

ESTD 1901

# The Recorder

April '24

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



## Vestry Vibes by Dougie Burnett

Dear friends,

By the time you read this we will just be coming up to Easter Sunday or we'll have already celebrated it. This year it has been slightly earlier than previous years with the date of 31<sup>st</sup> March rather than with a later April date. No matter how early or late it comes, somehow it catches us unawares and then there is some frantic preparation with the services and events of Holy Week. That Easter should catch us unawares is somehow very appropriate. The whole



point of Easter and Christ rising from the dead is that it is unexpected. It is strange and fitting that we now find ourselves in a world that only expects the expected, yet the resurrection is still something that we who call ourselves Christians still insist on proclaiming.

It must have been much the same away back in the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. (Or C.E. – the Christian Era as it is now more commonly known these days). Granted that away back then that there was a much greater belief in gods. But not the kind of God that Christianity then began to preach and celebrate. The gods of the Romans and the Greeks were, by and large, a rather unpleasant bunch who toyed with humanity. Then out of the remarkable Jewish tradition there emerged the sense of one God who created things for God and who loved humanity. This story reaches a particular climax in the story of Christ. A God who is crucified? How ridiculous must that have sounded. Yet, it gradually emerged as the most remarkable and transformative faith. It reached out in a most profound way to those who existed on the margins of society. It eventually came to embrace the most powerful as well. I suppose that it is fair to hear the criticisms that Christianity lost some of its cutting edge and was used and

abused by those in power to their own ends. But it has never lost its prophetic and transforming presence. For the time being we continue to face the challenges of a very secular society.

But my belief is that we celebrate life as it truly is – formed in the image of God. On this Easter Sunday, we shall have celebrated with our Korean friends in the Bristol Korean Church and also with our Zimbabweans friends in the Zimbabwean Reformed Church group that also meets at Redland Park.

All that testifies to a faith that is truly global, because it speaks to our deepest humanity, wherever we may be.

**Christ is Risen.**

**He is risen indeed.**

**Alleluia!**

Dougie



---

### **Pause for thought**

As I type this (20<sup>th</sup> March) the death toll in Gaza from Israeli strikes since 7<sup>th</sup> October is 31 923, which is just over 1.5% of the population.

This includes an estimated more than 13 000 children.

The equivalent percentage, if this had happened in the UK, is a death toll of 1 034 000, including 421 000 children. What would we do if something caused this loss of life in the UK?

## Worship details

### ... at Redland Park

**Sunday morning worship** at 10.30 a.m. (at Redland Park and on Zoom)

- March      31<sup>st</sup>    Easter day - He is risen!  
                         All-age worship with the Bristol Korean church, and  
                         includes communion
- April        7<sup>th</sup>      Congregation-led worship, Church Action on Poverty  
                 14<sup>th</sup>     Rev Dougie Burnett, including communion  
                 21<sup>st</sup>     Rev Dougie Burnett  
                 28<sup>th</sup>     Rev Dougie Burnett

Zoom log in: 732 001 8996    passcode 8cC7Zv

**Sunday evening worship** at 7 p.m. via Zoom

- April        14<sup>th</sup>     Rivers of justice in the early church  
                 28<sup>th</sup>     Caring for God's Earth

Zoom log in: 815 4053 7777    passcode 087103

**Cell groups** – both via Zoom

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Zoom log in: 831 5113 5751    passcode 508239

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Zoom log in: 312 983 3387    passcode 795550

### ... and at New Brunswick

- April        7<sup>th</sup>      *to be advised*  
                 14<sup>th</sup>     Angus Gregson, including communion  
                 21<sup>st</sup>     Brenda Isherwood  
                 28<sup>th</sup>     Rev. Jenny Lowe

## Other key dates

### Redland Park

Holy week services at the churches of Whiteladies Road. **March dates:**

- Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Cotham Parish church 7.30 p.m.  
Anointing at Bethany. Community, Facing challenge.
- Tue 26<sup>th</sup> University Chaplaincy, 1 Woodland Rd, BS8 1TB 7.30 p.m.  
'Were you there? Imaginative walk through Holy Tuesday'
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Tyndale Baptist church 7.30 p.m.  
'And it was night'
- Thu 28<sup>th</sup> Redland Park URC 7.30 p.m.  
The last supper. Betrayal. Darkness.
- Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> Victoria Methodist church 10 a.m.  
Walking with the cross.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Church day at Barton Camp - *see p 13*

### April dates:

- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Elders' meeting at 7.30 p.m.
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Organ recital and cake. - *see p 12*
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage walk from Wells to Glastonbury - *see p 14*

### New Brunswick dates in April

- Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint churches' prayer meeting, 7.30 p.m. at New Brunswick
- Thu 18<sup>th</sup> Church meeting at 7.30 p.m.
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Southmead Quiz at 7 p.m. hosted by New Brunswick.  
£3 per person which includes nibbles and tea and coffee.  
Any proceeds raised will be given to local Southmead Charities.
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Craft and pre-loved Fair at the Greenway Centre, 12-3 p.m.

