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The Recorder

December '21 & January '22

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



New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

December 2021 January, 2022 5th Wendy Mcgee 2nd Delwyn Tilke

12th Angus Gregson (will include 9th Rev. Douglas Burnett (will include

Communion) Communion)

19th Angus Gregson (Carol Service) 16th Brenda Isherwood 25th Delwyn Tilke (please note 10 am start) 23rd Angus Gregson 26th NO SERVICE 30th Barb Kirby

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR DECEMBER.

7th December. Joint churches Prayer Meeting 7.3pm at Pentecostal Holiness Church. 13th December. Prayer, Praise and Bible Study at 7.30pm at New Brunswick 18th December. Joint Southmead churches are hoping to sing carols at Arnside shops from

11am. Listen out for further details as this event will depend on how the Road alterations are progressing.

19th December Redland Park holding Candlelight Carol Service at 3.30pm. CHRISTMAS DAY PLEASE NOTE that the service will commence 10am BOXING DAY NO MORNING SERVICE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR IANUARY 2022

4th January. Joint churches Prayer Meeting 7.30pm at St Stephens.

13th January. Church meeting at New Brunswick at 7.30pm.

19th January. Joint churches meeting at 11am at St Stephens,

NEWS OF FRIENDS.

We are pleased to hear that Zac (Natalie's son) has been successful in gaining a place at 'Boomsatsuma' to study 'Sports Media' This is subject to exam results. Well done Zac,

Lisa and Natalie are both settling well into their new jobs.

It was good to welcome Liz as an Elder at a service on 28th November. We ask that God will bless her as she takes on this role in the life of the church.

At that same service it was nice to welcome Kate as a member of New Brunswick by transfer. Again we ask that God will bless her as she continues to work for Him. We look forward to working with her.

We continue to think of John as he copes with poor health. May he be assured of our thoughts and prayers.

Wenda and Margaret are also in our thoughts and prayers. We remember Susan (Wenda's daughter) praying that she may continue to know how much she is thought of.

At this time we think of those friends both near and far who regularly receive this magazine but either through distance or ill health are unable to share with us Sunday by Sunday. Thinking of Dave, Robin, Terry, Pat, Joyce and many others.

As this is the last edition of 2021 I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us at New Brunswick during the last year. There are many ways in which you have helped. Leading worship, helping with advice in many areas. Changing light bulbs, Encouraging us, and not least by upholding us in your prayers. All of this is very much appreciated.

Finally I want to wish you a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS FOR 2022.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends.

As I am writing the news is all about the Omicron variant. Could this be another "simplified" Christmas? Who knows! Let's hope not. Last year was quite enough in terms of not seeing family and friends, except for that 24 hours on Christmas Day itself.

But in terms of simplicity, what about these thoughts about Christmas and God?

Going back all those centuries, when God surveyed humanity and realized how dark and difficult our days could be, how confused we get about our identity and place, how many painful things we do to each other out of that confusion and insecurity, God decided to do something about it. There was giving the law and sending the prophets. Then God got involved personally.

It was the best kind of personal involvement you could possibly imagine: God came to tell us that we are loved, deeply, truly, and forever. That is as personal as it gets.

Just to make sure we got the point, God first brought that message embodied in Jesus to people the world was pretty sure weren't particularly important or, for that matter, loved:. There were lowest of the low shepherds, an unwed teenage mother, and astrologers practicing a whole different religion. All of this to show that God wasn't going to leave anyone behind. That God's message of love was for all. All those stories that we know and love are very emphatic about that point.

And that's still the way it is. God loves all of us, but especially wants those who don't feel loved or lovable, those who regularly feel like they're on the outside looking in, those who feel forgotten, and those who wonder what the point of life is. The point is, as John's gospel understands it, this Word

(the logos) is what stands at the heart of the universe.

