

ESTD 1901

# The Recorder

June '22

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



[www.redlandparkurc.org](http://www.redlandparkurc.org)

# New Brunswick Update

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## Preachers for 11 am Services

June	July
5th Delwyn Tilke	3rd Brenda Isherwood
12th Angus Gregson (will include Communion)	10th Rev. Douglas Burnett
19th Les Fry and friends	
26th Rev Stephen Newell	

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 7th June. Joint Churches prayer meeting. Hosted by New Brunswick at 7.30pm

Thursday 23rd June. Church meeting at 7.30pm

Sunday 3rd July Joint Churches Service at 3pm. Hosted by New Brunswick and will be

Followed by light refreshment with time to share fellowship together.

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## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We are sorry to hear that **Elizabeth** has had a short stay in hospital. May she be assured of our best wishes and prayers.

We continue to think of **Dave, Margaret, Wenda and Susan**. May they, too, know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

**Gill** has been to visit **Ivy** who sends good wishes to everyone at church. She is always pleased to see visitors.

June finds some of our friends celebrating birthdays so we send best wishes to **Pat, Pamela, Jenny S** and extra special wishes to **Julie** who is celebrating a Special Birthday! We pray that God will Bless them all on their 'special' days.

We also uphold to God those of our number who need God's loving arms around them at this time. Thinking of those who are awaiting test results. Those who have concerns about family members, those who have worries about finance. May God hear their prayers and comfort them as each requires.

# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

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Dear friends,

The month of June starts with the celebration of Pentecost. Going back to that first Pentecost must have been a remarkable experience of a whole sequence of events. There was the cross, the resurrection, the resurrection appearances, the ascension and then the coming of the Holy Spirit. The intensity of experience must have been quite something. No wonder that for the disciples that they felt that they had gained a whole new level of insight and inspiration into God, life, the universe and everything.

The Book of Acts starts with the immediate post-resurrection period, the curious story of the ascension of Christ, and then we move into the day of Pentecost itself. What we know of that story are the remarkable images of wind and fire blowing through the room where the disciples were gathered and settling on the disciples. They rush outside and start communication with all who are gathered there, even though the crowd around them speak a host of different and very diverse languages.

Maybe sometimes we get too caught up on the fireworks of Pentecost and think that that is always the way. Of course, it isn't. Much the of the rest of the story in Acts is of the sheer hard graft of coming alongside others and sharing with them the Good News of Jesus Christ. While there are some "big" events in the story of the Book of Acts, where things fizz and sparkle (such as Peter seeing the sheet of animals that comes down from heaven and asks him not to distinguish between clean and unclean), many more of the stories are of small-scale encounters in the very ordinary everyday world. They might be small-scale encounters, but they are still significant because God is present in them and God is that transformative element.

This is the Holy Spirit, the real presence of God with us even now. It might not look like the fireworks of the Day of Pentecost, but it is as important.

We often talk about taking God out into the world as part of our mission. Of course, God is already there. But we do have a role in making God known. So, the challenge for us is always as to how we understand ourselves as doing that very thing. It is about being aware of that presence in our lives. It is how we connect what is present in our lives with that which is around us. Then there is that movement which is like a wind. There is that energy which is like tongues of fire. It is the Day of Pentecost all over again.

*Dougie*



We welcome back **Florence and Lewis Manyika** who have been visiting their families in Zimbabwe; Lewis is now undergoing treatment for glaucoma (not an operation), so we pray for a successful outcome for him. **Peter Ambrose** now has a date for his cataract operation and we pray for a speedy recovery.

Please also pray for **Peter Mutare, Truida's** cousin in Zimbabwe, who has been diagnosed with a brain tumour following a stroke. He is currently in hospital in Harare. We hope that treatment or an operation can be successful.

Congratulations to **Adam and Ali Stewart** on the birth of a baby boy born on Friday 20 May; we send them our very best wishes. Adam will return to work after his ankle injury (and parental leave) on Monday 6 June.

**Margaret Prigg** has now moved to Ashbourne House nursing home at 2 Henleaze Road, Westbury-on-Trym; we wish her well as she settles into this nursing home.

