

ESTD 1901

# The Recorder

September'20

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



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

# New Brunswick Update

---

I can't believe that two months have passed since I last wrote something for the double summer issue of the Recorder. At this rate I will be writing for the December issue before we can look around.

Let me bring you up to date with what has been happening as well as news of our friends.

We held a church meeting on 'Zoom' at the end of July when we discussed the possibilities of returning to some sort of Sunday worship. It was decided that a small group of us would meet at the church to see how this could be best achieved. With tape measure in hand and 'keep out' tape we have worked out how we can best return to meeting together. Of course it will be different from what we are used to with no singing, social distancing and face masks. We now have to complete a Risk Assessment Form which has to be sent to both our Insurance Company and Synod Office for approval. When this has happened we will be able to fix a date for our return. Hopefully sometime in mid September.

So watch this space!

---

During August we have heard that the young people known to us have passed their exams enabling them to go on to further education in their chosen careers. We send warm congratulations to Jenny's grandson Sam who will now be moving on to Bristol City College. We were also pleased to hear that Carol's grandson, Diesel, also got the grades he needed to attend 'Boomsatsuma' where he will pursue his career in the performing arts. WELL DONE to both of them and Best wishes for the future.

We think of other young people who will be returning to school in the coming days after almost six months of being at home. For some this will be quite a difficult time of readjustment. Let us uphold them in our prayers asking God to be with them and quell their anxiety.

---

Back at the beginning of the Summer, poor Liz had a fall in 'The Galleries' in Broadmead unfortunately she sustained a broken shoulder which has been very painful. But the latest news is that the hospital is pleased with her progress. For a couple of weeks she stayed with her daughter and grandson who both gave her lots of TLC!!

We have heard that Ivy, too, is making good progress after her recent operation.

May both these ladies be assured of our continued prayers for a return to better health.

---

I have had news from Rev Pat Cemlyn-Jones and she sends everyone love and Blessings. Ian and Irene Thornely also send good wishes to everyone. I have assured these folk our Good wishes and Blessings in return.

Margaret, Wenda, Elaine, Ivy, Julie, Becky, Angie, our friends from Henbury all send greetings to everyone. They all hope, too, that it won't be too much longer before we can meet together back at church.

# Vestry Vibes

by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

As from the middle of September we are planning to re-open the church for actual worship. The plan is to live-stream worship from the church service so that those of you who might still not be able to attend worship for various reasons will be able to follow what is happening. It won't be quite the same thing as we have been doing since the middle of March when we went into lockdown. And it won't be the same thing as we were doing before the lockdown. But it will be baby steps towards some kind of normal. As with the rest of the world we all wait to see what will emerge this side of the coronavirus pandemic.

For the church as a whole, and this will be the case worldwide, the impact of the global pandemic is that it will likely compound existing trends in the short-term. Some of our churches were already in a vulnerable and precarious situation. This means that we are likely to see churches closing. That will be a very sad loss, and we will grieve these losses. A recent article in the Spectator was commenting that for the church in the U.S. that closure rates might be between 20 and 30%. That is quite alarming. We hope and pray that it will be less than that.

However, if we look beyond the short-term it may well be that this new context will provide an opportunity for being and doing church in new ways. We have been talking about that for some 20 years now, with Fresh Expressions of Church etc. It is just that we have had to learn and take on so much in the past few months to bring all of that up to speed and to actually do something about it!

Following so many news reports over the past few months, I have repeatedly seen and heard about how the coronavirus experience has made people feel vulnerable, but also the need to value what matters most in life. People have found new value in the experience of relationships, whether that be of family and friends. By being on Zoom many churches have found new people being in church with them as visitors. Numbers "in church" on a Sunday have grown. That has also been our experience at Redland Park.

It might not be an instant "revival", but it is indicative of something. There is hope.

At Redland Park we will be taking baby-steps forward over the next few months. Bit by bit we will be finding out what to do with the kind of hybrid worship that I have described above. It will be a new kind of "Walking the Way."

Thinking of which, you should all have received information about how we plan to write our Mark's gospel. You will have received what might be your verses. It would be great if you could do that. If you need help or advice do get into contact. The Bristol Korean Church will be writing it out in Korean in its entirety!

It is all about how we centre ourselves on God's word in our lives, as that makes sense of all our lives experiences.

Gradually, over the coming weeks and months, I hope to see you again. And not just on a screen. It has been far too long. In the meantime keep well and stay safe.

*Dougie*

# Redland Park People



Welcome back to everyone who has been able to get away this summer, especially **the minister and Helena**.

We continue to keep some of our members in our prayers: **Lewis Manyika and Malcolm Johnson** as they recover from surgery; **Peter Ambrose** after a fall recently; **Sheila Smart** who cannot log into zoom but is kept in touch with the church.