So. Christmas really is very simple. Because after all the shopping and cleaning and cooking and preparing.... Or, for that matter (and we sometimes we forget this side of things), after all the trying to make ends meet, keeping a distraught family intact, struggling to get a job, or worrying about a loved one elsewhere.... After all the stuff that makes our lives so maddening, I think the short, simple, and peaceful word that we are of infinite value and worth to God is perhaps just the simple word we need to hear this Christmas and any Christmas. Whether in the midst of a pandemic or not.

If you really want to keep it simple, you could probably reduce the Christmas message even further, picking up the two words of the angels' song that capture the heart of the Christian message: "for you." Notice it's not just that Jesus is born, but the angels say, "Jesus is born for you." And it's not just "good news," in general, but it's "good news of great joy for you and all people." For while the Gospel is never a private word, it is nevertheless a very personal word, reminding each and every one of us that God believes we are worthy of honour and dignity and, above all else, love.

Happy Christmas!

Dougie

Redland Park People



Please pray for our friend Andrew Sims and all his family as he undergoes hospital treatment, and we hope for a good outcome.

We also pray for our (relatively) new organist, Claire Hobbs (Kitay) who will be undergoing an operation shortly and will be out of action in church. Fortunately Michael Kearley is willing to be supply organist for the time being.

government to be compassionate to them all, and to help bring peace to the world; we pray especially for Sudan, Afghanistan and Libya at this time. We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters and hope that leaders of all the countries will put COP26 pledges into action.

We also think of Alison Hooper, whose mother has died recently at St Monica Home, and her funeral is next month. Alison moved her over from Belfast three years ago so she could be more support.

Our thoughts and prayers go to several of our members all recovering from, undergoing or waiting for treatment: Viv Hayden, Jane Beazer, Peter and Anna Ambrose. together with everyone who uses our prayer box. Please pray for our other members and friends who are recovering from illness or operations; they are in our prayers and thoughts. Dear God, please uphold these friends and surround them in your loving care.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere, and ask the

The Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter started on 1 November and goes through to the end of March 2022. So far, the small hotel being used has been full with eight guests each day nominated by St Mungo's and currently including an Afghan refugee. It is being supported by many churches around Bristol, and is working very well. Redland Park is providing lunch every Wednesday, and several people have volunteered to provide sandwiches thank you to them. If you would like to do this in January, or make a cake or provide fruit or biscuits, please see Carol or Les Fry. We pray for all those being helped and hope that they find a new future for themselves, with our help. Donations are always welcome of new underwear, toiletries, socks, hats, scarves, tea bags, coffee,etc.

Prayer page:

Welcome Jesus, God-with-us in a lonely world.

Let your presence convince us that as years come and go, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love.

Welcome Jesus, stable child in an unstable world.

Let your human weakness fill us with a mazement as we discover the risk you took to be with us.

Welcome Jesus, fragile child in a violent world.

Let Herod's tantrums be exposed as futile and pointless

For God's weakness is stronger than human anger.

Welcome Jesus, gracious child in a merciless world.

Let your forgiveness give us God's clue to healing and securing permanent relationships.

Come with us Jesus into another year.

Pitch your tent and stay.

Amen

Please pray for:

Andrew Sims and family

Jane Beazer

John Waines

Claire Kitav

Alison Hooper

Mal and Janet Owen

The Carr family

All who will be alone at Christmas

Refugees and asylum seekers

The homeless

The newly elected Elders

All who volunteer to make people's lives better.

God, Light of the world, shine in the darkest places on earth and bring peace to all who suffer.

Amen



Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for December 2022

5th 10.30am Morning Worship. Rev Dougie Burnett including Communion.