### Advanced notice:

- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May Alison Kinnorsley will be holding a Quiz and Cake afternoon at New Brunswick from 3-5 p.m.
- Thu 30<sup>th</sup> May Church AGM at 7.30 p.m.

## People news

### ... from Redland Park

Congratulations to **Wendy Day** who celebrated a special birthday in March, and best wishes to her and **Brian**. We hope they enjoyed their celebrations.

We pray for all our friends and members who are enduring illness over these winter months, and hope that Spring and good health will return soon. We think of **Peter** and **Anna Ambrose**, as Peter has back problems, as well as **Terry King** and **Viv Hayden** and pray for better health for them. **Sheila Smart** always asks me to pass on her best wishes; **Margaret Prigg** is probably about to be transferred (from Avenue House) to somewhere with more nursing care.

We pray for **Audrey Bryant** whose current health problems mean that she is moving from Trymview to Westbury Gardens nursing home for more support in the short term.

**Angus Gregson** was knocked off his bike some time ago, was treated at the time, then later was diagnosed with a broken leg bone, so is currently wearing a medical boot, unable to cycle or drive, but walking.

**Teame Mebrahtu** is also having leg problems and needs our prayers.

One of Janet Lockyer's carers, **Abraham**, has now returned from Sierra Leone helping to build a church there. We look forward to seeing him again, as well as all her other carers.

We pray for all who have been supported in the Bristol Churches Night Shelter, which ended on 27<sup>th</sup> March, that they've found more permanent accommodation; Redland Park has been very supportive this year, as usual.

### ...from New Brunswick

Hoorah for Natalie passing her Driving Theory Test. Well Done!

Carol's grandson is making plans to visit Australia in the autumn and is hoping to find employment there to enable him to stay for an extended time. We wish him well in his quest and pray all the preparations go well.

Many of our folk are in need of prayer at this time for all sorts of reasons.

Jen S has also been admitted again to the BRI. She has a severe infection which the doctors are unable to locate the source of. Jen is greatly

comforted by the visits of the hospital Chaplain and sharing communion with him. Again we uphold her to the Lord in Prayer.

We have heard that David F is in hospital in Bath after a fall. He is awaiting results of tests to establish cause and as to the best form of treatment. May he be assured of our thoughts and prayers.

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Becky's mother-in-law. We send our love to the family at this difficult time praying for God's comfort and peace.

Elizabeth became very unwell and had to go back into hospital where she died a few days later. Despite her pain and difficulty breathing, one thing she asserted a day or so before she died: "I know that in all this the Lord is with me." She was such a blessing to our church.

Stephen F is also in need of prayer at this time as a long term relationship has ended and he is reevaluating his future. This could mean a move from his home and relocating to Wales for a new start.

Some folk will remember Terry H. Recent news from him is that he is now in a nursing home in Swindon. He is more or less wheelchair bound. He is very accepting of his situation and sustained by his faith in the Lord. Please uphold him in your prayers.

Mary has settled well in St Monica's and is enjoying being able to again take up Bowls, albeit the indoor wheelchair variety. No doubt she will soon be winning more cups to add to her collection!

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Ruth and Peter. Such a difficult situation we just hand it to the Lord.

Angie would appreciate prayers for herself and those in her family who are also going through difficult times.

We uphold all these folk who need our prayers to the Lord. We also uphold those not mentioned here but are known to God who have much need of His love and presence at this time.

## **CELEBRATIONS!**

Those celebrating birthdays during April...

14<sup>th</sup> Kate, 16<sup>th</sup> Elaine, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dave F, 24<sup>th</sup> Angus

We wish them all a happy day, one full of Gods' richest blessings.