For those who remember them, **Janet and Mal Owen** have just moved into Westbury Fields. Please remember them and pray that they will settle in well and find a supportive community there.

## From the Joint Public Issues Team (Churches Working for Peace)

We pray for Yemini children. As Covid-19 has amplified hunger in Yemen, child marriage, child labour and child begging has increased. We pray for protection for children, for an end to these practices and for provision so no one goes hungry.

We continue to pray for mental health. Recent figures show that rates of depression in adults across the UK has almost doubled during the course of the pandemic. We pray for healing and comfort for those struggling and that all can access to the support they need.

We give thanks for unpaid carers. In the UK millions more people have become unpaid carers during the pandemic. We thank you for the crucial care and support they provide their loved ones and pray for comfort and for opportunity to rest.

We give thanks for youth workers. They've supported young people at a time when many of their other support systems have fallen away. We thank you for their compassion and pray for vulnerable young people who have been among the most affected by Covid-19.

We pray for those locked in poverty. The poorest families in our communities have been hit hardest by the effects of the pandemic, pushing them further into difficulty. God we pray for your provision, and for compassionate and practical decision making which offers the right support.

From the prayer box in the garden, we pray for Bennett and his family, and for Harriett and her family; a grandmother called Iris as she has bowel cancer; a mother called Billi as she has breast cancer.

Please remember the Church officers, Elders and techy team as they prepare to open up the Church for Services as well as continuing the service online.

Please pray for teachers, governors and parents as they prepare for children to return to School.

Give thanks for speech therapists, treating coronavirus patients in ICUs, helping those with difficulty swallowing and those who've been on ventilators get their voice back. God, we thank you for their crucial role in fighting Covid-19 and pray keep them safe.

Pray for babies born to surrogates in Russia. As many as 1,000 babies have been left stranded in the country due to the pandemic and border closures. We pray for your comfort for families waiting to see their babies and for them to be safely united.

We pray for vaccination programmes. 80 million children have been denied vaccinations from diseases including measles, tetanus, polio and yellow fever, due to disruption from Covid-19. We pray for their health and for protection from future outbreaks.

For those parts of our country that are seeing an increase in Covid cases and for the health services there.

Let us pray for Lebanon and it's people at this devastating time.

**A prayer from the Bible Society:** Heavenly Father, be with those who are grieving the loss of loved ones and strengthen all those who are seeking to bring aid to the injured, homeless, anxious and bereaved people of Beirut.

In Jesus' name. Amen

# Prayer page:

We are at the centre of your story, Lord.

Your story is our beginning, our middle and our end.

So

in humility you meet us right where we are,  
in commitment your laws teach and empower us,  
in trust you keep your word, you believe in us,  
in empathy you became flesh to live among us,  
in justice you persistently love us.

We are at the centre of your story, Lord.

Wherever we begin our journeys, help us to move forward with persistent faith,

Focusing less on worldly possessions,

Moving away from false perfections,

Living trustworthy lives,

Showing empathy for others,

Being hospitable and welcoming all.

Amen



## Please pray for:

– Glyn and Margaret

– Enid

– Marlene, undergoing hospital tests.

– Trisha, starting a new life in difficult circumstances.

– Malcolm, recovering from surgery.

– Migrants and asylum seekers.

– The people of Belarus, Lebanon and Yemen.

– The lonely, anxious and depressed

– Young people starting out on their career paths.

– All whose livelihoods have been lost due to coronavirus.

– Families who have lost loved ones during lockdown.

– Dougie and the Elders who are working to reopen the church

– Give thanks for all those who have worked hard to give us zoom church each Sunday.

**God, we pray that you will be near to each one and comfort them. Amen**

# Redland Park Re-Opening

---

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to be able to report that we plan to re-open the church for worship. Our intention was to allow a small number of people to worship together in church from 13th September. However, the Elders have taken the decision to postpone the re-opening of the church for worship by two weeks to allow time to fix a problem with live-streaming via Zoom.

The problem arose in recent tests, having not surfaced in previous tests, and the Elders feel that it's best to re-open for worship only when we can be confident that live-streaming from church, via Zoom, works satisfactorily. Thus, **our first service back on church premises will be on Sunday 27th September, and we will continue our Zoom-based worship until then.**

I would like to stress that all other measures are in place to make the church premises Covid-secure; it is only the technological hiccup that has led to this decision.

The following restriction will apply:

- No more than 18 people in the congregation (We hope to increase this number over time)
- You will need to book in advance
- 2m social distancing to be observed
- Masks to be worn by all members of the congregation, unless exempted under UK government guidelines
- There will be no singing in church
- The service will be live-streamed via Zoom

I now invite bookings for the revised first three services in church, namely:

- Sunday 27th September
- Sunday 4th October (Virtual Communion)
- Sunday 11th October

Please let me know which of these services you would like to attend, letting me know which is your "first choice" if you apply for more than one service. I will then confirm bookings on the Friday or Saturday preceding each service. I have written to everyone with full details, including the booking arrangements, once plans have been finalised.

