New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

February
- 5th Brenda Drake
- 12th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)
- 19th Wendy Magee
- 26th Rev. Helen Mackinnon

March
- 5th Brenda Isherwood
- 12th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 7th February at 7.30 Southmead Joint Churches Prayer Meeting. Hosted by Kingsholm.

Friday 24th February at 7pm Southmead Quiz held at New Brunswick. Entry £3 which includes tea, coffee and nibbles. Also a small raffle.

Saturday 25th February at The Greenway Centre will be the next Craft and Preloved Fair from 12-3pm entrance free.

ADVANCED DATES FOR MARCH

Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm Southmead Joint Churches Prayer Meeting. Hosted by Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm Church Meeting

Saturday 18th March at 3pm Church ‘Christmas’ Party

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We are sorry to hear that Ruth has needed a spell in hospital after a fall down the stairs. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery from the fall. We remember Elizabeth who too has had another spell in hospital. She is now on the road to recovery and has decided that she needs to have more care. So is looking at alternative accommodation. We pray that the right place will become available for her.

There are those in our fellowship who would value prayers at this time. We uphold Julie and Pete. As Pete continues to receive treatment. As well as Ruth we also pray for her husband that he may be given the strength to continue to care for his wife. Wenda would appreciate prayers for the situation concerning her daughter Susan whose current home is closing and a new place has to be found.

Dave, Joyce, and Margaret would also like to be remembered in our prayers. Each has their needs which are known to God. We pray that for all those mentioned He will give, Comfort, Patience, Guidance and Love. May all those mentioned also be of our love and support.

We uphold to God at this time Paul who is going through a difficult time at present. Praying that the treatment he is receiving will be helpful for a quick recovery. We also ask God to strengthen the whole family at this time giving them all His Peace and Comfort.

Although not of our Fellowship we uphold to God at this time the congregation of the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Southmead. It was with great sadness that we heard of their Pastor, Kathy Glover, passing at the beginning of December. She had bravely borne her illness with dignity. God saw she was getting tired and took her to Himself. We pray not only for their loss but also for guidance as to the way God wants His faithful people to continue to witness to folk in the area during this time. Again may they be assured of our support, friendship, love and prayers at this very difficult time.

We send belated best wishes to Margaret who celebrated her 90th Birthday on 1st January. It was good to hear that her friends made the day special for her with Helium balloons, cards and a Special Birthday Lunch!!

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

Dear friends,

How is 2023 going for you? That all might seem a bit soon, I know. How can we possibly judge that, you might well ask. But then again, we might be inclined to answer in the negative rather than the positive. We always start each New Year by wishing each other a Happy New Year, but very often a few weeks in, that sense of happiness by seem to be wearing a bit thin. After all it was in February of 2022 when we woke up one morning to discover that Russia had invaded Ukraine.

After the trauma of the pandemic it was the trauma of a major war in Europe. We all wondered what might happen next. As it was Bristol became a place of sanctuary for many Ukrainian individuals and families fleeing the war. As we move through 2023, while we start the year by wishing each other all the best, we might also hold our breath as to what happens next. Though curiously there is always that thing that we call hope, and it is hope that gets us out of bed each and every day. Have you ever stopped to think about how strange and wonderful this thing called hope is? The author John Steinbeck (Of Mice and Men and East of Eden fame) once wrote:

“Hope is a diagnostic human trait, and this simple cortex symptom seems to be a prime factor in our inspection of our universe.”

In slightly dated language he also says this:

“We have made our mark on the world, but we have really done nothing that the trees and creeping plants, ice and erosion, cannot remove in a fairly short time… In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the trait of hope still controls the future… Man in his thinking or reverie status admires the progression toward extinction, but in the unthinking stimulus which really activates him he tends toward survival. Perhaps no other animal is so torn between alternatives. Man might be described fairly adequately, if simply, as a two-legged paradox. He has never become accustomed to the tragic miracle of consciousness. Perhaps… his species is not set, has not jelled, but is still in a state of becoming.”

