

ESTD 1901

# The Recorder

December '22 - January '23

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



# New Brunswick Update

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## Preachers for 11 am Services

December

5th Barb Kirby

11th Rev Stephen Newell will include communion

18th Angus Gregson will lead our GIFT SERVICE

25th CHRISTMAS DAY Brenda Drake. (Service will commence at 10am)

15th Sue Cossey

22nd Rev. Douglas Burnett

29th Angus Gregson

February

5th Sue Thorne

12th Angus Gregson ( Service will include communion)

January

1st NO SERVICE

8th Angus Gregson (will include communion)

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 6th Joint Southmead Churches Prayer Meeting. Our hosts this month will be the Pentecostal Holiness Church. We will meet at 7.30pm.

December 17th Carol Singing at Arnside a 10.30am

Also on 17th at the Greenway Centre there will be another Christmas Craft and Pre-Loved items Fayre from 12-3pm.

December 18th at Redland Park there will be the annual Candlelight Carol Service. Time to be confirmed.

2023

January 3rd Monthly Joint Churches Prayer meeting at St Stephens commencing at 7.30pm

January 19th Church Meeting at 7.30pm All welcome.

January 27th Monthly Southmead Quiz. 7pm. Entrance £3 which includes nibbles and tea and coffee. There is also a small raffle. All proceeds go to the Southmead Festival.

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## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

It is good to hear that Liz has now had her surgery after it had been postponed on a previous occasion. Her recovery is going well.

We are sorry to learn that Elizabeth has had another visit to hospital. Hopefully by the time you read this she will be back at home.

It has been good to see Elaine back worshipping with us after not feeling able to share because of ill health.

We think of Gill and family as we approach the first anniversary of John's passing. May they and all those who mourn at this time know God's comforting arms around them. And may they be assured of our continued love and support.

Julie and family continue to be in our thoughts and prayers as they cope with difficult health situations. Again we ask God to minister to them at this time.

Our prayers are with all these folk mentioned. But God knows each of us and our needs so we ask Him to minister to those who call upon His name whatever their need.

Congratulations to Fidel who has been awarded the 'Shining Light Award' for most promising under 16 year old. By his Drama group. Following a recent Pantomime performance.

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## BIRTHDAYS

We send HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to David H on 9th January. Frank 22nd January and Jenny on 23rd January. At the beginning of February Lisa celebrates her birthday on the 3rd. Sharing it with Becky on the same day. May all these folk have happy days and may they know God's Blessings as they celebrate their SPECIAL days.

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At this time of year it is a time when we reflect on the months that have passed. The good times and the bad. It's a time when we think of all those who have helped us as a church during the last year. We thank anyone who has supported, encouraged, led worship for us, prayed for us as a fellowship or helped us in any way. Your friendship has been a Blessing.

Finally, all at New Brunswick sending Greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all who read the Recorder. We wish you all God's Richest Blessings at this special time of year and in the year to come.

# Vestry Vibes

by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

For the first time since 2019 this Christmas we shall be able to fully celebrate Christmas as we did before the pandemic became a central feature of our lives. Many things have resumed, even the majority of activities, but it is also true to say that things have changed in a way that we might never have previously imagined. As we reflect on the past year we also think about the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the cost of living crisis. We are all nervously watching our energy bills and wondering when we might see normal prices again. Redland Park has always sought to the world around us in its ministry and mission. As we enter into the winter months we will also be responding to the cost of living crisis by offering what is variously being called a warm space or a welcoming space. The church will be open at various times, offering warm spaces in various of our rooms, and soup etc as well. I was recently able to be in a joint churches meeting on Zoom (something we didn't know about in 2019!) all about how various of the churches in Bristol are responding to the current crisis. It was reported that out of all the warm/welcome spaces that are being offered through the Bristol City Council website, that fully a third of those are churches. All responses to such human need are good and to be welcomed. However maybe it is also worthy of note that the churches tend to be at the forefront of such responses each and every time. This can only be through an outworking of our faith tradition that says that through Christ that this is what we exist for. The nature of our faith is to be alongside those who are vulnerable and exist on the margins of society.

Christmas is always about light in the darkness. When the Church established the date of Christmas as December it was to make a theological point and to respond to human need. In the depths of winter we always crave light anyway. But to celebrate Christ as the light of the world is also to understand that theologically. This Christmas many will be craving heat and light. We will be responding to that, but we might also hope and pray that this will also speak to something much deeper within the humanity of our friends and neighbours.

Happy Christmas!