## **What's been happening at New Brunswick?**

### **New Brunswick Church Party**

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March we had our annual Christmas party. A Christmas Party in March? Well, this goes back years when we used to hold them in January when the weather was much colder and we fell foul of frozen pipes, bad weather or a boiler that broke down. So, it was decided to move it on in the year to avoid this. We have had a party later too.

The afternoon was full of fun and laughter. Brenda tested our brains with some quizzes and not forgetting a pass the parcel, or two. The speed at which the parcel was passed suggested it might explode at any time.

This was followed by a lively game of Pictionary with an animal theme.

Well! The drawings were unique to say the least and a lot of laughter ensued as we tried to guess what they were drawing. One participant simply wrote KFC, and of course it was guessed straight away. I'm not sure this was in the rules, but they won the game. Janice supplied her usual tasty buffet which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who arranged it.

### **New Brunswick Gift Day**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March was quite a busy morning! Our service was led by Rev Douglas Burnett and there were several things that needed to be included in the worship. As it was the second Sunday in the month we shared in Communion during the service.

With Easter being early this year, March 10<sup>th</sup> was also Mothering Sunday! As is our tradition at New Brunswick each lady who was at the worship was given either a small gift of chocolates or for those who had given up chocolate for Lent or other reasons there was a small posy of daffodils with a sprig of Rosemary (which is for remembrance).

We had also chosen this date for our 'Gift Day' Sunday. A time when we return our 'tins', Blessing boxes and Gift envelopes. The 'tins' are quite a recent addition to our giving. We take a savings tin and keep it for a year. We go from the start of Lent to following Lent. Personally I have found it quite a useful exercise and makes me very conscious about regular giving. Not only on a Sunday. Thank you Dougie for weaving all these aspects into the morning service.



This tradition of a Gift Day service goes back as far as I can remember, and that's a long time, as I have been coming to New Brunswick since I was 10!! Of course the church had far more in the congregation than there are now. There were also lots of organisations meeting throughout the week. Girls' Brigade, Boys Brigade, Youth Club, Womens' Guild, Sunday School, to name just a few. The Gift Day service was a BIG event with all uniformed organisations being in attendance. There was a sort of Roll Call and a representative would go forward and bring that organisation's gift to the church. In response to that they would then stand and sing a verse of a hymn. It was an opportunity for the church, as a whole, to see who was attending Groups during the week as well as on a Sunday. This format was discontinued when it became apparent that a) the groups were getting smaller and b) It was the same folk standing up standing up to sing the responses!!

Although things have somewhat changed the generous giving of His people has continued and this year's response has been a wonderful total of **£2,387.06** for which we give God the praise and the glory. As treasurer I thank each and everyone of the Fellowship for their continued giving, not only on Gift Day but at other times during the year when we support 'outside' causes. Leprosy Mission, Tearfund, Local Charity as Christmas and Tangible Gifts at both Harvest and Christmas.

May God Bless you all.

Brenda Drake

## **... and at Redland Park?**

### **Lent Conversations 2024 - Faith, Creation and Climate change**

*Some reflections on this year's ambitious programme implemented by Churches Together in Cotham, Redland and Clifton with Hotwells - "a series of talks based on our Environmental and climate crisis in the context of our Christian Faith."*

#### **Climate Justice and the Church, a global perspective - Dr Ruth Valerio.**

Using examples from Tearfund, and particularly its work in Mali, Ruth highlighted the unequal distributed of the earth's resources which results in international food poverty, where the consumption by the richest 1% is

more than that of the poorest 66%. God's plan is for there to be enough for everybody.

She urged such sharing and compassion to be at the heart of the Christian message into the secular world. If we repent from our greed, Ruth is convinced that God will enhance our land.

Ruth advocates a five point action plan for churches;

1) Teach and raise awareness; 2) Pray; 3) Give; 4) Speak up; 5) Love it out.

The Redland Park 7pm Sunday Services for the next eight weeks are centred on Ruth's collection of Bible studies, "Rivers of Justice."

### **Curlews, Conservation and Faith - Mary Colwell.**

Mary inspired us as people of faith to be confident in God and confident and determined in our planning for the future of God's amazing creation. From a global perspective, she confirmed that those who are hardest hit by climate change are predominantly those who have done the least to cause it. Maybe, we too, in the rich north, need to start collecting the scars.

Mary's beautiful example from nature is the curlew whose population she explored on a walk from the West of Ireland to the East of England. The curlew, a vulnerable, ground nesting wader is increasingly endangered - largely because of the way that we live, particularly because of the intensification of our agricultural practice. Mary's challenge to us is:- we know how to save the curlew, but do we have the will to do it?