12th 10.30am Junior chrch Presentation

19th 3.30pm Carol Service

25th 10.00 am Joint service at Tyndale Baptist Church, Whiteladies Road

26th 10.30am Joint Whiteladies Road Services, at All Saints Church, Pembroke Road

January 2022

2nd 10.30am Morning Worship. Rev Dougie Burnett

9th 10.30am Morning Worship. Allan Lafferty, Les Fry

7.00pm Evening Worship led by Members

12th 7.30pm Elders Meeting

16th 10.30am Morning Worship. Rev Dougie Burnett

11.45am Church Meeting

23rd 10.30am Morning Worship. Rev Dougie Burnett

7pm Evening Worship led by Members

30th 10.30am Morning Worship. Rev Dougie Burnett

FIRST THURSDAY

It was about twenty years ago that **Viv and David Hayden** realised there was a gap in the list of church activities and came up with the idea of a monthly afternoon meeting where people could gather for a chat over a cup of tea and perhaps play board games of something like that. Thus First Thursday was born. (A brilliant name, because no-one had to remember an exact date!)

It gradually evolved; the meeting and chat over a cup of tea became an occasion for a speaker as well. **Peter and Anna Ambrose** provided and oversaw the tea and biscuits. David and Viv organised the meetings for about seven years or so and then **Mal and Janet Owen** took over for a couple of years with the help of Carole Atter and me, **(Audrey Bryant)**, who continued when the Owens moved.

Over the years we have had a wide variety of speakers. A number have come from outside sources, particularly local charities and groups. We must have hosted (and contributed to) most of the better known ones, like St. . Peter's Hospice and St.Monica but have learnt about others such as 'Changing Tunes'

I have always maintained that within the Redland Park community we are so fortunate to have so many talented and interesting people and often we have welcomed our own members talking about jobs, past-times or holidays. We have heard about the problems of running a large GP practice (even before Covid), helping people to learn to walk again, being a magistrate and a Free Church Chaplain . We have shared holiday memories from Japan, Egypt, the Holy Land, Afghanistan (not a holiday!), travelled across Europe on a Senior Citizen's Rail card, rather than a Student's and medical volunteer work in Nepal and parts of Africa.

At Christmas we have usually provided our own miscellany of music poetry and prose, which reminds me of an interesting joint Desert Island Discs afternoon and one year we heard about Dutch celebrations. Summers have brought some local outings and also a garden party when Jane and Richard, Ernest and, more often Carole, have shared their gardens. We must have been doing some things right because I can't remember one being cancelled due to the weather!

Latterly members have been dropping as members move, die, or become less mobile and the pandemic was obviously the last straw. All good things come to an end and so regretfully, I think this marks the end of First Thursday meetings as we knew them , but the friendships have deepened and there are lots of happy memories.

COP26 - Not Nearly Enough Achieved

Outcomes from the Conference included:

- countries committing themselves to accelerating their decarbonisation plans and strengthening their emissions-reduction targets for 2030 by next year, rather than in 2025.
- recognition of the need to reduce global greenhouse-gas emissions by 45% by 2030.
- accelerating efforts on the phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.
- phasing down the use of coal (diluted from the original commitment to phase out coal altogether).
- agreement that more support was needed for developing countries to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- a commitment to reduce methane emissions (a green house gas 25 times more potent than CO2, although it doesn't stay in the atmosphere for as long).

Is this enough? Clearly not. Agreeing to accelarate planning is not the same as implementing action. Recognising the percentage by which global greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced by 2030 is not the same as actually working towards that reduction. UN scientists calculate that, put together, all the agreements made at Glasgow will still enable a catastrophic 2.5 degrees of global warming; anything above 1.5 degrees increases the likelihood of escalating and unstoppable global heating. It remains to be seen when countries gather again next year to present their revised emissions-reduction targets whether firm and radical commitments to immediate action will be forthcoming. In the meantime, another year in our already perilously short timescale will have been lost.

And this from Greenpeace.

If you take away one thing from the story of COP26, please let it be this: there is power in our collective voice. There is a beacon of hope in the brilliant words and leadership of the four MAPA youth activists that sailed on the Rainbow Warrior to the steps of COP26. There is strength in the hundreds of thousands of people who took to the streets to protest in the rain. There is a guiding light from Indigenous Peoples, who have reminded us that failure is not an option.

