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# The Recorder

Dec '19/Jan '20

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



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

# New Brunswick | Dec/Jan Diary

## Preachers for December 11am services

8th Angus Gregson  
(will include Communion)  
15th Delwyn Tilke  
22nd Angus Gregson (Family Carol Service)  
25th CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE  
at 10am – Led by Delyn Tilke  
29th Brenda Drake

## Preachers for Jan 11am services

5th Angus Gregson  
12th Rev D, Burnett  
(will include Communion)  
19th Rev. Stephen Newell  
26th Barb and Rick Kirby  
  
Preachers for FEB 11am services  
2nd Rev Ruth Browning  
9th Delyn Tilke

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Thursday 12th December** 7.30 Church Meeting.

**Saturday 21st December** 11am. Joint churches Carol Singing outside the SCART shop.

**Sunday 22nd December** 6pm Candlelight Service at Kingsholm

**Sunday 22nd December** 6.30pm Nativity Service at Pentecostal Church Christmas Day. Please note that the Christmas Morning Service at New Brunswick will Commence at 10am All Welcome.

**Tuesday 7th January** 7.30pm Monthly Joint Churches Prayer Meeting at St Stephens.

**Tuesday 4th February** 7.30pm Monthly Joint Churches Prayer Meeting at Kingsholm

We uphold to God those who are known to us who need prayer at this time. Thinking of Liz's son who has been in hospital with heart problems. We think of Liz, too, as she supports the family at this time. Jen who is still in our thoughts and prayers as she continues to settle into her placement. She sends her love to everyone and is missing us all.

We send best wishes to Jo, Lou and the boys as they move into their new home. Praying that they will soon settle and God's blessing will be there with them. Dave is still in our thoughts and prayers and we pray that he will soon have positive news about a new address.

We were sorry to hear that Rev Pat Cemlyn Jones has damaged her pelvis and has had a spell in 'Westbury Fields' We pray that God will lay His healing hands on her and relieve her pain. May she be assured of our thoughts and prayers.

Gill is still suffering from a very painful back and we uphold her to God in prayer asking for ease of the pain so that she can still minister to the folk she visits in her job.

As we look forward to the Birth of our Lord Jesus we are mindful that there are many for whom this time of year is a sad and lonely time. We remember those known to us who have lost loved ones this past year. For them there will be an empty chair at the Christmas

Dinner table where last year their loved one sat. They may put on a 'brave face' but inside their hearts are empty and breaking. May God give them His comfort at this very sad time.

There are those who will spend Christmas Day alone, or in a Nursing Home without visitors or loved ones to care for them. May we not be too busy with our own 'celebrations' that we forget these folk. Just a five minute visit can mean so much.

We give God praise that many folk will be serving others at this Christmas time. Bringing warmth, a hot meal and comfort. Thinking especially of those who work among the homeless in our City.

There may be others that you can think of who especially need the Love of the Lord Jesus at this time of year. Uphold them to God in your personal prayer time.

This is a good opportunity for us to thank all the folk at Redland Park for their support, love, advice and help during the past year. Whether that has been by coming to share worship with us, or in more practical ways with paperwork, accounts etc. All your help is much appreciated. Thank you.

# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

By any chance was anyone else just a little bit grumpy when the general election was called for December 12th? I certainly was. It was the thought of trying to integrate Christmas with the world of politics. As if Christmas is not enough in itself. It was then that one of my minister friends pointed out that it was rather like the census that Luke records in his birth narrative in the second chapter of his gospel, with everyone having to go to their own towns to be registered. It was a well-made point, and it made me reflect.

With Luke's gospel there is that perpetual meeting of the Kingdom of God with the empires of this world. When that happens profound change usually follows, and that doesn't happen with any great ease. If Luke 2 is that particular story of the birth of Jesus, and the angels declaring "peace on earth", then Luke 3 demonstrates that such peace is not always about tranquillity. Luke 3 is about John the Baptist going up against "the empire" in the form of Herod.

The end point of that encounter is that John is thrown in prison. But within a verse of that happening Luke then records the baptism of Jesus with the Holy Spirit. It is this that will empower Jesus' ministry all the way to the cross and beyond.

It is good to be reminded that there is always that other reality of God that is at work alongside us and within us while we also have to deal with the all too human world that can seem to prevail all too often.

At the present moment we are still working through the Holy Habit of prayer.