Finally, I would like to confirm that the UK government's latest guidelines regarding social gatherings, which come into force on Monday 14th September, do not affect our ability to open for worship as we will be a Covid-secure venue.

With all best wishes,

Andrew

# Redland Park Church Calendar

---

At the time of writing, it is anticipated that worship will resume in church from Sunday 27th September and will be live-streamed via Zoom. Other activities will continue remotely until further notice.

## Dates for September 2020

Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Incl. Virtual Communion (via Zoom)
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Sun 13th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett (via Zoom)
	12.30pm	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 20th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett (via Zoom)
	12.30pm	Korean Worship
Wed 23rd	7.30pm	Church Meeting (via Zoom)
Sun 27th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett IN CHURCH AND LIVE-STREAMED VIA ZOOM
	12.30pm	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

## Dates for October 2020

Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Wed 7th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting

# Church Fundraising

---

Thank you to everyone who took part in the quiz on Friday 17 July which was won jointly by Alison Hooper and Myra and Derek. We raised £116 for church charities. Thanks to Brenda, Derek, Jane B, Les F for their rounds in the July and August quizzes – August quiz total to come. Church charities are currently Toilet Twinning (overseas) and Caring in Bristol (local).

## PRESENT

The Minister and 21 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 6 members.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed after making the following amendments:

- 1) Under "Finance and Property", the figure of £40,00 was changed to £40,000.
- 2) Under "Walking the Way", the final sentence was reduced to "It was hoped that the steering group would meet in the coming days."
- 3) The following was added to "Ministerial Matters": "Teame committed to preparing a two-page briefing note about the relationship with the BKC by 7th June."

## MATTERS ARISING

Myra Jones provided a brief update on the newly-formed Prayer Circle.

## CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Myra Jones reported that the online quiz in aid of our chosen charities had gone well, but the amount raised was not yet known.

She hoped that a socially-distanced Christian Aid fair may be possible in the autumn, subject to Elders' approval. Artefacts left over from the previous fair needed to be removed in order to allow the church to re-open.

## FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer thanked everyone who had made financial pledges to the church. As long as there was no unexpected major expenditure on buildings, he was confident that the books would be approximately balanced at the end of the year and that the offers of interest-free loans would not need to be taken up.

He also reported that some lettings may resume in September.

## MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie that a meeting with Rev. Ruth Whitehead regarding the proposed partnership between the Bristol Korean Church (BKC) and Seoul Presbytery of the Church of Korea (SPCK) had been very positive. He and John Neugebauer had also met with Frances Brienan, Deputy General Secretary for Mission, and Karen Campbell, the new Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries. Dougie had also chatted with Rev. Bohyun Kim, who was now in Seoul for a minor operation, and the feeling was that positive progress was being made. However, the intended visit by representatives of the SPCK to the UK had been postponed due to Covid-19; no date had yet been fixed for a re-arranged visit.

With sadness, Dougie informed the meeting that Horfield URC would close, although no date had yet been fixed for the closure.

## CHURCH RE-OPENING

Andrew Hayden explained the progress that had been made towards re-opening the church for worship and lettings. The intention was to open for worship on Sunday 13th September, subject to agreement by the Elders at their meeting on 2nd September. They would also hold a special meeting, specifically to consider the re-opening of the church, on Wednesday 29th July. When the church opens, 2m social distancing would be implemented, there would be no singing. In addition, the intention was to live-stream the service so that anyone not attending in person could also participate. A one-way system would be in place and stewards would show the congregation to their seats. Anyone wishing to attend were asked to book with Andrew in advance, although anyone not booking in advance would still be allowed in. Details would be destroyed after 21 days.

The BKC would be holding their service in the afternoon in the church, having first cleaned it. This would free up all the rooms in the building for use by Junior Church. There would be no collection taken; everyone was encouraged to switch to standing orders if they did not already give that way.

Sally added that pew cushions would be removed, as would toys, and hand sanitiser would be available at each door. Masks would also be available to anyone who did not have their own. Equipment would also be available to allow people to clean the toilets before

using them, if they so wished. If needed, Adam's partner would be available to perform a deep clean as she owned a cleaning business.

At the time, no maximum capacity had been set, but that would be worked out in the near future.

It was hoped that Junior Church would operate as close to normal as possible, while observing UK government guidelines. In addition, consideration was being given to running a Junior Church online during the week.

Many people expressed a desire to attend worship in church, which was likely to be more like the Zoom services we had been holding since lockdown than before it.