Youcan read more of their report here.

https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/what-happened-at-cop26/

Minutes of the Church Meeting

PRESENT

Revd. Dougie Burnett as Chairman, and 28 members.

Apologies for absence from Andrew Sims.

Minutes of the last meeting, 19th September 2021 were accepted as accurate, with all matters arising being addressed elsewhere in the meeting.

ELECTION OF ELDERS.

Gratitude was expressed to Lewis, Andy, Teame, Joan and Verna who have completed their term of Eldership.

The meeting unanimously confirmed six new elected Elders; Angus, Myra, Derek, Matt. Alison and Vimbai.

Great gratitude was expressed to Andrew Hayden for his tremendous commitment as Church Secretary over the past six years, navigating this church through anticipated challenges, accentuated by Covid and Scoping issues.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY:

Carol promoted four activities;

- 1. Tearfund Quiz on Friday 26th November.
- 2. Church lunchtime opening- details from Myra Jones.
- 3. Traidcraft Sunday sales, including lots

of Christmas specials.

4. Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelters- offers please for Wednesday lunch sandwiches.

FINANCE & PROPERTY

John commented on his recently forwarded report, highlighting;

- 1. The significant workload demanded by Covid based restrictions.
- 2. Our indebtedness to Sally, Terry, Viv, David and Andrew Sims.
- 3. The rationale behind upgrading 1 Redland Park and then renting it out as opposed to selling the premises.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie updated the meeting on:

- 1. Jong Sam Kim, the current interim Minister for the BKC.
- 2. January meeting between the SCM and the Synod Pastoral Committee.
- 3. Recent meetings with Dr John Bradbury and the development of a URC/ PCK liaison group, probably led by David Grosch-Miller.
- 4. Easter production of the Bristol Passion Play.
- 5. The Christmas Programme;

12/12. Junior Church Christmas. 10.30am

19/12. New Brunswick 11am, Redland Park Carol Service 3.30pm

25/12 Tyndale Baptist Church 10am

26/12 All Saints, Pembroke Road

24.11.2021

10.30am

Claire Hobbs is undergoing surgery so Michael Kearley will be covering over Christmas.

SCOPING

- 1. Exchange of correspondence with Dr John Bradbury- unsatisfactory.
- 2. Synod reassured Ministers that there will be no change in Stipend in 2022.
- 3. Commitment to redistribute Bristol resources, particularly 4.5 Ministers.
- 4. Planning process to be complete by lune 2022.
- 5. Transition Minister, Stephen Newell already scheduled to visit Redland Park Elders in January.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS.

Recent return to full Covid restrictions-Elders continue to monitor statistics.

News of Members was prayerfully shared.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Foodbank collection to be maintained through Supermarkets NOT church.

Next Meeting; Sunday 16th January 2022 11.45am, subject to Covid restrictions.



Life-giving Faith Defiant Hope Generous Love

Autumn 2021 Update Zimbabwe

Success in Mutare City

In Zimbabwe Christian Aid has been leading a consortium of partners to help communities to collect evidence on local problems and to push for more investments from local governments. This is especially focused on marginalised groups such as women and those living with disability, whose needs can often be overlooked.

In Mutare City Christian Aid partner Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) worked with local communities and local government to improve health, water and sanitation. Faris Davison, a community reporter, explained that 'there is virtually no water provided by the local authority and residents depend on unprotected shallow wells for water.'

This is not only a problem of water provision, but is also a danger to women and girls. 'At the water points, women and girls are abused and ... women suffer various forms of indignity."

WLSA set up local radio programmes highlighting the issues faced by women collecting water and then organised local meetings where the government heard from community members. The government committed to long-term action plans to provide mains water to the area.