Elsewhere in this edition of the Recorder Les Fry describes some of what we learnt and discerned while having our church family day on prayer at Barton Camp on November 16th. Prayer is a very particular focus by which we sense for the presence and guidance of God in our lives. It was joyful to hear the responses from young and old as to how they sensed for God.

We did everything from those "normal" forms of prayer that we can all identify with, through to tying knots, making clay vessels or cross-stitch. These days they might call such activities as blending in with "mindfulness". If we are older we might call it aspects of spirituality by which we centre ourselves on God. That still centre is what we give expression to at Christmas, what with candles and the gentleness of Christmas carols. I suppose that this Christmas in particular that we might just use that calm centre to inform how we see the world of politics around us. No one quite knows what might happen next, but it needs to involve God. Luke's gospel seems to think that that can change the world!

Happy Christmas.

*Dougie*



We pray for **Laura Jones** on the death of her husband, **Ken**, in mid-November. He has been in poor health for a long time but we pray he is now at peace. We send God's blessings to Laura and her family, and hold her in our prayers.

We also heard recently about the sudden death of **Derek Skelcher**, who came to Redland Park when Trinity URC moved to Henleaze. Derek and Margaret moved to Nailsea URC in the summer when Derek was no longer able to drive, but he suffered a fall and died late November. We pray for Margaret, who's not in the best of health herself, and is being looked after by Social Services.

Some of you may remember **Anne Gaut** who transferred to Redland Park about 18 months ago but ill-health meant that she did not attend very often. She has also died and we send God's blessings to her family.

Please continue to pray for **Truida Mutare**, who is currently in Zimbabwe visiting her family there. The situation in the country is dreadful and she was very concerned before going. She shipped

her car out full of food, only to receive it emptied of food and petrol. We look forward to welcoming her back in December.

We recently learned that **Maxine Davies** is now in Westbury Care Home and is very unwell. We pray for her and send God's blessings to her.

Some better news is that **Junior Edwards** is now working as an Intern at Bristol Robotics Laboratory based at UWE, having graduated in Computer Science from Oxford Brookes in June. We send our very best wishes and success to him.

We think of all those who cannot get to church any longer, or cannot come as often as they would like. We pray for those in poor health, for those awaiting operations and those under stress. We wish them all God's blessings.

## Prayer page:

### Prayer for the month.

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 amazement  
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:

Laura Jones and her family.

Maxine Davies

Tim Pittock

Sean

Enid

All who will spend Christmas alone.

The homeless.

The Salvation Army

Caring in Bristol and the Julian Trust

The food banks

The General Election candidates.

**God, the source of light and truth, be with us all this Christmas time. Amen.**



## Food Bank items for Christmas

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Tinned Chicken or Ham | Boxes of Biscuits   |
| Stuffing              | Boxes of Chocolates |
| Gravy Granules        | Crisps and Crackers |
| Christmas Pudding,    | Custard             |
| Christmas Cake        | Christmas Crackers  |

## Brexit – A Prayer For Order From Chaos

The complexity and toxicity of debates around Brexit have left many people feeling paralysed and powerless. Many of us have also felt an uneasiness that comes from a sense of chaos, but we follow a God who since the very dawn of time has been bringing order from chaos. It's his thing, and if you think we live in chaotic times, you should have been around during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, but how does order emerge from chaos? Well, how does it happen in your home, your workplace?

Order returns through restored relationships. The cross sits at the centre of history because it makes possible the reconciliation between us and God, and us and the rest of creation, and between us and those who may not feel like us any more. You may be sitting just yards from someone who fundamentally disagrees with you about Brexit and this moment in the UK there is a real danger of a cultural divide becoming a cultural chasm, so could you can make the first move in reconciliation. Could you extend a hand beyond your comfort zone to engage with people who are different from you? It certainly won't happen through social media; it will take offline relationships.

You see we cry out for unity, but unity is very easy to talk about and very hard to do, and that's because it needs humility. Christians have a wonderful gift to bring to the public square at this time. Of course, we don't stop saying what we believe to be true, but we also know a way to that humility. We know how we might just start believing that we don't see the whole picture. It's from being in the presence of one who does. It's from being on our knees in prayer and at the cross, and realising that we only see in part and we might just be able to join hands with those from the other side who have discovered that they don't have all the answers either. In truth we know very little, but we do know someone who knows it all, so being on our knees won't just change the Brexit situation, it will change us. That might give us a chance to be peacemakers and bridge-builders. To be the glue that prevents the country tearing itself apart. So let us pray.

## Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for December 2019

|           |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Wed 4th   | 7.30pm  | Elders Meeting  |
| Thurs 5th | 2.30pm  | First Thursday  |
| Sun 8th   | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett                |
|           |         | Gift Service for Food Bank                                |
|           | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room                                 |
|           | 7.00pm  | Evening Worship led by members                            |
| Sat 14th  | 1.00pm  | CLIC Sargent Christmas Fair                               |
| Sun 15th  | 3.30pm  | <b>Christmas Carol Service</b> led by Rev. Dougie Burnett |
|           | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room                                 |
| Sun 22nd  | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett                |
|           |         | Junior Church Nativity Story                              |
|           | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room                                 |
|           | 7.00pm  | Evening Worship led by members                            |
| Tues 24th | 4.00pm  | Crib Service  |
| Wed 25th  | 10.00am | Christmas Day Worship at Tyndale Baptist Church           |
| Sun 29th  | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett                |

January 2020

|          |         |   |
|----------|---------|---|
| Sun 5th  | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Redland Park members |
|          | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room                   |
| Wed 8th  | 7.30pm  | Elders Meeting                              |
| Sun 12th | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Rev. Mike Peat       |
|          | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room                   |
|          | 7.00pm  | Evening Worship led by members              |
| Sun 19th | 10.30am | Morning Worship with communion              |
|          |         | Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett                  |
|          | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room                   |
| Sun 26th | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett  |
|          | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room                   |
|          | 7.00pm  | Evening Worship led by members              |

February 2020

|         |         |                                |
|---------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Sun 2nd | 10.30am | Morning Worship with communion |
|         |         | Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett     |
|         | 10.30am | Korean Worship Upper Room      |



# Barton Camp Report

Dougie opened our worship at Barton Camp with words from Psalm 121;

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."*

As members of Redland Park and of the Bristol Korean Church worshipped amidst the autumn beauty of the Mendips, focussed deliberately on the Holy Habit of "Prayer", this felt like the perfect Psalm. Many people find the natural world to be a consistent prompt for celebrating our Creator God and drawing near to Him, to talk and to listen. The calm remoteness of our venue and that sense that God was with us in our caring, loving, accepting relationships added a sense of both peace and of togetherness that enhanced our collective and individual prayers. Helena's Godly Play introduction to the Lord's Prayer confirmed our Christian roots and offered us that structure for reflection and individual responses which were wonderfully shared in small group time addressing key questions;

When is it hard to pray?

Are prayers always answered?

What should prayers be about?

How does it feel when you talk to God?

Was it easier to pray when you were younger?

What do you find most helpful to pray?

The core text for Walking the Way, Acts 2 vv 43-47, emphasises how the Early Church shared their lives and possessions with one another, and so our day at Barton was a terrific opportunity for us to practise praying together, responding to each other's needs and supporting each other in ways of praying. Some of our reflections on leaves continue to hang from the prayer tree at church.

Eating together is a holy habit that we do consistently practise but the buzz in the Barton dining room spoke of sharing much more than food, of getting to know each other in deeper ways than Sunday worship ever allows. The warmth and informality spoke of compassion and fun, of openness and respect, of love and joy.

The range of afternoon activities is well reflected in these photographs and we are much indebted to the leaders who prepared prayerfully to ensure that everybody's needs were met, so thank you, Jane, Nick, Les B, Helena, Matt and Lucy!

The Creative Writing and Body Language activities were directly prayer based while the hiking, sewing, knot tying, clay and games playing provided an atmosphere which ensured that concentration, creativity, fresh air and success prompted the deepening of relationships as we spoke together and shared our experiences of God.

So the 40 of us came back together, physically and emotionally refreshed, more united as a church and better equipped to live out our Holy Habits in the real world of our homes and (away from the Barton Camp bubble!)(Although a hard core dozen still found the energy for a last swim!)

It was a lovely church family day, shared with people in their eighties and two babies not yet one and lots in between,, a day of harmony shared at the camp that was begun by the Minister of Redland Park, Rev Urijah Thomas, 137 years ago. We celebrate his vision and the on-going outreach of Bristol Children's Help Society and are inspired to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through our lives and our church, through our holy habits. Thank you for a memorable day! Les Fry



## Zimbabwe

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We hear in the news that Zimbabwe is continuing to have huge problems with it's economy and the worst drought for forty years.