World Curlew Day is 21<sup>st</sup> April.

She concluded that the Kingdom lies beyond us, but "All will be well."

### **"Now my eyes have seen you"; seeing God in Creation**

**- Rev Dr Dave Gregory**

Dave is a Christian and a Scientist, finding God in nature and urging us to respond to natural wonder with our hearts rather than our heads, adopting a sacramental view of the world, approaching Creation with an artistic rather than a Scientific outlook.

He drew us into this approach by exploring the planet of trees - with 400 for each person, and by detailing the role of trees in sustainability, being more effective collectively than individually and all part of the Creation that "God saw that it was good."

Dave's vision of the interface of Faith and Science is that the entire Cosmos can be seen as a vast symbol of God, a wonderful and effective balance where all can thrive. That experience of wonder is universal, not just for the religious and the spiritual, but also as a motivator for exploration through science.

Dave's work can be further explored through [www.gstiwg.co.uk](http://www.gstiwg.co.uk)

### **“Ensoiled spirituality”; living out an earthed faith - Rev Dr Al Barrett.**

Al spoke of his early life around the Solent and adult life in the East Midlands, describing himself as a kind of “magpie theologian”, with an eye for odd things that catch the eye, not necessarily bright and shiny but with dirt between the toes. He described how humans, particularly privileged, white, able-bodied males like him, had distanced themselves from nature and the earth. As our planet cannot afford limitless consumption or growth, we need to make sacrifices and limit some activities like air flights and meat consumption.

In answer to one of the many questions, he contrasted Greta Thunberg who, like many young people today, knows what's going on, to those who don't, even though they are in power!

What can we as churches do, are we in the “Edgelands” (margins) too? Are we becoming irrelevant or are we finding our way to the margins in solidarity with those already there?

Al's hopeful message is that maybe, God is creating something new in spite of us, bringing resurrection.

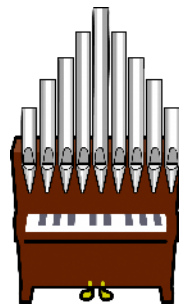
---

### **A Rocha's “Easy Eco Tips for APRIL**

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling. Could you get off a stop early to walk the rest of your journey, take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there's a local Ramblers group. And there's the RP pilgrimage walk coming up...

## Redland Park URC Organ

The second Redland Park Organ Concert took place on February 17<sup>th</sup> with John Davenport playing the organ. He chose and played music which was interesting, attractive, varied and inspiring.



First there was Bach. The exuberant *Prelude and Fugue in G*, which has glorious, exciting music. Next two beautiful, thoughtful Chorale Preludes which benefited from the RP organ's many tone colours.

Then, a short piece by César Franck which, though short, included several sections of varying character.

Finally, John played Rheinberger's *Sonata no. 8*. It is a huge piece of music and John used the resources of the RP organ effectively. We heard the organ, from the beauty of its softest stops to the grand sound of an almost Full Organ at the end.

John's playing was excellent and it was a wonderful morning of music with great refreshments and chance for a chat. Many people worked hard to set this concert up and they were rewarded with an audience of about 90.

The next RP Concerts are **April 13<sup>th</sup>** and **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Both concerts start with cake at 10.30 a.m. with organ playing at 11.00 for about 45 minutes.

**Eric Tyson** is playing for the April Concert. He is well known to RP members because he sometimes plays for the RP morning service.

**Claire Hobbs** is playing for the Concert on **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. That is an occasion not to be missed.

John Turner

---

### A PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE:

Almighty God, we pray for peace in our world, where there is often conflict and strife. Bring an end to violence and injustice. Inspire leaders to work towards the well-being of all people. May your love and compassion prevail, uniting nations in a common pursuit of peace. Let your kingdom of peace reign on earth as it is in heaven. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

# What's coming up?

**Redland Park day at Barton Camp, Winscombe BS25 1DY**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



Come and join in all of our activities or simply enjoy the fellowship and the countryside.