*Dougie*

# Redland Park People



It was good to hear that **David Hayden** has had a successful operation in Southmead Hospital and we pray this makes an improvement to his health.

We continue our prayers for **Andrew Sims** and his family, and for Jane Beazer and her family; she has a new treatment regime which we hope will improve things.

We hold the **Mebrahtu family** in our prayers after the death of our dear friend **Teblez**; they are all mourning her loss. Teblez was a woman of great faith and we pray she is now at peace.

We pray for the three main organists we have had the pleasure of hearing in Redland Park; **Martyn Steel, John Turner and Michael Kearley** who have all had treatment on their hands. We pray for successful treatment and we look forward to hearing from them again.

We think of **Janet Stables**, currently undergoing treatment in Southmead Hospital and we pray for her and her family.

**Audrey Bryant** is still in Westbury Gardens and seeing specialists about her back; we pray that they are able to control the pain she is suffering from.

Please pray for all our members and friends who are undergoing treatment or health problems in any way. In particular we pray for **Anna**, a Ukrainian lady who will be moving to a flat near St Mary Redcliffe; we also pray for **Judy** and her family after the sudden death of her husband **Nick**; we also pray for **Alastair** and his wife **Maggie**; Alastair is seriously ill and we hope that treatment can be successful.

From our prayer box, we pray for **Jane**, wishing her eternal peace, and for **Nigel** we pray that God will give him what he needs, not worship and prestige, but equality for all.

We pray for the **Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter** that it is able to provide for several homeless people through the winter, and that they appreciate the care provided by many churches around the city, and the opportunity to get their lives back together and move on with support.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere, and ask the government to be compassionate to them all, and to help bring peace to the world. We pray especially for Ukraine at present, and for Russia that their leader develops some humanity

We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, especially those areas suffering from the effects of Climate Change bringing drought and famine to countries in Africa and floods to Pakistan.

May the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that the coming birth of our Saviour brings, give us all comfort.

# Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter

The night shelter opened again in November (to March 2023) with the same format as last year, rooms taken at the same B&B Hotel in Southville, but nine rooms this year up from eight last year. Redland Park has committed to provide and serve lunch on Wednesdays and several people have already volunteered to go down and serve, with others providing sandwiches, or fruit, fruit juice, crisps and biscuits or cakes.

The guests are referred by St Mungo's charity for homeless people, and those who are taken in have their own room, either en suite or sharing a bathroom with two others, use of a washing machine and tumble dryer, and of particular help is the use of a laptop so they can find work, open a bank account and arrange future accommodation.

If you are able to help at all, with sandwiches, cakes or any other way, please see Alison, Les or Carol.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

I write with news that will come as a surprise to many of you. I will be leaving the post of Synod Moderator in the South Western Synod at the end of March next year (2023), after nearly 10 years.

I have loved my time here and have always described it as a happy Synod, even though we have weathered some storms together. I will miss all our local churches, but God has called me to serve the Landsker Pastorate – a group of six small chapels in Pembrokeshire, and as you know, where God calls us is where we find our deepest joy.

There will be time for proper farewells but now is a good time to say thank you for welcoming me to share the life of your church. Leading worship in the many churches of the Synod has been an especial joy, and I will continue to pray for you all.

God bless you,  
Ruth

## Tear Fund

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A huge thank you from me (and from Tear Fund) to those who took part on the Quiz on November 18th. Our numbers were down quite a bit this year but there were some generous donations, and a big thank to New Brunswick for the donations made at the lovely lunch the previous Sunday.

When I last looked we have collectively given £303 to Tear Fund. Nearly 13 000 people at churches across the country took part, and the total raised was just over £69 00 - definitely a BIG Quiz Night.

Angus



## One moment in time...

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That's all it takes. Have you ever heard Whitney Houston's beautiful rendition of that song?

Well if not, here's a link to a youtube link:

(958) Whitney Houston - One Moment In Time - (Live at Grammy, 1989) - YouTube

Although I do have a rather set taste in music, there exists an eclectic part of my musical psyche which wants to join and liven up the calm waters from time to time. This piece is such a one. Enjoy!

Words of songs rarely stir me. It is the music and rendering which does. This could be down to my decades of organ playing in churches where musical concentration is paramount and the text is subordinate in my mind. So, where are we heading you might well ask?

Whitney's song came to mind when my daily life and routine was recently changed in an instant. In just a moment in time the use of a limb was relieved by catapulting myself from the penultimate stair in my house to the floor. I played Superman without the super-powers and gravity enforced itself accordingly. Newton's third law of motion sums the situation quite succinctly; 'to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction'. Jump off a stair at a certain height and speed then expect something possibly nasty to happen!