It was decided to celebrate the actual Jubilee with cakes after the service on Sunday 5 June, but we will be celebrating the dedication of our new Tree for the Queen's Jubilee by one of Bristol's Deputy Lords Lieutenant, on Sunday 12 June 2022 and there will be a tea party after the service on Sunday 12 June. Everyone welcome!

From our prayer box, we have been asked for prayers for **Nicola**, and serenity for **Zoe**, and also **Kevin** has requested prayers as he has lost several friends this past year to various illnesses.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere, and ask the government to be compassionate to them all, and to help bring peace to the world. We pray especially for Ukraine today, and for Russia that their leader develops some humanity; we pray also for Eritrea, Sudan and Afghanistan at this time. We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, and hope that leaders of all the countries will put COP26 pledges into action.

## Prayer page:

O God, how far have we wandered from your way?

In the busyness of our lives we have forgotten you, our God.

You are the source of living water,

Yet we fill our bottles with cheap substitutes,  
with water that does not quench our thirst,

With bottles leaky and broken.

Forgive us and call us home.

Forgive us for our selfish actions and hurtful words.

Forgive us for our pride and arrogance that judges others.

Forgive us for our greed and complacency faced with the injustices of the world.

Forgive us and call us home.

As we turn to you parched and broken, may your mercy wash over us.

May we drink deeply from you, the source of living water,

And as forgiven people may our lives be transformed

By the love of God, the companionship of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

### Please pray for

The family and friends of Margaret Donadel

Andrew Sims

Jane Beazer

Teame and Teblez

Marlene Carr

Refugees and asylum seekers

Ukraine

Afghanistan

Victims of war and violence

Loving God, we pray that your suffering people may feel the comfort of your everlasting arms.

Amen



# Climate Justice - Water and Waste

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How privileged we are to have clean fresh water, the basis of life, at the turn of a tap.

We have all seen pictures of women and children walking for miles to collect water, which is sometimes muddy and polluted, in large jars on their heads.

How careful are we with this precious resource?

Some facts from The Environment Agency.

"Around 7% of the water used in our homes is used for drinking and cooking. Almost one third

of the water we use is, after being treated to what is among the best drinking water quality standards in the world, at significant financial and environmental cost, simply used to flush our toilets.

This clean water production leads to greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to Climate Change.

Climate projections for the UK show that our climate is going to become hotter and drier in the summer, snowfall amounts will be reduced."

Therefore there is a chance we could be running out of water by 2050, particularly in the South East where there is of course higher demand.

So how can we do our bit to save water and energy.

Turn off the tap while we brush our teeth, shave, wash our hands or wash up .

This can save up to 6 litres of water per minute.

Take showers instead of baths. Collect the water that runs until the water gets hot in a bucket. This can be used for flushing the toilet. Similarly for washing up.

Reduce the water used to flush toilets by fitting a water saving device such as a 'hippo' or fitting a dual flush toilet . When replacing our toilets, we should look out for low flush or dual flush models.



Fix dripping taps.

Lag water pipes and external taps to prevent bursts in cold weather .

Wait until we have a full load before switching on dishwashers and washing machines.

Use the minimum amount of water required when boiling water in saucepans and kettles; that way we'll save energy as well as water.

Wash vegetables and fruit in a bowl rather than under a running tap. The water collected might even be used for watering pot plants.

Collect rainwater in water butts and use a watering can instead of a hose.

If we need to use a hosepipe, a trigger nozzle can be fitted to control the flow.

Wash cars using a bucket and sponge, rinsing with a watering can. Just 30 minutes with a hosepipe will use more water than the average family uses in a day.

Planting drought resistant plants.

Fit a water meter.