## **Planned programme:**

- 10.00 Prepare Bread
- 10.30 Opening Worship
- 10.50 Continue Bread Making.
  - Fabric Activity.
  - Watercolours.
  - Swimming.
  - Crooks Peak.
  - Adventure Playground.
- 12.15 Lunch.
- 1.00 *choose from...*
  - Fabric Activity
  - Watercolours
  - Adventure Playground/Sports Hall
  - Jigsaw/Board games/Lego/Duplo
- 2.30 Egg Rolling
- 2.45 Closing Worship
- 3.00 Swimming
- 4.00 End of day

More details from Les Fry

07769 253279

lesj Fry@hotmail.com

**RP URC Pilgrimage Walk**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

## **Wells to Glastonbury Syren Stone Walk, 9 miles**

The Church in Society group in conjunction with the Climate Justice Group are organizing a Pilgrimage Walk, Wells to Glastonbury, to raise money by sponsorship or by donations for our church charities, The Vine Trust and the North Bristol and South Glos. Food Bank.



The walk is known as the Syren Stone walk as it has nine large limestone waymarkers with bronze bells inset and a unique motif depicting something about the area. At every mile you are encouraged to strike the bell with a small pebble. Each bell carries a unique note.

The walk will start at the first Syren Stone, at the south corner of the moat around the Bishop's Palace, (also corner of Silver Street).

We will then walk the 9 miles to Glastonbury Tor stopping at each Syren Stone that we find. The walk is mostly flat. It passes the ancient Gog and Magog trees near Glastonbury Tor before climbing towards the Tor itself. The final stone is at the bottom of the Tor. From there we will continue into Glastonbury and catch the bus back.

The plan is to travel to Wells and from Glastonbury by bus although it's fine for those who want to, to travel by car and meet in Wells.

The 376 bus runs a regular route from Bristol Bus Station to Wells and Glastonbury. Present 376 bus Bristol Bus Station to Wells times are 9.01-10.14 and 9.28-10.41. (Times may change by April.) Return bus times from Glastonbury are every 30 mins., 35 min. trip to Wells, 1 hour 50 min trip back to Bristol Bus Station. We aim to start the walk at 10.30 from the first Syren Stone and catch a bus back from Glastonbury about 16.30. You will need to bring a packed lunch and water with you.

Please contact me by 31<sup>st</sup> March by email, [alison.hooper@live.co.uk](mailto:alison.hooper@live.co.uk), to let me know if you are coming and how you plan to get there, by bus or own transport. I'm also happy to answer any queries. I will firm up meeting arrangements: bus times and where to meet nearer the time once numbers are known. I hope to see many of you on 20 April.

Alison Hooper [alison.hooper@live.co.uk](mailto:alison.hooper@live.co.uk)

## Things to think about...

### Inter Faith relationships *from Jane Rogers*

We live in difficult times and even in Great Britain, a democratic country which is largely unaffected by warfare, famine and flood, there is a lot to trouble us about the state of the nation.



Making a list of what our main concerns are we would probably mention food poverty, ill health caused by lack of access to medical services and limited educational opportunities in certain parts of our community. There is also the massive issue of climate change.

However over all this, and constantly at the forefront of news reports on mainstream TV and radio as well as on social media, are the implications of the divisions in our society arising from the failure to tolerate followers of other faiths. Such failure usually arises from lack of understanding of what these faiths comprise and how they interact with our own faith.

There are about 20 different mainstream faiths in our community. As Christians we are most likely to know about the Abrahamic religions which comprise Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The National Curriculum taught in maintained schools introduces pupils to these 3 religions as well as Sikhism, Buddhism and Hinduism. Unfortunately those of us who were taught 'scripture' in the days before the National Curriculum probably know nothing about faiths other than our own. We may not even know a Jew or a Muslim and, if we do, may not have engaged with them to understand how their faith parallels or differs from ours.

Those of us who abhor the idea of Anti-Semitism, and recoil with horror at the idea that the atrocities of the WW2 Holocaust should ever be repeated, may not realize that anti-Zionism on the other hand is directed at a political regime that has been compared with apartheid and not towards hatred of the Jews.

Likewise those who regard Islam as "the axis of evil" (the words of George W Bush after the 9/11 attacks) fail to recognise that the majority of Muslims reject radical Islamic ideologies and espouse peaceful co-existence with other faiths.

As well as understanding these faiths, we need to examine our relationships with them in order to promote a basis for working together for the benefit of society as a whole. The concerns mentioned above will not be healed if there is no mutual respect between us and those whom Jesus directs us to treat as our neighbours.

How are we to do this? Perhaps we should go back to school and learn about the faiths mentioned in the National Curriculum! Or perhaps we should join the Inter Faith Network [although funding for that very worthy organisation has been withdrawn by the relevant Secretary of State].

