redland Park.

Please bring along your family and friends to help raise more cash by attending QUIZAID.

We had a good time last year, as did the teams from other churches, so please try and come along to pit your brains against Derek's questions!!

Janet Owen

We are still collecting old, clean, laddered tights to go to the Ethiopia Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa – please put them in the box marked 'Tights' in the front vestibule.

Redland Park Church Calendar



May

Sun 3	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Revd Ken Marsh Korean Church (Upper Room)
Wed 6	7.30pm 7.45pm	Elders Meeting Taizé Service (1/2 hour of reflection and meditation) at Victoria Methodist Church
Thu 7	2.30pm	First Thursday – Stan Hazell 'The News Desk'
Sun 10	10.30am 10.30am 7.30pm	Morning Worship Korean Church (Upper Room) Service of Prayer and Praise
Sun 10-Sat 16		Christian Aid Week (house to house collection)
Sat 16	10.00am 7.30pm	Christian Aid Day Christian Aid Quiz
Sun 17	10.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Morning Worship Korean Church (Upper Room) Church Meeting
Sun 24	10.30am 10.30am 7.30pm	Morning Worship Korean Church (Upper Room) Service of Prayer and Praise
Sun 31	10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	Morning Worship Korean Church (Upper Room) Picnic on the Downs and service of Pentecost at 5.00pm organised by Churches Together Clifton Cotham Redland

June

Wed 3	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu 4	2.30pm	First Thursday
Sat 6		Messy Church

July

Wed 1	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 12	10.30am	Morning Worship with Revd Spi Lewis

Thu 2	2.30pm	First Thursday
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
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

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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Being a chorister at Bristol Cathedral

In July I come to an end of my 3 years as a chorister at Bristol Cathedral so I thought this would be a good time to tell you about the way that church services at the Cathedral are different from church services at Redland Park.

We all believe in the same God and use the same Bible. However the services in the Cathedral are a lot more formal and follow the same pattern every week. On Sundays choristers attend Choral Eucharist in the morning and Evensong in the afternoon. On weekdays they attend evensong after school.

Every service begins with the choristers processing in followed by the choral scholars and the lay clerks. The choristers wear red robes and, once they are no longer probationers, wear white surplices. The choristers sit in the part of the Cathedral near the altar called the Quire.



Like at Redland Park, the congregation sings hymns during the service but there is a lot more singing done by the choir alone. At every service we sing a psalm. At evensong we sing the Responses, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis. There are readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament. On Sundays there is a sermon but no all age address.

Sometimes I find the formal parts of the service boring but when I leave the choir I shall miss the music as it is the type of music I like singing.

Jessica Rogers

Faith and the Arts – some reflections

History is full of stories about artists whose faith inspired great works of art and music. Think of the modest piety that inspired Fra Anglico's frescos in the monastery of San Marco in Florence, or the detailed theology that resulted in some of the greatest works in the Western classical repertoire created by Bach Soli Deo Gloria. In more modern times, the Scottish composer James Macmillan has said "My art is shaped by my faith". And it is not just classical musicians who make this claim. Soul music was born of the post-war gospel music revival when singers such as Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin adapted, for a secular market, the church music they had been brought up on.

There is however another side to the faith/art relationship and that is the effect that great art has upon the faith of either the artist or the viewer or listener. One of the most popular post- Renaissance images of Jesus is Holman Hunt's The Light of the World (even the Vicar of Dibley has a copy in her vestry). An appealing aspect of the painting, which presents to us a rather sentimental Anglo- Saxon idea of Jesus, is the fact that Hunt during the course of painting the 3 versions he produced converted from agnosticism to devout Christian faith.

Edward Elgar and Ralph Vaughan Williams, composers of works of music with religious themes, both had an ambivalent attitude to the Christian faith. Elgar struggled with the Catholicism in which he was brought up by his mother but when his masterpiece, The Dream of Gerontius, proved successful after initial failure saw this as a sign that he should go on and compose other works based upon biblical themes.

Vaughan Williams, even though he was the son of an Anglican vicar, described himself as a 'cheerful agnostic'. Nonetheless he was clearly inspired throughout his life by the liturgy and music of the Anglican church. It is hard to believe that the first musical editor of the English Hymnal , and the composer of Five Mystical Works and The Pilgrim's Progress, could have been untouched by the faith to which he provided a means of access for so many others.

Finally there is the effect that religious works have upon the viewer or listener. Handel is said to have responded to a comment about the effect Messiah had on its audience: "I should be sorry if I only entertained them – I wish to make them better." There are many who are able to attest to the fulfilment of that wish.

Jane Rogers

Did you know...

The font is used for baptisms and is usually placed at the rear of the church, near the start of the entrance aisle. Since the central aisle represents the Christian's journey through life towards God, it was thought appropriate that the font should be placed at the symbolic start of the journey. Lids were used because the water was blessed on Easter Day and then left for future use; fonts therefore had to be impermeable which is why some old ones are lined with lead. The holy water had to be protected from dust and also from theft and use in charms and magical rituals. In England, covers became compulsory from 1236.



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



There are several things to get involved in this month, including the Christian Aid Fair and Quiz. Please help if you can by volunteering on the day, or by donating unwanted gifts, books, etc, to sell - all in a good cause - and also come along to buy plants and goods. Do come along for the quiz in the evening with questions set by our own resident quizmaster, Derek Jones.

We will be celebrating Pentecost at the end of May with an ecumenical service and picnic on the Downs, which is always fun.

Don't forget that Viv Hayden is still collecting foreign coins for the Penny Brohn charity, I am collecting old tights for the Ethiopia Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa and Dougie is now collecting empty small water bottles for the project he is carrying out with St John's School on Operation Noah.

A warning to all my church friends

A message from Gloucester CID Gloucester and Cheltenham has been recently hit by a male who has been attending local churches and obtaining information from notice boards etc He has then used the information he has obtained to get addresses and has then attended the home addresses of members of the church giving the name of the Revered/Vicar/Priest and saying that he had been sent by them. He normally then gives a hard luck story stating that he needs some money and cons the victim into "lending" him money which he never repays as they never see him again. The male is white with a round face. He has a Scottish accent. He is aged in his 30s. He is normally very polite and believable. He has also used a story of having broken down in his car and asks to use the telephone and yellow pages. If he is let into the house he will attempt to steal money and or bank cards. This male travels all over the country and is wanted by several police forces. At present we do not know where he is or what car he is using. Please can you pass this information to as many Church communities as possible. I am keen that he does not con anymore decent people, hopefully if people are aware of him then they will not be taken in. Please can anyone who thinks he has been to their home call their local police to report it immediately so that we can catch him as soon as possible.

Best wishes, Carol

Deadline for contributions for the **June Recorder** is **24th May**.

Please send to the editor

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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