The update from Commitment for Life reports that the BRAC project supported by Christian Aid is helping people in the Mudzi and Mutoko regions. The project has introduced drought-resistant crops as well as helping households come up with solutions to increase access to water all year round. In Danje village in Mutoko, they have been trying to build a dam for almost ten years but without success. Now with support from Bract they have the resources and training they need to build the dam. This will store water from the late rains this season that can be used for the families and their livestock when drought comes. Also with training, the community are realising the importance of protecting the environment and planting trees. The environment is now beginning to flourish.

Also in other parts of Zimbabwe where Cyclone Idai hit, Christian Aid has helped over 2000 families with food, cooking utensils, blankets, sanitary equipment and water treatment chemicals. The emergency response is now over and has moved into the recovery phase with the building of shelters, restoring livelihoods and reinstating toilets and water sources.

Myra Jones

## Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

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A resolution was taken by several Synods to General Assembly in 2016 about the question of Support for Palestine in the light of the illegal occupation by Israel of the West Bank.

It was decided that the URC needed to know more about the situation and therefore an Educational Trip was organised to Israel and the OPT.

A commitment was made by the group who went, to report back to all the Synods. The Palestinians they met were desperate and felt that the International community has turned a deaf ear to their cry. They asked for solidarity and support for their cause.

For many years, Commitment for Life has supported Christian Aid projects in the West Bank and Gaza and at one time Redland Park supported these projects with it's Cfl donations.

Perhaps we could invite one of these URC people, who went on the trip, to come and speak to us at one of our Services.

Myra Jones



In 2016, the URC General Assembly resolved to increase our collective awareness of the situation in Israel and Palestine, focusing on: dialogue and action; peace building; justice and security for all. This exhibition is just one response to this call. It represents a strong and touching expression of hope for justice and peace by 12 Palestinians and Israelis who all are victims of the occupation.

We are delighted that Redland Park will be hosting the '12 Faces of Hope' exhibition for the whole of January 2020, and we hope as many people as possible, from visitors on open Wednesdays, children, staff and parents from St John's School, and members and friends of the church will enjoy and understand more of the situation in Israel and Palestine.

We hope to open the church for two hours each lunchtime and two hours early evenings; if you are able to help steward the exhibition please see Carol Fry.



## Creative Prayer writing workshop

Before beginning to write we looked at the purposes of writing prayers at all, as normally prayer is thought of as a personal connection with God, which happens on our own and in silence. We tend to write prayers down if we are doing prayers of intercession, for example, during a service. We may read prayers in the prayer handbook, which other people have written. Like any art form, whether it be painting, poetry, music or something else, the viewer, listener, reader, will have a response to what they see or hear. So it is with creative prayer – we have a personal response to somebody else's communication with God.

We then did a meditation, during which we got in touch with the feelings in our body, mind and psyche. From there we wrote words and phrases which had come to the surface during our meditation time. This, along with having a look at some prayers from the handbook, some Bible passages and hymns, inspired us to write some prayers of our own.

Here are some of them:

**P** for the peace of this place. The trees, the hills the sun. We give thanks for peace.

**R** for resistance. We can so easily resist new ideas or changing old habits. We give thanks that you challenge our resistance.

**A** Action. Prayers need to lead to action if they are to be meaningful. Thank you for showing us how we can be part of the answer to prayer through our actions.

**Y** Yes. Yes, we will move forward in our prayer life. Yes we will make time and space to connect with you in our busy lives. We give thanks that you encourage and enable us to say YES!

**E** Every. We would like to think that you hear and respond to every prayer. Often it feels like you don't hear us or respond to what we ask. We give thanks that you do respond to every prayer, but in your way; in the right way.

**R** Rejoice. We rejoice in our time together, learning more about prayer and about how to connect with you in new ways. We thank you for the opportunity to rejoice.

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A reflection written at the Workshop, based upon Romans chapter 8. Jane Rogers

If God is for us, who is against us?

Our prayers of intercession look like a shopping list of human wants.

There is nothing we cannot provide for or solve by ourselves.

But we need the love of God to intervene and give us wisdom and strength to do so.