A discussion amongst our cell groups or other small communities at Redland Park and New Brunswick might be a good starting point for ideas which we can bring to our next Church meeting.

Ideas welcome.

---

## Climate Justice group

### Carbon Saving at Redland Park URC

Churches throughout UK are implementing plans to be net zero by 2030. At RP, the Climate Justice group has been looking at ways we can save on carbon emissions in line with a net-zero target by 2030. Accordingly the defunct gas boiler for the church rooms has not been replaced by another gas boiler, but instead small portable electric heaters are being used until we come up with a more affordable carbon-neutral form of heating. We do, however, have a roof-full of solar panels which generate 4.2 kW power. To date the solar panels have generated 121 000 kWh and saved 52 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.

But much of this energy is unused by the church simply because it is generated during the day and we need electricity at night to power heating and lighting when the church and church rooms are in use.

Not any more! We have purchased a Battery Storage system (with 10 kW charge rate and 20.3 kWh useable capacity for those who like to know the numbers). The local firm Ecocetera will carry out the work and we are





hoping that the battery will be installed by April, in good time to make the most of the summer sunshine. The battery should make us totally electricity energy self-sufficient over the summer months and substantially more efficient over the winter months, thereby reducing our electricity costs and furthering our net-zero carbon ambitions.

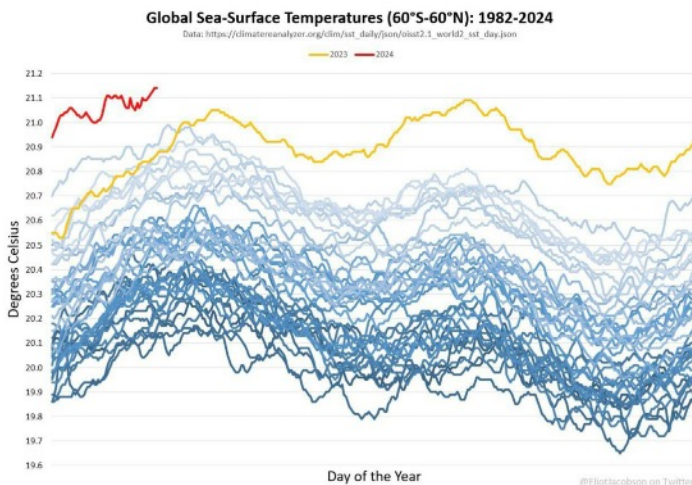
The cost is £13 440, half of which will be covered by a grant from Synod funds ear-marked for net-zero carbon projects. Thank you to our treasurer, Andrew Hayden, for putting together the applications for these funds. That leaves us to cover the remaining £6 720. It is our duty as Christians to be responsible for this world and do our best to reduce our carbon footprint.

If you feel strongly about this issue, please give a donation to the church to help cover some of this cost. Every amount counts, however small. Donations by bank transfer with reference **Battery** to Redland Park URC, sort code 40-14-13, account number 80690341, will be much appreciated. Gift Aid will apply to all donations. If you have not already set up gift aid with Redland Park, please see Andrew Hayden for details. Also speak to Andrew if you don't want to use bank transfer to donate.

Thank you.

---

The graph below shows the average global sea temperatures over the last 20+ years.



Last year - the yellow line - they rose significantly higher than in previous years.

And look at the values for this year already - the red line.

Climate crisis? **That** climate crisis!

## EVERYDAY PLASTIC:

*from Carol Fry*

### 52 ways to reduce your plastic (one month at a time)

Despite the editorial addition last month, it has been proved that covering cucumber in a plastic sheath doubles its edible life.

7. **Use what you have.** Buying less, saving money and being more resourceful with what you have is the best way to avoid waste. Use up all your toiletries before you buy alternatives.
  8. **Choose local produce.** Most larger supermarkets offer a range of loose produce including potatoes, carrots, broccoli, apples, etc.
  9. **Keep reusable bags handy.** Always take reusable bags on supermarket trips. Keep some in your car boot or near the front door for impromptu shopping trips.
  10. **DIY cleaning products.** Try mixing vinegar, water lemon and bicarb of soda for a natural cleaner that works a treat and keeps plastics, toxins and costs down.
  11. **Don't buy shower gel.** Long live the soap bar! They often last much longer than bottles of shower gel and you can find brands that have no plastic packaging.
  12. **Buy milk in glass bottles.** Get your milk delivered to your door in glass bottles. Alternatively, buy bigger bottles, decant the milk into smaller bottles and freeze them.
  13. **No such thing as "away".** Whenever something has come to the end of its life, and you throw it into the bin, think about where it will ultimately end up; it won't simply disappear.
- 

### Another food for thought piece from RP

One chap brings biscuits in each time he comes to church - he thinks it could be something we all do on a Sunday as coffee is so wet without a biscuits! So if anyone would like to donate a packet of biscuits, or even bake some for a Sunday morning, we could have biscuits and coffee after the service, instead of just coffee!