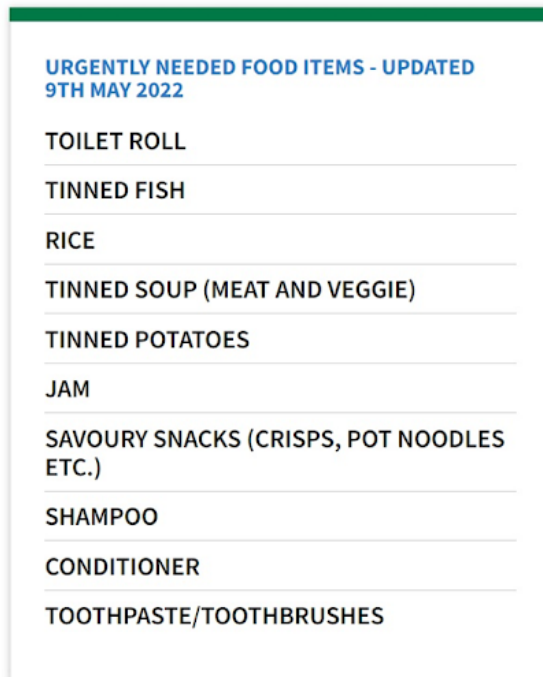
These are things that are under our control.

The food we eat also makes up a huge part of our water footprint so there are choices we can make there but I will let Angus tell you more about that in September

# Bristol Food banks

In the last 12 months, the three Trussell Trust foodbanks in Bristol have given out 30,543 food parcels – a rise of 28% from 2019/2020. The unprecedented rise in the cost of living has only just begun and already we are seeing an increase in people needing help. Unfortunately, at the same time food donations have decreased and our foodbank warehouse currently has none or very low stock of the following items.

If you could donate any of these items (your supermarket may have a collecting basket) or donate money to The Trussell Trust (our local one is the North Bristol Food Bank) they would be very grateful.  
Thank you.



## CHURCH CHARITIES

For two years, our church charities have been Toilet Twinning (overseas) and Caring in Bristol (local). Despite Covid-19 and lockdowns, we have still been able to raise funds for these organisations.

Thank you to everyone who has helped fundraise and to all who have contributed. Because of the restrictions of the last two years, we haven't nominated new charities from 2021, but we are going to do that now, ready to vote on our two new charities for 2022 to 2024.

Please let me know if you have a local or an overseas charity that you would like to nominate, giving me some information on it, especially if you have first hand experience of this charity.  
Carol Fry

## QUEEN'S JUBILEE 2022

For those who have walked round the side of the church near the wild flower garden, you will notice that two new trees have been planted; one Rowan (Mountain Ash) and one Amelanchier (lots of other names including Juneberry and Shadbush). These are to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church.

The Queen's Jubilee weekend is 3 to 6 June, when we will have cakes with our tea and coffee after the service on Sunday 5 June, but the church will dedicate the Queen's Tree for the Jubilee on Sunday 12 June by one of Bristol's Deputy Lord Lieutenants, with a tea party after the service. Please note the date and keep that day free.

## Singing through the bible

In these gloomy times of lockdown there is very little to do. I miss seeing my friends, going to church and wandering around town with my camera. Let's hope there is some light at the end of this bleak tunnel. However, this is a time when we can read more. Why not getting more familiar with the bible? Music is my life and miss playing but there is so much music in the bible. Perhaps you might enjoy the following: These texts follow singing through the bible.

In the protestant tradition, music and singing is a quintessential part of weekly worship and our services would be quite unthinkable without those elements.



That's not to say the Catholic Church lacks music in its particular liturgy; quite the opposite, but there's too much material to be explored and contained here in just one article. Perhaps another time... As St Augustine remarked; that if we sing, we pray twice.

Here are some chronological references to singing you might want to explore during the summer:

Singing at Creation: Job 38 v. 4-7

Singing at the Exodus: Ex 15 v. 19-21

Great King David, renowned as the sweet psalmist of Israel: 2 Samuel 23 v.1-5

One of the great Psalms of Praise: Ps 148

Singing at the Return to Zion: Is 51 v.11, 55 v.12-13

Singing at the dedication of the walls of Jerusalem: Neh: 12 v.27,31,38,40,42b, and 43

Singing at the birth of Christ: Luke: 2 v.8-14

Singing whenever Christians gather together: Col: 3 v.16-17

Singing never ceases in heaven: Rev: 4 v.5b-11

A challenge for those with some time to spare during lockdown; can you think of a hymn to accompany each reference above? If so, we might have a service to put together!