Hope is not a very scientific thing, but it is nonetheless something very real to each and every individual. What our faith tradition does is to explore the why and how of that sense of hope being real. It is rooted in God and all of God’s dealings with humankind. For us it is most remarkably revealed in Christ dead and risen. That is a unique event in human history that takes us to the heart and pattern of life, the universe and everything. As we move into Lent, which starts in February, we start to focus again on what all of that means. Lent is all about getting a better perspective on life, the universe and everything. Do join us from our ecumenical Lent Conversations, if you can. Details will be forthcoming. And whatever happens next, let’s be hopeful!

Dougie

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Ministers of Church Meeting 18.1.2023

Attending: Rev Dougie Burnett and 26 members.

Apologies for absence: Mel and James Griffin, Helen Grand, Anna Sims, Lucy Pedlar, Cathy Warne, Jane Penrose, Les Brentley, Angus Gregson and Helena MacKinnon.

Minutes of last meeting 18.9.22: these were accepted as accurate with three amendments -
- a. Vimbai’s surname is Fedrick.
- b. Andrew Hayden will take over as Church Treasurer in March.
- c. Jane Rogers had also sent her apologies.

Matters Arising:
- a. Bristol URC Songs of Praise for 23rd October thanks to Helena for co-ordinating.
- b. Trees planted as scheduled.
- c. Warmbank: Derek reported that this has been operational on Wednesdays and Thursdays since 7.12.22, with the number of visitors lower than expected, but three today! The supportive response of the Redland Park congregation remains excellent in providing resources and hosting. The sense of fellowship has been terrific and the next step may be a regular midweek soup lunch for both guests and Redland Park members.

News of Members:
In addition the needs of eight other members needing our prayers were shared.

Ministerial Matters:
- a. New Members:
Martyn Steel will transfer his Membership from Muswell Hill to Redland Park on 1st February.
12 other potential members have been contacted and offered Membership classes in February and March, with a New Members’ Service scheduled for Palm Sunday, 2nd April.
- b. Bristol Korean Church:
Rev Johan Song has been identified as a candidate for the BKC Ministry, and progress is promising for his arrival and the BKC joining the South West Province at Synod in July.
- c. Christmas 2022:
- 1. Junior Church presentation highly creative thanks to Helena and the parents.
- 2. Carol Service well attended, with many excellent contributions and strong integration with the Korean congregation.
- 3. Crib Service very popular with over 70 participants including Helen Hill from Sing and Sign signing Away in a Manger. Possibility of a similar Easter event.
- d. New Free Church Chaplain: appointed for September. John Neugebauer and Malcolm Johnson being key to the appointment of a replacement for the excellent Rev Mike Peat.
World Day of Prayer 2023

This year the women of Taiwan have written the service. It is based on the theme ‘I have heard about your faith.’ This is taken from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians 1 verses 15 to 19.

The artwork below to promote the service has been produced by the Taiwanese artist Hui-Wen Hsaio.

(Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill.)

The service will be a hybrid one. It will be held in Tyndale Baptist Church (BSQ 2C on Friday March 3rd. It will start with refreshments at 10.30am. The service will start at 10.30am to 11.30am.

The zoom details are:
Meeting ID 831 8799 5291
Password 810959

The people who come to this service are always moved by the sincerity of the women who wrote it. If you have never attended this service before please come long and experience it for yourself.

Anne Neugebauer
(secretary for our local WDoP committee attached to Churches Together)
I normally ask people to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight by buying fair trade goods from either
the Traidcraft stall at church or in your supermarket when you do your normal shopping.
This stall has been running for many years, and I took over from Heather Jones then Jean
Camp quite a long time ago.

