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# The Recorder

June '21

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  
6th Brenda Drake  
13th Angus Gregson (Will include communion)  
20th Rev Douglas Burnett ( Gift Day)  
27th Delwyn Tilke

July  
4th Les Fry and friends

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 1st June Southmead Joint Churches prayer meeting on Zoom at 7.30pm. Please contact Brenda, should you need the link to enable you to join us.

Sunday 20th June will be our GIFT SERVICE when we will return our Blessing Boxes and our 'tins'.

Friday 25th June at 2.30pm is our next church meeting and this will also be our AGM. Hopefully we will be able to hold this meeting at the church.

An advanced date for your diary is Sunday July 4th when the joint churches are planning to hold a 'Praise and Picnic' at 3pm in the grounds of St Stephen's Church. Further details will be available in the coming weeks. But make a note of the date!

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We still uphold those of our fellowship who need our prayers. Thinking of **Elizabeth** who has had several stays in hospital in the last few weeks. We pray that her recent stay will be her last for a while.

**Julie's** husband **Pete** is still Southmead receiving treatment for several things including a broken ankle from a fall whilst in hospital! He has been advised it will be several more weeks before he is able to be discharged. So we ask God to grant him patience at this time. Praying too for Julie and the family at this trying time. Assuring them of our love and support.

We remember too, **Wenda** who has been able to visit her daughter for the first time in over a year. **Susan** lives in a home in Henleaze. It was a very emotional meeting for them both. We pray that this will be the first of many such meetings in the coming weeks. Wenda has asked to be remembered to everyone and sends love and blessings. She hopes to be back worshipping with us very soon.

We have remained in contact with **Margaret** and she too wishes to be remembered to everyone and will join us again when she feels able.

**David F, Carol H,** are still in our prayers. God knows their needs and we ask Him to minister to them as they need.

We think of the **Waines** family as they prepare to move house. May all go well as John and Gill move to Horfield and Lisa and Karl move in with their cousin. We pray too that all will go well with Gill and John's Granddaughter as she prepares for the birth of twin girls. This will make Gill and John Great Grandparents!! More news on this next month. But we pray God will be close to them all in all their different situations.

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June sees some of our friends celebrating their birthday so we send best wishes to **Pat C-J, Julie M and Jen S.** We hope they all enjoy a Very Happy Day.

# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

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Dear friends,

It was great to have a service in May based on the theme of climate change. 2021 will hopefully be the year when we finally overcame Covid and saw the vaccine rolled out across the world with that is now that well known phrase "no one is safe until everyone is safe." There will be much to give thanks for with that. But in front of us still there is also the challenge of climate change. You may know that later on this year we will see a major climate change conference being hosted here in the UK., COP 26. I share with you the following, which comes from our one of General Assembly moderators, Peter Pay. Peter entitles his article "It's a fair cop"

"There is real hope that a new and more ambitious agreement will be reached during the conference; that a 'Glasgow agreement' may succeed the 2015 'Paris agreement' and be more effective as more nations seem ready to recognise and to address their own carbon emissions.

The General Secretary (of the URC) and I were recently invited to join a consultation of about 35 faith leaders by Alok Shama MP, President of COP26. It was very encouraging to hear from speakers from a wide range of faiths and of Christian denominations, all taking the issue seriously. There was a clear recognition that climate change is a real threat and that action is urgent. Climate change will affect all generations and we need to develop a passion for action. I sensed a real desire of faith communities to work together and a genuine government wish to work with us. There were comments about the need for action not just words or promises, and a recognition that it is time to treat the issue seriously and urgently. Deep concern was also expressed for the injustice to those who suffer the consequences of climate change to be recognised, along with a need to redress the damage and loss experienced and to find ways to compensate victims.

The URC has already led the way on disinvestment from fossil fuel companies and around 250 (20%) of our churches have become

Eco churches or 'eco congregations'. It was also encouraging to hear that the Church of Scotland, Methodist Church and Church of England have committed themselves to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. I pray that the URC will be equally ambitious in this respect.

The government was challenged by speakers to build credibility, particularly by mirroring their stated aspirations especially where policy inconsistencies were evident (eg around permitting new coal mines and road building). We heard assurances from the government about their determination to achieve goals. We were also reminded of progress being made by the new US administration.

However, I reflect that the use of the word 'cop' can be unfortunate. We are painfully aware of how nations can 'cop out' of such agreements, when inconvenient, or find loopholes to exploit. Companies, especially within the carbon industry, can too easily can abuse their political influence to gain protection for their profits, or do 'greenwashing' to try to appear more positive. I wonder how many of them really would admit 'it is a fair cop'.