Neither death nor life, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is what we should keep in our hearts and with this knowledge we will always feel secure and able to accept the world's challenges.

## First Thursday: The Chocolate Dinosaurs

We were pleased to welcome more people than usual to our November meeting when we enjoyed a most interesting and informative presentation about Chocolate from two ex-employees of Cadbury's - Mike and Harry, who between them had nearly seventy years' experience in the industry.

They took us right back in history to the first known uses of the fruits of the cacao tree in the equatorial regions of America. There the Aztecs, in 450 BC were making a rather bitter drink from the seeds within the cacao pods (and some pods and seeds were among the things Mike and Harry brought for us to see). The drink was expensive and considered and therefore given to some ladies of the harems! It was discovered the addition of honey made it sweeter. In the 16th century the fruits came to the notice of Spanish traders and sometimes the beans were used as currency. Then the trees were cultivated in parts of West Africa and even now much of our cocoa is imported from Ghana.

The real development of chocolate came with the invention of a machine for pressing the beans and making a fine powder and then adding back the butter which had been forced out. The addition of milk made the product much easier to deal with. At this time a family called Fry were pioneering the development and they produced the first Chocolate bar in 1847. A Swiss, called Peter Nestle first produced milk chocolate - yes, by adding more milk to the mix! Do you remember Fry's chocolate cream? 1936 - and Fry's sandwich - with layers of dark and light chocolate? and various other fruity flavours used as fillings. There were lots of photographs of wrappers and products from those days.

The Fry family was originally based in Birmingham, but at the very beginning of 20th century they combined with another chocolate making family firm, Cadbury and moved to Bristol. There they developed a large site off Union and All Saints Streets, employing some thousands of people. In fact all there is to remind us of those days is a small plaque set in the door frame of the Subway premises in Union Street mentioning the name Fry.... (I have made a mental note to look for it next time I am in that area)

In 1918 the production was moved out of Bristol where the firm bought a new site called Somerdale, near Keynsham and further development took place there with over 5 thousand employees, Cadbury bought out Fry and then, as most of us remember, it was sold to Kraft who went back on their undertaking to continue to produce chocolate there. At least there is some connection remaining, as St. Monica, who bought the site, have now built their latest Retirement Village and have called it The Chocolate Quarter

The whole afternoon was a treat, but there were chocolate ones too, with tasty samples..... including Tiffin, Cadbury's milk chocolate and their latest addition to the range, dark milk chocolate .....and a whole range of nostalgic memories! Audrey

# What's On?

## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

A sparkling evening of uplifting choral music and witty, entertaining readings with the Bristol Bach Choir and the Liberty Brass Ensemble at St George's, Bristol on Saturday 14th December, 7.30pm

St. George's will overflow with the Spirit of Christmas in this heart-warming and enthralling concert: a joyous celebration of Christmas with fabulous music old and new, readings to make you smile and reflect, all guaranteed to fill you with festive cheer. Join us, and be inspired by the charm, wonder and magic of Christmas. And as we leave musically well fed, we'll be collecting for Caring at Christmas so others in the city can be well fed too.

Tickets £22, £16 and £12; under 18s, £5  
only now available from St Georges box office.

Tel: 0845 40 24 001 [www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk)



Hurry, this service is available on Sunday 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd December only!!

## Taizé worship Sunday 8th December 2019 7pm

A chance to be still and reflect as Advent runs ahead.

Taizé-style worship usually involves singing simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture, and repeated a number of times. The repetition is designed to help meditation and prayer as you maybe focus in a different part of the phrase each time.

There may be some bible verses or thoughts to reflect on too. If you've never experienced this style or worship, why not take time to experience it?

In good URC tradition the worship won't last longer than an hour.



## Redland Park Website

As one of the administrators of the website, I was asked some time ago to put each week's readings on the website so that people, whether they attended that week's service or not, could check back and study the readings at their leisure. I am happy to continue this so please let me know, otherwise we can use the space for something else. Carol Fry

## Traidcraft

You may have noticed that Christmas is coming, and the Traidcraft stall has a few useful items, some on special offer (eg packs of cards with £1 off), wrapping paper, raffia ribbon, trinket boxes and pens, plus Christmas biscuits, chocolates, Advent calendars, and ingredients for Christmas cakes and puddings, as well as all the usual items such as teas, coffees, chocolate bars, tissues, soaps and cleaning items.



# Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 17/11/19

Minutes of the Church Meeting held on Sunday 17th November 2019

## PRESENT

The Minister and 28 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 2 members.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

## ELECTION OF ELDERS

Dougie thanked the five Elders who were standing down at the meeting: Jane Beazer, Ronan Cachard-Faye, Myra Jones, Malcolm Johnson and Anne Neugebauer. Only three people had agreed to stand for election, and they were welcomed to the Elders Board by Andrew Hayden: Les Brentley, Carol Fry and Truida Mutare. As a result, there were four vacancies on the Elders Board.

## MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting that were not already covered on the present agenda.

## CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Carol Fry read a letter of thanks that she had received from the Julian Trust. She also explained that the last three fund-raising events had raised funds for Christian Aid; future events will raise money for our chosen charities, Toilet Twinning and Caring in Bristol.

Throughout January we would be hosting the "12 Faces of Hope" exhibition, and the Giving Tree would again be placed at the gym on

Whiteladies Rd. The Christmas Gift Service on Sunday 8th December would collect gifts for the Food Bank.

Finally, a group had been commissioned to look after the church's website and social media presence.

## FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer explained that, as at the end of October, expenditure had exceeded income by around £20,000, mostly due to the refurbishment of the organ. Our M&M assessment for 2020 would be approx. £800 per month less than 2019. He also thanked Andrew Sims for his efforts in securing Gift Aid reimbursements of around £11,000 for this year. Next year would see our 5-year property review.

Derek Jones provided an update on the replacement of the church's sound system. Having engaged a company to provide an independent review of our needs, he had become convinced that the company would be best placed to supply and install the replacement system within our expected budget. However, it was very unlikely that the new system would be installed before Christmas, so he was expecting to provide a further update at January's Church Meeting.

## MINISTERIAL MATTERS

At a meeting in October, the Moderator had explained that, by 2022, the Synod would need to reduce the number of full-time ministerial posts to 21, covering 110 churches, meaning there would be approx. one minister for every

five churches.

Dougie had met with Rev. Michael Jagessar, Global and Intercultural Ministries, to discuss the funding of the Bristol Korean Church after the SCM funding stops in 2023. A video conference with the Seoul Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Korea was being planned to take discussions forward.

The Holiday Club had been well received by its 26 participants and time would be devoted to considering its future. Rev. Helena McKinnon and Rev. Rachel Haig had been in contact with St. John's School to explore the possibility of staging a concert some time in the future.

Helena explained that the young people's music group were preparing for the Junior Church Christmas presentation on Sunday 22nd December, under the tutelage of Megan Brand.

## WALKING THE WAY

The church's "Walking the Way" prayer day had been held the previous day at Barton Camp with approx. 40 people attending, including a good number of children. Andrew Hayden thanked Dougie, Helena and Les Fry for preparing a vibrant and stimulating day.

## SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Verna Milligan had kindly offered to run the Christmas Postal Service on Sundays 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December, and Myra Jones would set up

a board on which could be posted cards for the whole church.

On Sunday 1st December, members were invited to bring a packed lunch to be eaten after the service as part of the Holy Habit of "Eating Together".

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of member was shared.

## A.O.B.

Following the particularly disappointing attendance at the Remembrance Sunday service, Sally King proposed advertising our Christmas services to some of the groups who hire our premises during the week. She suggested that members hand out the flyers that were being prepared at the Scouts' Christmas tree sale, CLIC Sargent's Christmas Fair and St. John's School's assembly.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

**Next meeting will be held on Sunday 19th January at 11.45am**

## Christmas Edition

Welcome to the centenary episode of KuwtV: a hundred editions of the Recorder with wisdom, insight and challenge. And then this bit at the end.

Here are the Lectionary readings for December, January and the first Sunday in February. It maybe seems appropriate that we start Advent with the disciples asking Jesus "When will this happen - your coming?" (Mt 24:3) and Jesus replying (at length) "the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him" (Mt 24:44). Seems it was just the same at his first coming. The only people looking for his arrival (even if it wasn't what they were expecting) were the wise men. Shall we be equally wise but equally open to surprises, as we expect God's Son into our world, our day to day life? Time to read again number 178 in Rejoice & Sing. (New Brunswick - we'll sing it on Dec 8th.)