## **KNOW YOUR ELDER**

*A column where we get to know a little more about our Elders.*

**Myra Jones** at Redland Park

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in the back of beyond, as we said in Herefordshire, near a hamlet called Checkley, about 9 miles from Hereford.

It was in an area of geological importance called the Woolhope Dome.

### **What brought you to Bristol?**

I came to train as a Midwife at Southmead Hospital in 1971.



### **Who/what led me to faith in Christ?**

My family were Congregationalists, attending Ross on Wye Congregational Chapel [sadly no longer a Church]. So I have always gone to Church.

### **Why did I start worshipping at Redland Park?**

My parents brought me and my belongings to Bristol when I came here to train as a Midwife. Having unloaded, we went looking for a cuppa.

At that time, there was a place on Whiteladies Road called the Danish Restaurant (some people may remember it). It was opposite RP. Mum pointed this out and said I could go there, which of course I did.

On my first evening visit, Dolores Grant spoke to me before I could get out of the door. The rest is history.

### **Something good about living in Bristol**

Bristol is a wonderful city so much to see and do. I particularly love the Suspension Bridge and the Avon Gorge area. Also it is relatively close to Herefordshire.

## **A Redland Park Love Affair      by David Hayden**

### **Part 2 - After the war**

It was of course a great sadness for my parents, and especially my father when the church building where as a young man he had stoked the boiler, was destroyed including the Rose East window which had been removed to the basement for safety. My own interest in RP at that time was pretty limited. My church was Knowle Park Congregational Church where I was brought up, went through the Sunday School, was a member of the 19<sup>th</sup> Bristol Boys Brigade, became a church member and later a deacon (not “elder” in those days) and best of all met and later married Viv.

However, even during those years I had some “arms’ length” contact with RP through my aunts Lily and Winnie Hayden who visited us on some Wednesday afternoons (half day closing). During the early years of the war the RP hall on the opposite side of Whiteladies Road was taken over by the BBC. Eventually it was returned to the church and a small Father Willis organ installed. At that point Stanley Parker was recalled from his loan to the Methodist Central Hall to resume his duties as Organist and Choirmaster to replace Theresa Babbage, a very accomplished pianist who had accompanied services on the piano. Although at that time I had no knowledge of Stanley or Theresa I clearly recall my aunts not being best pleased with this move.

Maybe because of the early wartime connection, the BBC Home Service (now Radio 4) broadcast the morning service from RP one Sunday. My parents of course were very keen that we should listen in and I vividly recall my father assuring us that he could hear his sister, and my Auntie Lily in the contralto line.

When I returned to Eagle Star after my National Service I was talking one day to another young man with whom I worked and found that he was an avid Bristol City supporter. Not only that he was amazed to find that a man who stood nearby shouting his advice to the City players was none other than the Rev. Basil Sims. Rob was not a church-goer and at my invitation he accompanied me to a service in the Hall to see Basil in his “Sunday job”. Whilst I was full of praise for the service I regret that this bit of proselytising bore no fruit. At about this time we were all getting to

know the new Congregational Praise ( a wonderful book) and I recall being introduced to “Thou didst leave Thy throne” when attending a morning service having truanted from Knowle Park.

After the war the Evening Post gave regular up-dates on the progress of the rebuilding of Holy Nativity C.of E. in Totterdown and RP, similar sized churches. I think Holy Nats. was completed first. I had purchased an auto-cycle (a motorised bike similar to a moped) which gave me the chance to roam more easily from Knowle. On occasions I made my way after work on The Centre to watch the rebuilding of RP.



As you might imagine my parents applied early for four tickets to the re-opening service of the new church but were only allowed two as a separate service was scheduled for children. Basil Sims was somewhat taken aback when the next Sunday my

parents introduced my sister and me, their “children”, both in our twenties, to him. I can still recall that wonderful smell of the brand new church and the thrill of attending the later dedication of the now fully installed 4 manual Father Willis organ played by Dr Eric Thiman.