We will all seek to reassure ourselves that any agreement is indeed a fair outcome which brings justice to victims and indeed moves positively towards urgently reducing carbon emissions. That it will indeed be a 'fair cop'.

As Christians, we are also challenged to recognise our own carbon footprint and seek to minimise it as we seek to cherish God's creation.

Let us hold all those participating in COP26 in our prayers."

Amen to all that.

*Dougie*



Please remember **Anna and Peter Ambrose** in your prayers. Anna has been very unwell and even had a spell in hospital. Peter and her family have been supporting her.

Please pray for our members and friends who are recovering from illness or operations: **Sheila Smart**, who has had a fall and hurt her leg, but sends love to everyone; **Margaret Prigg**, who is not feeling well at the moment, **Janet Lockyer**, and all those we know.

We also continue to pray for **Margaret Donadel** who is undergoing treatment for cancer, and has not been well recently, and **Truida Mutare** with worries about her family in Zimbabwe. We remember them and hope to see them before too long.

Please pray for all our members and friends, **Beth** with a serious eating disorder, **Rosemary** after a heart operation, **Ken** grieving for a friend, **Jeff** suffering from cancer and further infections, **Maggie** who has just been diagnosed with cancer, and any others

## TRAI DCRAFT

Although we are not allowed to stay in the church after the service for the time being, the Traidcraft stall is still stocked with useful goods from toilet rolls to antiseptic handwash, as well as tea, coffee, sweets and chocolate, gardening gloves and everyday cards. Please see Carol Fry if you would like anything.

known to us, who need our prayers at this time, whether through mental or physical health issues, financial problems, conflict, or family matters.

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, especially in Afghanistan, Mozambique, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Myanmar, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Cameroon, the DRC, Syria and Yemen.

## Prayer page:

God of all people, we pray for the world you have shared with us  
And the neighbours you have given us.  
We pray for those who live in fear and die alone;  
The victims of war across the world, The homeless on city streets, The abused.  
With you, Living God, no need is neglected, no injustice is ignored.  
We pray for those who feel life has no purpose;  
The millions trapped in endless poverty, The affluent trapped in empty luxury,  
The broken hearted.  
We pray for those who are denied their full humanity;  
The discriminated against and their abusers, The taken-for-granted.  
We pray for the church, the people you call to give leadership and guidance,  
The struggles we have to live as a family, The need we have for your Spirit.  
With you, Living God, no need is neglected, no injustice is ignored.  
Hear the prayer we offer and the care we feel as we travel on our way with you.  
Amen

Please pray for:  
**Janet and Mal Owen**  
**Margaret Donadel**  
**Anna Ambrose**  
**Glyn and Margaret**  
**Sheila Radford**  
**Rowena**  
**Jill**  
**Heather and Chris**  
**Richard and Ruth**  
**The people of Israel and Palestine**

Living God, hear the prayer we offer and the care we feel as we travel on our way with you.  
Amen



# Waiting on God

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In a year that has been challenging for so many, I wanted to share my experience of God's goodness and faithfulness and why we should be patient and let God carry out His plans in His time.

At the end of the summer last year, John and I decided that, with his health issues, it would be a good time to downsize. About the same time we saw an opportunity and applied to be put on a waiting list for supported living. This was done with some trepidation, as we had two of our four children still living at home. We wanted to know that they could find alternative accommodation at an affordable price. We all know how expensive Bristol is to live in.

Following John's cancer diagnosis, we tried to stay patient about the flat, but it seemed to us to be more urgent now. Not easy. The next we heard was a chance for Lisa and Karl to move in with their cousin, so they would be sorted. However this would necessitate Karl finding transport to get him to his job in Avonmouth.

Through all this time I remained positive and would say that all would happen at the right time, all the ducks would line up. Karl found this funny, in fact he thought I was mad. His face when we told him that we had been offered a flat on the same day that he purchased his car, was a picture. He was truly amazed! I wish I had had a camera on me.

We are so thankful. We have an amazing God who loves and cares for us, and plans what is best for us at all times and in His timescale, not ours.

I hope this gives encouragement to anyone waiting on answer to prayers.