Dr Antony Mutara, the City of Mutare Municipality's Health Director explained what other things are now changing, 'We have also been working on the provision



The new Mutare City ambulance provided after Christian Aid partners helped the community to lobby for better services.

of ambulance services because Mutare City had only one ambulance at the beginning of the year and now we have three."

Faris Davison is pleased with this progress, 'We really appreciate this

This initiative will liberate women.

initiative by the local authority and the partners for their effort to bringing clean and potable water to residents which will liberate women and reduce social inequalities'.

Thank you for your support through Commitment for Life which is helping women and those with disabilities to push for better services.

Act now for climate justice

With only a short time until COP26 Join with us in prayer and action starts in Glasgow time is running out to speak up and demand action on the climate crisis.

Churches and civil society groups are coming together from across the world to demand that leaders make strong commitments to climate justice which will help the poorest communities to weather the storm.

this Autumn to add your voice.

You can download a prayer boat activity pack, MP briefings and resources from our website. Find out more about how your church can speak out for climate justice:

caid.org.uk/climate

Prayer for Zimbabwe

Maud M Marengereke (Anglican Relief and Development in Zimbabwe - ARDeZ)

Dear Lord, we thank you for watching over us as we go through the Covid-19 era. As each day passes, we pray that you grant us wisdom to discover ways of overcoming the pandemic. Guide parents as they strive to look after their families in providing for food and online learning gadgets. Lord, we pray for all the youths in our country that they may desist from drug abuse and any forms of unprotected sexual engagements. Protect all women, and especially young girls, from gender-based violence, which has become rampant in our communities. Plant in every Zimbabwean citizen the spirit of love, peace, and tolerance. Guide all those in authority in this country to carry out their day-to-day tasks with humility, love, and diligence. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, Amen

www.bit.lv/URCFL Facebook @comm4life Commitment for Life, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT Tel 020 7916 8638

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World day of Prayer 2022



The World Day of Prayer service in 2022 will be held on Friday March 4th at 10.30 at our Church, Redland Park URC, and hopefully will be held in the Church building.

The service for 2022 is by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland on the theme of 'I know the plans I have for you.' The overarching theme of the service is Hope. The text is taken from Jeremiah to enable the service to reflect on the issues of poverty, domestic abuse, and disability.

We encourage as many of you as possible to join in this service which has been prepared by women from three of our own countries that make up the United Kingdom. We must reassure, Dougie that we know that Scotland is also part of the United Kingdom, but Scotland has its own World Day of Prayer organisation.

You can find out more about the work of the World Day of Prayer and this years' service by going to wwwdp.org.uk.



(artwork for 2022 service by Angie Fox who is married to an Anglican Priest)

Anne Neugebauer (Secretary to our local WDP committee)

VERENGA MUKOKO CHURCH – our overseas church charity 2018-2019

I was born and grew up in Verenga, and my parents lived there all their lives. When I went back in 2016 for my brother's memorial service, I found that the congregation was struggling to finish building their own church. The people of Verenga and Mukoko (north of Harare) had been using a classroom at the local school which had been registered by my grandfather and built by Reformed Church missionaries in the 1900s, during the colonial era. In 2000 the Zimbabwe government said all missionary schools were going to come under government control and churches would have to pay to use them. This became too expensive for the local people so my father had the idea of building a church in the village.

He managed to help get the foundation and base laid but sadly died in 2006. Work stopped as people couldn't carry on and weren't able to fundraise, so services were held under a tree; this worked well in good weather but not when it was too hot or raining. My mother also asked me to help build the church but she died in 2018, so I put this forward as our overseas church charity and the church was kind enough to agree to this in 2018.

The money raised by Redland Park has meant that the building is now able to be used for church services, but it has very little furniture so they are using borrowed chairs and table. I am hoping to send a container out to Zimbabwe, but if anyone has anything suitable they would be willing to donate to this church, I would be very glad of them – especially Bibles, cups, mugs, Christian pictures and so on. Thank you very much.