Can you think of a number 10?

Martyn Steel

## IDEAS from postits,

These are the suggestions that members of our congregation have "posted" as to how they have cut their Carbon Footprint. Perhaps there is something here we can all do.

Ways to reduce your water consumption :-

Install a water butt for use in the garden – plants prefer rainwater.

Use a bucket in the shower to collect the water till it heats up.

Clothing:- Only buy clothes when necessary, makes repair as necessary and recycle when it is of no further use.

Money:- Invest in Ethical banks and sustainable projects.

Food :- Fruit and Veg from local greengrocer where items can be bought loose and not bagged in plastic or order a veg box.

Use Refill shops, take along your own containers and just buy what you really need – no waste.

Compost vegetable peelings.

Travel:- Use the train instead of fly, if possible.

Cycle if you can.

Energy:- Turn down your central heating by 1 degree or more.

Only boil the amount of water you need to make that cup of tea,

More suggestions welcome, please post on board at back of Church.

# Keeping up with the vicar Pt Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for June and the first Sunday in July. As we move through Pentecost we return to this year's gospel-in-focus, Luke. We get a long run of sequential readings (with a few gaps) from Luke through to the end of November so we can see the story build up. (Remember Luke's point in writing his account? Check the first 4 verses of the gospel.)

And we get selection from the latter half of Paul's letter to the Galatians. But I think knowing the context of the letter and what's in the crucial first three chapters helps to make sense of our readings. Unlike many of Paul's other letters, this one isn't to a congregation in a city, like Corinth or Rome, but to the newish churches across a region.

After Barnabus and Paul are commissioned by the Holy Spirit, they set off on a missionary journey; we can follow it in Acts. First they go to Cyprus and then north to what's now Turkey and up to Antioch, the chief city in Galatia (13:1-15). We get Paul's first recorded sermon (13:16-41) and like most of Paul's experiences in Galatia it goes down a storm with some (13:44, 13:49) and provokes hostility from others (13:45, 13:50). Same again several times - read Acts 14.

This letter was probably written shortly after the end of that journey. Paul doesn't mince his words - imagine hearing Gal 1:6 or 3:1 read out to you! There have obviously been those questioning his role as an apostle (Gal 1:11-24), and trying to impress upon the new Gentile church that they have to abide by Jewish legal customs and Paul wants to quash this quickly. The whole letter is really to stress that faith in Jesus - nothing less, nothing more - is what matters (Gal 3:1-14). The key verse (Gal 3:11) is lifted from Habakkuk (how often can you say that?) - "The righteous shall live by faith". How quickly can you find Habakkuk 2:4 to see for yourself. Who said that (it wasn't Habakkuk) and in what context?

I hope that helps you make more sense of the readings we get from later in Galatians.

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.

June	Acts/OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
5th <small>Pentecost</small>	Acts 2:1-21	104: 24-34, 35b	John 14:8-17	Romans 8:14-17
12th <small>Trinity Sunday</small>	Proverbs 8:1-14, 22-31	8	John 16:12-15	Romans 5:1-5
19th	Isaiah 65:1-9	22:19-28	Luke 8:26-39	Galatians 3:23-29
26th	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21	16	Luke 9: 51-62	Galatians 5:1, 13-25
<b>July</b> 3rd	Isaiah 66:10-14	66:1-9	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Galatians 6:1-16

# Redland Park Church Calendar

## Sunday service @ 10.30am. (At church and on line)

5th Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion)

12th Rev Dougie Burnett.

19th Rev Dougie Burnett.

26th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

## 7pm service.

12th and 26th

Zoom log in; 848 3007 5496; passcode 219761

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## Elders Meeting.

1st at 7.30pm via Zoom

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

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Church open for prayer.

Wednesdays between Midday and 2pm.

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JUBILEE EVENT.  
Sunday 5th June, 11.45am  
Tea and cakes and dedication of the church's Jubilee Tree.

# Church meeting 15.05.2022

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Dougie welcomed 29 members, accepting apologies for absence from Andrew Hayden, Truida Mutare, Angus Gregson and Jane Beazer.