**Gill**

# Redland Park Church Calendar

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## Dates for June 2021

Sun 13th	10.40am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Evening Worship led by members
Sun 20th	10.40am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Mike Peat
Sun 27th	10.40am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Evening Worship led by members

## July 2021

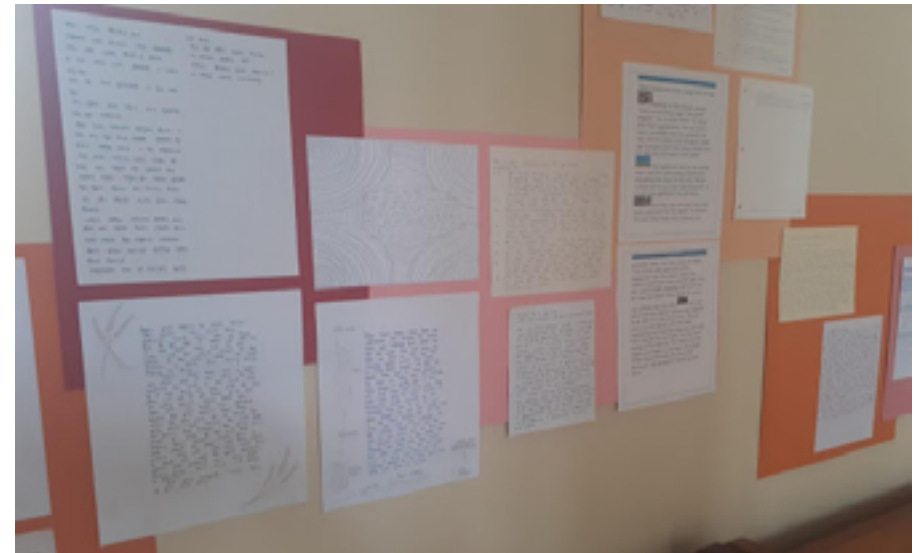
Sun 4th	10.40am	Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
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# St Mark's Gospel

As part of the Walking the Way theme of Biblical Teaching, the congregation was challenged to write out all 660 verses of the 16 chapters of Mark's Gospel, and I'm delighted to report that through 94 individual contributions, this has been completed ready for our re-opening on 23rd May, Thank you !!

This highly original collection, as well as 16 Chapter based writings from the Bristol Korean Church are now displayed along the wall of the main church. Not only does lovely collection illustrate the love of the congregations for the word of God, it also provides a terrific display affirming the centrality of the New Testament to our church life and worship, as well as the unity which has held us together amidst the lockdowns of the past year.

Here are some images of the texts that you are able to see on display;



In order to really focus your attention on the display, you may like to seek out the detail of these ten questions- answers will be published in the next Recorder!

	Detail	Chapter	Verses
1	Tells of the symbols of Communion.		
2	Is written on a Prescription.		
3	Is illustrated with pebbles.		
4	Tells about Taxes (or £5).		
5	Is written out in Tigrinya.		
6	Is displayed in Cross Stitch.		
7	Is displayed out of sequence.		
8	Tells of a crowd fed by bread and fishes.		
9	Includes Judas' second name.		
10	Describes a dialogue between Jesus and Peter.		

A Bristol-wide consultation was held at Zion URC, Frampton Cotterrell on Tuesday 25th May to discuss ministerial deployment in the Bristol area. It was hosted by our Moderator, Rev. Ruth Whitehead, and two the Bristol members of the Synod Pastoral Committee (SPC), Rev. Sue Cossey and Rev. Stephen Newell.

Every church from the Bristol area had been invited to the consultation; only two failed to send any representatives. Each church was given the chance to speak for three minutes to express their hopes and fears for the future, although most chose to outline the problems they currently face, especially the way they have responded to the Covid pandemic, rather than address issues of deployment. We made a joint statement with New Brunswick, which can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Recorder. It was interesting and informative to hear that many churches, especially Oldland Common, shared our concerns with the SPC's proposals. We were particularly struck by the positive response by Mangotsfield and Castle Green to their adoption of Companion Elders in the absence of a stipendiary minister.

We were then given the chance to share the things that have helped us as churches to face the changes before us, which yielded little. Most churches have had to find other ways of working in the pandemic and lockdowns, and these varied depending on the size, technical ability and resources of each church.

Ruth reiterated the SPC's intention to appoint a Transition Minister, but she did not have a job description, specification or time of appointment, so very little progress was made there. She did however suggest that

this minister should not come from the Bristol area.

With time advancing, the final agenda item, asking what the wider church can offer to support churches, was largely skipped. However, reference was made to the Synod being able to finance outside bodies, such as the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, to facilitate workshops for local churches.