Alongside the Advent and Christmas narrative, and going on into the new year are a series of readings from Isaiah, some of which will be familiar from traditional Nine Lessons and Carol Services, but all of which point to the coming King and hint at how that kingship may well be different from what people were expecting. Maybe you could find half an hour just to read through all the Isaiah passages in one go, and see what picture they are forming.

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  | Old Testament  | Psalms        | Gospel           | New Testament         |
|------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st  | Isaiah 2:1-5   | 122           | Matthew 24:36-44 | Romans 13:11-14       |
| 8th  | Isaiah 11:1-10 | 72:1-7, 18-19 | Matthew 3:1-12   | Romans 15:4-13        |
| 15th | Isaiah 35:1-10 | 146:5-10      | Matthew 11:2-11  | James 5:7-10          |
| 22nd | Isaiah 7:10-16 | 80:1-7, 17-19 | Matthew 1:18-25  | Romans 1:1-7          |
| 29th | Isaiah 63:7-9  | 148           | Matthew 2:12-23  | Hebrews 2:10-18       |
| Jan  |                |               |                  |                       |
| 5th  | Isaiah 60:1-6  | 72:1-7, 10-14 | Matthew 2:1-12   | Ephesians 3:1-12      |
| 12th | Isaiah 42:1-9  | 29            | Matthew 3:13-17  | Acts 10:34-43         |
| 19th | Isaiah 49:1-7  | 40:1-11       | John 1:29-42     | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9   |
| 26th | Isaiah 9:1-4   | 27:1, 4-9     | Matthew 4:12-23  | 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 |
| Feb  |                |               |                  |                       |
| 2nd  | Micah 6:1-8    | 15            | Matthew 5:1-12   | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 |

# The Organ

As you are aware, the organ has just undergone a complete cleaning & partial refurbishment. Originally built in 1895 for Hampstead Congregation Church, it was installed & enlarged in 1956 in Redland Park Church. It received some attention in 1970 but the first major refurbishment was carried out in 1990. Approximately 75% of the original organ remains as built by Henry (Father) Father Willis, & is still in excellent condition after some 124 years.

The recent work involved removing some 2500 pipes, ranging in length from 32feet to less than 1 inch. They were then inspected for any damage, cleaned & the speech reset. Whilst the pipes were removed the soundboards on which the pipes sit were inspected & the dust of almost 30 years removed. At the same time the many wind trunks & bellows were checked for leaks, 2 of the bellows were removed completely & re-leathered, & the rest patched where necessary. The main wind reservoir in the basement was overhauled & several wind leaks repaired.

No changes were made to the tonal side of the organ save for one stop, - a Horn, which in reality was not a horn, the pipes having been revoiced as a trumpet in 1970. As the organ already had a similar stop in the same department, the horn has now been revoiced as a brighter trompette. However a benefit of cleaning the many pipes is that the organ sounds brighter & similar to the sound it made when originally built.

I am often asked why the organ has 4 keyboards; the simplest answer is variety. Each keyboard of 61 notes, plus a pedalboard of 30 notes has its own set of pipes & character, & they are grouped together in what are called stops,- there are approximately 58 on the Redland Park instrument. As a pipe can only produce one note, 61 are needed to make a stop,- one for each note. Each stop has a different timbre & often a different pitch. A pipe of 8ft. length is needed to produce a note corresponding to bottom C on the keyboard. Producing a note one octave higher requires a pipe 4ft. long, 2 octaves 2ft. long etc., meaning that middle C at unison (piano) pitch needs a pipe that is 2ft. in length, (Pythagorean intervals!) Some stops are at 8ft. (unison) pitch, some at 4ft', 2ft, even 1ft plus various 'non-unison' stops e.g. 2 2/3ft., which sounds 12 notes above unison pitch. Lower pitches are also used, mainly on the pedal department sounding at 1, (16ft) & 2, (32ft) octaves below unison. There are two 32ft pitched stops on our organ. Anything much lower than this would be outside the range of the human ear. It is this ability of the organ to mix & match different timbres & pitches which gives it an enormous range of sounds & volume levels. Although the keyboards only have 61 notes each, the range extends to approximately 11 octaves, earning it the title of 'The King of Instruments' !

I am always happy to demonstrate our organ so please feel free to catch me at the end of a Service.

Mike Kearley

Deadline for contributions for the  
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