**Minutes** of Wednesday 20 March 2022 were accepted as accurate with the following comments;

a. The support for the Climate Change statement were supported by everybody rather than being unanimously accepted.

b. The Membership of Redland Park is free to all believers but members do have financial obligations to the church.

**News of Members** was shared sympathetically.

**Scoping in Bristol** news was updated with no direct implications for Redland Park, but Rev John Gray is now working 20% at Nailsea and the Bristol Ministers are continuing to be mutually supportive. Rev Stephen Newell will attend the July Elders Meeting.

## **Committee Reports;**

### **a. Church in Society. (Carol Fry)**

a. The Christian Aid Fair made £420 and Big Brekkie £110- Total £530, with thanks to all who helped.

b. Redland Park delivered 1000 Christian Aid envelopes locally with details about how to contribute, together with leaflets to publicise the church.

c. The Queen's Jubilee is the first weekend of June, 5 June, when tea and cakes will be served after the service, plus afternoon tea and tree dedication on 12 June.

d. Wednesday 8 June – feedback discussion on five months of the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter, which Redland Park supported. Thanks to all who helped.

e. Sally advertised a new Art Club on church premises from 24 May.

### **b. Climate Justice. (Myra Jones)**

a. The current focus is Lifestyle and our individual contributions to reducing the church's carbon footprint. We share good practice through the post-it chart.

b. The group is seeking to work with other local community groups like Sustainable Redland and St John's school.

c. There will be a Climate Sunday service on 14 August and Harvest Sunday 25 September will be part of Big Green Week.

d. This week is "Plastic Count" with details on the Greenpeace website

### **c. Finance and Property. (John Neugebauer)**

**Annual Report and Accounts 2021** had already been circulated and approved by the Elders, this meeting's presentation highlighted;

a. Expenditure of £90,000 met from Reserves (£66,000), a Synod Grant (£10,000) and an insurance payment for loss of business income (£14,000)

b. Member Giving covers mandatory M&M payments but remains very reliant on member giving from older church members aged over 70.

c. Current review of the use of our property in line with the future vision of the Church, seeking to maximise our finances.

Carol Fry proposed the approval of these accounts, seconded by Anne Neugebauer and unanimously confirmed.

A 30 page Fire assessment report had been received including mandatory work to improve our fire safety which will cost approximately £40,000.

Elders have agreed this work which is concentrated on the residential elements of 1 Redland Park.

Carol Fry proposed the acceptance of this work which was unanimously agreed.

### **d. Special Category Ministry. (Dougie)**

a. Bristol Korean Church is seeking full URC status (currently a "Mission Project") with their current membership of 50 and the anticipation of further increase in September, the new University Academic Year.

b. 50% of funding for BKC will be from the South Western Synod, 50% by the Seoul Presbytery, and it is anticipated that this deal will be confirmed in October 2022.

c. Rev James Jang of the URC is building his relationship with the BKC.

d. It is hoped that the Gale Project will introduce new ordinands on placement to UK.

## **Ministerial Matters. (Dougie)**

### **a. Easter Worship.**

Overview of Holy week services - disappointing attendance on the first three evenings but well supported on Maundy Thursday evening and Good Friday morning. Need for full engagement from all of the Whiteladies Road churches.

### **b. URC 50th Anniversary.**

Possibilities of;

a. Coaches from Bristol going the Westminster Central Hall on 1st October.

b. A social or quiz evening.

c. Event to dedicate the Redland Park tree on Sunday 2nd October.

### **c. Tyndale Baptist**

Rev Sam King takes up his four days per week post in August.

### **d. Work with the homeless.**

Probability of the Clifton, Cotham and Redland Soup Run not re-emerging after the lockdowns.

Redland Park's engagement with the homeless agenda continued through BCWNS.

## **Secretarial Matters**

Caretaker's absence - Adam will be absent to 27th May

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday**

**13th July at 7.30pm by Zoom only.**



**Deadline for contributions for the  
July Recorder is 26th June.**

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

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**or by post to The Recorder at the Church  
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