No follow-up consultation was promised, although it also wasn't ruled out; indeed, it seemed that a follow-up meeting had not been thought about. Ruth did offer herself, Sue and Stephen to meet with individual churches who still have concerns. She talked a little about the Devon churches and the movement of ministers there, and also offered her apologies for the poor communication and bad timing of the SPC's original letter.

Overall, the meeting achieved very little other than offer the chance for churches to listen to one another. Unless it is the first in a series of consultations, we fear it will have been a waste of time as it failed to address the most pressing question at hand: how will ministers be allocated among the churches in Bristol?

**Dougie Burnett,  
Helena McKinnon,  
Andrew Hayden  
and Carol Fry**

The Redland Park URC and New Brunswick URC contribution to this consultation covers four areas:

Ministerial support for Redland Park URC and New Brunswick URC after 2022.  
Ministers' Stipends  
Bristol Korean Church  
Working together for the future of the church

The constriction on how much we can say today means we must be brief to the point of being blunt. But this reflects the determination of our Church community.

### 1. Ministerial Support for Redland Park URC and New Brunswick URC

Redland Park and New Brunswick Church communities recognise the challenges which the Synod faces on the future deployment of Ministers, and that, if nothing changes, this will reduce our ministerial cover to 60%.

The reduction will impact negatively on areas of the Church not measured by membership alone, such as in-church and online adherents, thriving junior church, St John's School, leadership of Churches Together, and community and university participation. It would also negatively impact the dynamic partnership that is Redland Park, New Brunswick and the BKC.

New Brunswick are concerned that should the scoping go ahead they would have much less of Dougie's time leading them in worship and guiding them through decision making at meetings. They have been appreciative of his input thus far and pray his valuable contribution will not be compromised by the current proposal.

The challenges to Redland Park and New Brunswick require renewed leadership from Church Members; we are prepared to face this challenge.

### 2. Ministers' stipends

Synod has confirmed that rescoping is not driven by financial considerations. This is not the place to discuss Ministers' stipends, but we absolutely reject Synod proposals to reduce stipends. We serve notice that, should these proposals be continued, we will oppose these measures within the Synod, the wider denomination, and support external legal action to protect Ministers' living arrangements.

### 3. Bristol Korean Church

For a number of years, the Synod and Redland Park have worked with the Presbyterian Church of Korea for the establishment of Bristol Korean Church. We expect to have co-funding available by 2023 to support one FTE Korean Minister. We ask Synod to confirm formally that this Ministerial post will be available, and to clarify the scoping and support of the post, so that plans can continue to be developed with confidence.

### 4. Working together for the Future

The Church faces substantial challenges with re-scoping of Ministerial appointments. We recognise the considerable disruption and risks on the future of the Church in the South West.

We expect to be engaged in genuine consultation on plans for the Bristol area and will play our full part in it, striving with our sister churches in Bristol to ensure that every URC has access to an ordained minister.

Thank you for donating to the #givethanks appeal

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Redland Park members have delivered donation envelopes to nearly 1000 houses and flats in the Redland area, as well as in our church and, because of restrictions during the pandemic, asking people to donate either online, by telephone, or returning the envelope to the church.

We also hope to have what is usually our May Christian Aid Fair in September, so please keep any books you would like to get rid of, plus bric a brac, home-grown plants, and anything sell-able, until then. Thank you.

Covid-19 has meant families have struggled to provide food for children who would normally be at school – has seen a return to early marriages for young girls – has prevented trade and markets to provide an income – and a lack of water makes hygiene difficult.

During the past year **Christian Aid** has handed out soap to around 400,000 vulnerable people to help prevent the virus spreading as well as giving food packages to nearly 80,000 people struggling to feed their families after losing work following lockdown.

**Christian Aid** has worked closely with faith leaders to challenge both misleading information about coronavirus and the vaccine and any stigma faced by those who contract the virus as well as to help encourage people to seek health care services.

#### India

Over the past year, in India we had been largely working to help migrant workers who had returned to home villages with no accommodation and no access to resources to apply for Indian government grant aid which helped them and their families.

However, in the light of recent news we have been setting up quarantine centres with basic facilities, and ensuring basic facilities and quality in the government run quarantine centres.

Our partners continue to work on raising awareness – around vaccinations, Covid safety protocols and healthy behaviours

Providing transportation for patients including transportation for infected people in rural areas to access hospitals

Providing food rations and in some cases cooked food where whole families are affected  
Providing PPE, hygiene kits and medical supplies.