## WALKING THE WAY

Activities had been relaunched on the subject of "Biblical Teaching" with help from Kim and Felicity from the Archers. It was also planned to ask the congregation to write out Mark's gospel, with the option of also providing related creative offerings.

## SECRETARIAL MATTERS None.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of member was shared. Florence Manyika thanked everyone who had sent cards to her and Lewis.

## A.O.B. None.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace. ***Next meeting will be held on Sunday 20th September at 11.45am (subject to confirmation)***

# Keeping up with the vicar Pt 107 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for September and the first Sunday in October. Hasn't it been great to have a sequential run of readings both from Matthew's gospel and Paul's letter to the Romans, seeing how the narrative and the ideas built up? It mostly carries on this month with a few hiccups. It seems a shame to me that the transfiguration (at the start of Matthew 17) is lifted from here for the Sunday before Lent. It seems so appropriate less than a week (Mt 17:1) after Peter's acknowledgement that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, but getting it so wrong as to what that involves. Try reading Mt17:1-9, bookended by Mt 16:21 and Mt 17:12.

Meanwhile in our readings from his letter to the Romans, Paul carries on explaining what a life lived out in the light of God's mercy should look like. I don't know why the first seven verses of chapter 13 are missed out entirely from the three years of the Lectionary cycle. I certainly find them a challenge at the moment when I look at several governments across the world. What do you think? Maybe there'll be a bonus extra sermon on this? Maybe cell groups could give it an airing. Maybe I need to struggle a bit more, but feel free to help me out.

Then we move on to Paul letter to the Philippians - a lot shorter and more digestible than Romans. It sounds like Paul's getting a bit weary of being in prison. But yet it's full of joy about how the people that are the church in Philippi are growing in their christian lives. The last verse and a half of the reading on the 27th are as challenging as they are exciting.

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

Sep	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
6th	Ezekiel 33:7-11	119:33-40	Matthew 18:15-20	Romans 13:8-14
13th	Genesis 50:15-21	103:8-13	Matthew 18:21-35	Romans 14:1-12
20th	Jonah 3:10-4:11	145:1-8	Matthew 20:1-16	Philippians 1:21-30
27th	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	25:1-9	Matthew 21:23-32	Philippians 2:1-13
Oct				
4th	Isaiah 5:1-7	80:7-15	Matthew 21:33-46	Philippians 3:4b-14

# Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter 2020 Impact Report

Rough sleeping and homelessness have increased significantly in the UK over the last 5 years. For people sleeping rough, or in temporary accommodation, high housing costs, lack of social housing and benefit changes are some of the barriers to securing permanent accommodation. Data on homelessness may only show the tip of the iceberg, and doesn't include people sleeping in unsafe buildings or sofa-surfing etc. The vast majority of homeless people will sleep rough only when they have no other options.

The project planned to run from 1st January to 5th April. St Mungo's assessed homeless individuals and referred those with low support needs to the shelter. It finished 10 days early as guests were given rooms in hotels on 26th March due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Many guests commented on how safe and cared for they felt at the shelter. They were often in bed early to get a good night's sleep before the day ahead – some had to get up early to go to work.

More than 600 volunteers came together to deliver the project; general training as well as additional training was offered, eg first aid awareness, mental health, etc. Volunteers from over 50 different churches took part and 24% were from the wider community. From volunteering for a shift at a venue or cooking hot meals to washing bedding or driving the van or minibus, there were many opportunities to help the project run smoothly.

Refresh West kindly donated their van and drivers to move mattresses and bedding between the different churches. GoodGym and 62nd Bristol scout group provided teams of volunteers to help carry mattresses. At The Well provided a free laundry service for the guests.

The impact of good sleep and nourishing food for 3 months meant that guests could focus on other issues. For some who were already working, this meant saving up for a deposit. For others this meant looking for employment or learning new skills.

For the fourth year, the shelter has filled a gap in provision for those wanting to find stable accommodation and move away from homelessness. However, it can only run from the generosity of churches in Bristol and the wider community.

If you would like to be involved in any way in 2021, either by volunteering at a church, doing laundry, praying, donating, etc, please log on to [www.bcwns.org](http://www.bcwns.org)

Deadline for contributions for the  
October Recorder is 27th September.

Please send to the editor

**email:** [petejhawkins@mac.com](mailto:petejhawkins@mac.com)

**tel:** 07947 405 453

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](mailto:douglasburnett@wwmail.co.uk)

**Secretary** | Andrew Hayden

07984 146 318

[andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk)

The Recorder is the monthly magazine of  
**Redland Park United Reformed Church,**  
Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS6 6SA

[redlandparkurc@gmail.com](mailto:redlandparkurc@gmail.com)