Unfortunately, some of you may have heard that Traidcraft has gone into administration,
and the Board of Trustees sent the below email to all their customers. I shall continue to
try to find items that are popular with members of the church from suppliers such as Divine
chocolate, and sell the remaining stock, including some Christmas items which will come
out in November! Traidcraft has let us know of their suppliers who are still able to sell on
line so I will continue to keep the Traidcraft stall running as long as I can.
Carol Fry

Traidcraft plc going into administration:
It is with tremendous sadness that we announce that Traidcraft PLC is going into adminis-
tration. The business has been in a weak financial position for some years and the Covid-19
pandemic presented a significant new set of challenges. Just as we were emerging from the
pandemic, like many other retailers, we faced the combined effects of the war in Ukraine,
rising energy prices, and increased transport costs.
Sadly, despite the heroic efforts of our team at Gateshead, low consumer confidence dur-
ing the critical autumn trading period led to a sales result significantly short of what was
required to sustain the operation. December sales were also negatively impacted by the
uncertainty created by Royal Mail strikes.
After much deliberation and following advice from external advisors, we have come to the
conclusion that the only honourable course of action is to appoint administrators. Our hope
is that by doing this in a timely manner, we can minimise the impact on our suppliers and
creditors. It is heartbreaking to bring the Traidcraft plc story to an end in this manner but we
can at least take some consolation from the knowledge that we have been a major force for
good in the ethical retail sector for over forty years.
We have championed the cause of trade justice to the point where we now have better stan-
dards and procedures in place to protect the rights and dignity of growers and producers all
over the world. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have journeyed
with us as employees, board members, shareholders and suppliers.
We would particularly like to thank our loyal band of “Fairtraders”, many of whom have
been with us since the very beginning. The mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is
far from complete. It is important to recognise that Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft
Exchange, the charity arm of Traidcraft) will continue its vital work supporting producers
and fighting for trade justice and people centred trade. Our hope and prayer is that others
will also emerge to pick up the torch that we have carried for four decades.
Board of Directors
Traidcraft plc January 2023

St Peter’s Hospice Charity Shop
Seeks Volunteers

St Peter’s Hospice is opening a new shop on Whiteladies Road in March and are looking for people to join their
volunteer team from the local community. There are
opportunities for volunteers on the shop floor and stock
room; all roles are flexible to work around your lifestyle
and offer a chance to form friendships, build confidence,
and most importantly support the local hospice and give
back to your community.

If this sounds like your cup of tea, then visit the volunteer-
ing page on the website www.stpetershospice.org or drop
into the Blackboy Hill shop at 154 Whiteladies Road to
find out more.
Here are the Lectionary readings for February and the first Sunday in March.

Although Luke sets out to present an “orderly account” (as NB people will have heard a zillion times last year), in a sense Matthew is even more organised in his gospel. He collects Jesus’ teaching into 5 blocks, each with its own theme. The first block is chapters 5-7, about how to live a lifestyle so that people “may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (5:16). Hmm. I don’t think I measure up to that standard. Yet.

We don’t get the rest of chapter 5 nor any of the rest of the Sermon on the Mount during this year. (You have to have a really late Easter to squeeze in a bit more into Year A, the focus on Matthew, before Lent takes over.) Maybe you could read the rest for homework. (Did I mention I used to be a teacher?)

We didn’t get the readings about the Magi this year. They normally come on the week after Christmas but we had a totally different selection of readings on January 1st this year for some reason. The visit of the Magi to Jesus is called Epiphany, which means a manifestation, a revealing of the divine. On January 8th, we had Jesus baptism and the Spirit of God descending on him; a second epiphany. And then on the last Sunday before Lent we zoom forward to the Transfiguration; a most dramatic epiphan. Have you had an epiphany moment, when the penny finally dropped and you realised who Jesus was? Why not tell someone about it?

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.

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<th>Feb</th>
<th>Old Testament</th>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Isaiah 58:1-12</td>
<td>112:1-10</td>
<td>Matthew 5:13-20</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 2:1-16</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>Exodus 24:12-18</td>
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<td>Matthew 17:1-9</td>
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<td>Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7</td>
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<td>Matthew 4:1-11</td>
<td>Romans 5:12-19</td>
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<td>John 3:1-17</td>
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P.S. What do you notice about all the dates this month…?
Deadline for contributions for the March Recorder is 26th February.

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