Carol Fry

## Changing Tunes' 2020 Annual Report

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Several members of Redland Park have supported this charity and also attended a concert at St Matthew's Church two years ago, and many of you will remember David Jones when he was a member.

Dear Redland Park,

Firstly, we at Changing Tunes hope that this email finds you safe and well. As a valued supporter, we wanted to send you our Annual Report for 2020, which you can read via this link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MLrkeCgDhnhmnKnSNRw-T\\_3FO8l\\_Gy2s/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MLrkeCgDhnhmnKnSNRw-T_3FO8l_Gy2s/view)

This provides an overview of our work in 2020, in response to Covid-19. Highlights include the launch of our new distanced learning packs, bringing live music to prisons and the first ever Changing Tunes Online Concert. We are extremely proud to have supported our beneficiaries and partners during the pandemic, made possible thanks to the support of kind donors such as yourself.

This year we will focus on supporting the recovery and renewal of our beneficiaries and of the arts in the criminal justice sector. We will continue to develop innovative responses to need and bring forward the new delivery models we've developed in 2020. 2021 will see us launch Red Tangent Records, which will support talented musicians who have lived experience of being in prison, helping them to build sustainable careers in a changing and challenging music industry. We will empower our participants to shape our work and inform strategic decisions, by working with an Advisory Group of beneficiaries. We will develop our trauma-informed work with children and young people in the criminal justice system, nurturing and celebrating Young Voices. We will pursue our commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation, building a culture of diversity and inclusion at Changing Tunes, which will also be reflected in the diversity of our musical offer. We will launch new post-release hubs in Birmingham, Plymouth, South Wales and Exeter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable support throughout these unprecedented times. We hope that our Annual Report helps to illustrate the significant difference that your support has made.

You may have also received a hard copy version of this letter and the Annual Report. With many people continuing to work from home, we have chosen a 'belt and braces' approach in the hope that one of these forms of communication reaches you.

With best wishes,

Dave

David Jones

Chief Executive

Changing Tunes

0844 414 6083 | <http://www.changingtunes.org.uk>

# Keeping up with the vicar Pt 115 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for June and the first couple of Sundays in July. The period between Pentecost and Advent in the Christian calendar is called "Ordinary Time". I know I've said this before (the old teacher habits haven't faded yet) but Ordinary Time feels like it could be renamed "Just get on with it" Time. How is the enormity of the gospel speaking to us? How should we respond?

Take the reading on June 6th, for instance. What seems almost like an extra little scene at the end contains the most powerful Q&A - verses 33-35.

And then that simile (Literacy note: for parents with KS2 children, "discuss differences between similes and metaphors" - see, I told you I haven't lost the teacher tendency) in Mark 4:30-32. How does this speak to us individually, and as a church at Redland Park and New Brunswick?

And there's a focus on Paul's 2nd letter to the church at Corinth. Things obviously haven't been going too well, both within the church and between the church and Paul. (Maybe they should have heeded that verse from Mark 3:25: "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand".) Paul is optimistic though. If the church could heal their relationship with him, who brought them the gospel in the first place, maybe that will help them restore their relationship with Christ.

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	OT or Acts	Psalm	Gospel	NT
6th	Genesis 3:8-15	130	Mark 3:20-35	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
13th	Ezekiel 17:22-24	92:1-4, 12-15	Mark 4:26-34	2 Corinthians 5:6-17
20th	Job 38:1-11	107:1-3, 23-32	Mark 4:35-41	2 Corinthians 6:1-13
27th	Lamentations 3:22-33	30	Mark 5:21-43	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
July				
4th	Ezekiel 2:1-5	123	Mark 6:1-13	2 Corinthians 12:2-10

# Toilet Twinning

T: 0300 321 3217  
info@toilettwinning.org.  
www.toilettwinning.org

Dear Redland Park United Reformed Church

Thank you for helping to flush away poverty. Your gift of £611.97 will help some of the world's poorest people have basic essentials in life such as a toilet, clean water and hygiene education.

Toilet Twinning raises funds to support water and sanitation work in some of the poorest countries on earth.

You can find out more by visiting [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org). Or by staying in touch on Facebook and Twitter. Our privacy policy can be found at [www.toilettwinning.org/privacy-policy](http://www.toilettwinning.org/privacy-policy).

Thank you again for your generous support of this vital work.

Signed

Lorraine Kingsley  
Toilet Twinning CEO



**Deadline for contributions for the  
July/August Recorder is 27th 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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