Viv and I were married at Knowle Park in 1962, moved to Easton-in-Gordano, joined St George’s Church and were confirmed into the Church of England. The Rector Rev Jack Ramsey was a lovely man. One Spring Sunday in 1964 we decided to attend an evening service at RP and signed the visitors’ book. The following Tuesday evening we looked out of our lounge window to see a man in shorts and a funny hat walking towards us – yes, it was Rev Cyril Grant who had come my bus on spec. to follow up our visit to RP. The die was cast, in July that year we became members of Redland Park Church and the rest, as they say, is history.

*(To be continued...)*

## **A reflection on the prophet Habakkuk** by **Rev Andy Braunston**

Millennia ago the prophet Habakkuk, when faced with war, environmental disaster and consequent famine, sung:

*Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation.  
God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and makes me tread upon the heights.*

*Habakkuk 3:17-19*

Words which resonate as we face the consequences of human greed wreaking havoc on the fragile earth. As the climate changes, the ice melts, and sea waters rise we will have to adapt and learn to mitigate the dreadful climate changes which are already upon us. What I find fascinating is that Habakkuk didn't turn away from God when faced with his traumas; in these times of change and danger I hope we won't either.

Habakkuk's response was to turn to God and, in worship found the strength to make sense of his world and to adapt to his realities. Week after week we gather to worship in church and chapel, in grand buildings and around computer screens. As we sing, pray, listen and share in the simple things of bread and wine, we encounter the Risen Lord who strengthens and enables us to be His disciples.

*from URC Worship notes, reprinted with permission*

---

### **More food for thought**

A former colleague went to buy some veg for a stir fry from their local supermarket recently. But when they got home they noticed the sources of the ingredients on the label.

A little bit of internet use and a calculator showed the food miles for this packet was 24 328 miles. Not quite the “shop local” they intended.



## Keeping up with the vicar, part 143

Here are the Lectionary readings for April and the first Sunday in May. As you'll recall from last month's piece (maybe) although Mark is the featured gospel this year, because Mark's gospel is the shortest we get a dose of John during Lent and Eastertide, and one reading from Luke, emphasising how very real Jesus' resurrection was, sharing food with his followers. We'll get back to Mark in June.

Post Easter there is a focus on Jesus' teaching about what's needed for mission, and the need to be rooted in him if we're to bear fruit. It's remarkable how unsuitable some of the people called to take the gospel out seem to be, but what can they achieve empowered by the Holy Spirit? We have a wonderful series of encounters with the risen Jesus that transform Mary Magdalene, the disciples - Thomas especially - and two other disciples on the way out to Emmaus on Easter Sunday afternoon.

What transformations! If it weren't for them, would we have eventually heard the gospel and responded? How does this message transform us? Perhaps the most exciting offer of all is the John chapter 15 reading on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Just read verses 7 & 8 a few times and take in the enormity of that.

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.

Angus

	OT*	Psalm	Gospel	NT
Apr 7 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 4:32-35	133	John 20:19-31	1 John 1:1-2:2
14 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 3:12-19	4	Luke 24:36b-48	1 John 3:1-7
21 <sup>st</sup>	Acts 4:5-12	23	John 10:11-18	1 John 3:16-24
28 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	John 15:1-8	1 John 4:7-2
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 10:44-48	98	John 15:9-17	1 John 5:1-6

*\*Between Easter and Pentecost the Old Testament reading is replaced by one from Acts.*

Deadline for contributions for the  
March *Recorder* is **15<sup>th</sup> Apr.**

Please send your contributions  
to the editor Angus Gregson  
**email:** angus.gregson@btinternet.com  
**or** by post to the *Recorder* at the Church  
address at the bottom of this page.

**Minister:** Rev. Douglas Burnett  
0117 330 9910  
douglasburnett@wwmail.co.uk

**Secretary:** Les Fry  
07769 253279  
lesjfry@hotmail.com

The *Recorder* is the monthly magazine of

Redland Park  
United Reformed Church,  
Whiteladies Road,  
Redland,  
Bristol,  
BS6 6SA

*and*

New Brunswick  
United Reformed Church,  
Wigton Crescent,  
Southmead,  
Bristol,  
BS10 6DY

redlandparkurc@gmail.com

newbrunswickurc@gmail.com