Truida Mutare





Keeping up with the vicar Pt 120 Angus Gregson

As we move into Advent, it's a new church year - year C in the lectionary cycle - which means Luke will be the highlighted gospel for the coming year. Luke's gospel is in some ways the most politically radical, emphasising that this is "good news for the poor". Luke highlights God's grace in bringing in those on the margins: the shepherds are the first to come to Jesus, the despised Samaritan (spoiler alert for July 10th) shows what a being a neighbour really means, and women are praised for their loyalty and faith (see the start of chapter 8 - better do it now as the Lectionary misses this bit out altogether). Through Advent we learn from Zechariah and Mary's encounters with angels just what sort of Messiah to expect.

In January (Happy Christmas and New Year, by the way) we see other key aspects of Luke's gospel. While Matthew wrote more for a Jewish audience and Mark seems desperate just to get the story out as fast as possible, Luke goes for the wider group, "the Gentiles" and with his sequel, the Acts of the Apostles, takes the story on eventually to Rome. He's also keen to show how the Holy Spirit is active - sixteen mentions in our readings up till the start of February. Let's pray that we can be as open to the Spirit as the characters we read about.

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.

Dec 5th Advent 2	OT Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm (or alt) Luke 1:68-79	Gospel Luke 3:1-6	NT Philippians 1:3-11
12th Advent 3	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Luke 3:7-18	Philippians 4:4-7
19th Advent 4	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Luke 1:39-55	Hebrews 10:5-10
26th Ian	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	148	Luke 2:41-52	G Colossians 3:12-17
2rd	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Matthew 2:1-12	Ephesians 3:1-12
9th	Isaiah 43:1-7	29	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Acts 8:14-17
16th	Isaiah 62:1-5	36:5-10	John 2:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
23rd	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	19	Luke 4:14-21	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
30th	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	Luke 4:21-30	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Feb				
6th	Isaiah 6:1-13	138	Luke 5:1-11	1 Corinthians 15:1-11

CARING IN BRISTOL and CARING AT CHRISTMAS

Redland Park URC has supported this charity for several years, and we hope to support again in the future. If anyone would like to support as an individual, here are some details:

We're Caring in Bristol - your local homelessness charity. Based in St Paul's for over 30 years we work in imaginative and creative ways with people experiencing and at risk of homelessness. By bringing people together from Patchway to Hengrove we are able to make an immediate impact on those without a home each Winter and beyond.

This Christmas there will be hundreds of people experiencing homelessness who need your support right here in Bristol. But it's not about numbers, each person we care for is an individual.

Together we can provide the practical support to solve homelessness in Bristol. But we need your help!

Caring in Bristol's winter services provide life-saving support at a time that's not only bitterly cold but emotionally draining and lonely. We provide life-changing services 365 days a year too. Donating to Caring in Bristol or fundraising on our behalf will help us put the 'caring' in Bristol. We can only do this together.

You can donate online at caringinbristol.co.uk/donate

Lent Conversations: 2022

Our theme for 2022 is 'What is our God?'. It is intentionally broad, and is inspired by A W Tozer '....no people has ever risen above its religion, and our spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God'

By Zoom Please Join at 472 478 8260 Passcode 2jRp7R

There is no need to pre register Enquiries to Lent Conv@Gmail.com



Date	Speaker	Theme
16 March 7.30-8.30 pm	Very Reverend Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol Cathedral	The Bible and Ethics
22 March 7.30-8.30 pm	Dr Nick Spencer, Senior Fellow, Theos and Broadcaster	God and Sci- ence
31 March 7.30-8.30 pm	Harry Benson The Marriage Foundation	Commitment and Marriage
5 April 7.30-8.30 pm	Steph Lake Operation Noah (and formerly NUS Ambassador on Climate Change)	Christianity and Climate

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Deadline for contributions for the February Recorder is 30th January.

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg email: sarahtrigg683@gmail.com tel: 07816 557 124

or by post to The Recorder at the Church address at the bottom of this page

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