I had broken my humerus rather badly in the right arm (my strong arm) and not very humorous at all I may say! The sensation was quite surreal. I thought I was moving my hand but nothing was happening. It was the broken bone shifting. A clear sign something was not right. Acute wincing was the order of the moment.

There was ignominy to follow. I phoned for an ambulance and two very pleasant and competent men appeared and after snipping me from

my upper attire dressed me in a hideous flowery nightdress which gave me the appearance resembling something Peter Pan or Widow Twankey might wear on a bad day.

On arrival at the hospital, I was wheeled into the ambulance HQ with all

looking on (more ignominy). After X-Rays I was returned there and tried my best to make small talk, but looking like a complete wally, exposing parts of my upper body normally reserved only for myself (even more ignominy!). One of the ambulance medics pulled up an X-Ray of my arm and asked permission to take a photo on his phone. A strange request I thought but signalled him to go ahead. I then thought that I would like a photo as well and he obliged with my phone camera.

Six weeks on, the arm seems to be back in one piece with metal plate and rivets but I still have no articulation in my right hand and unable to elevate the wrist. Simple tasks taken for granted, have been tricky. Something to do with a radial nerve. The most difficult daily routine is trying to affix my watch to its leather strap. Playing is certainly out for the time being but fortunately I have people to cover at church in my absence.

On returning to the hospital several times since and enabled by my family, I did meet with the consultant surgeon on one occasion and thanked him for the operation. He introduced himself informally as Gray and I found myself etiquettely challenged. Dr, Mr...? I went with Gray as introduced as if he were a good friend!

This incident has coincided with a couple of Jehovah's Witnesses at my door. Apart from a bit of company during a house-bound period, I was given comfort that there would be no suffering in the next life. Very comforting...

This is not a story requiring sympathy; empathy perhaps. I am aware now more than ever before, that our bodies are quite unique, precious and precise in function. Everything is there for a reason. The gift of the Creator. 2022 has certainly been my Annus Horribilis and thank all at Redland Park for your patience and look forward to playing again soon. What makes it hard for me is the fact that in 50 years of playing I have not missed more than two or three services due to ill health.

It has made me more careful and cautious. One moment in time and a simple error can lead to a long time in reflection. Take care!

Martyn Steel

Here are the Lectionary readings for December, January and the first Sunday in February. Happy Christmas and New Year when they come. (I'll be writing about Lent next time...)  
 The Advent readings from Isaiah aren't the most comfortable (should they be?). Chapters 1-39 is full of criticism and moral outrage at how badly Judah and Jerusalem have failed to keep their covenant with God (read Isaiah chapter 1 to get the general flavour). But there are these few positive passages, a glimmer of hope, pointing to a coming messiah, despite the failings of the people, which gospel writers and the church have usually taken to point to Jesus. 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.

We shouldn't miss, though, that when they were written they cried out against the corruption, injustice and lack of faith in the land at the time. Do those voices speak just as clearly to us today?

January starts with the passage that we know as the Epiphany. But "epiphany" means "manifestation", a showing of God to us, and in a sense each week of January's readings include epiphany moments. The early chapters of Matthew's gospel are setting the scene: just who is this man Jesus?

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
Dec 4th	Isaiah 11:1-10	72:1-7, 18-19	Matthew 3:1-12	Romans 15:4-1
11th	Isaiah 35:1-10	146:5-10	Matthew 11:2-11	James 5:7-10
18th	Isaiah 7:10-16	80:1-7, 17-19	Matthew 1:18-25	Romans 1:1-7
25th	Isaiah 52:7-10	98	John 1:1-14	Hebrews 1:1-12
Jan 1st	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	8	Matthew 25:31-46	Revelation 21:1-6a
8th	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Matthew 3:13-17	Acts 10:34-43
15th	Isaiah 49:1-7	40:1-11	John 1:29-42	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
22nd	Isaiah 9:1-4	27:1, 4-9	Matthew 4:12-23	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
29th	Micah 6:1-8	15	Matthew 5:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Feb 5th	Isaiah 58:1-12	112:1-10	Matthew 5:13-20	1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Nothing to do with the readings...

As I typed out December I noticed all the dates had "th" after them. But then I hit January 1st and that broke the run. Thinking about it, there is only one set of dates for all-the-Sundays-of-the-month-plus-the-first-one-of-the-next-month where the Sunday dates do all have "th", if you don't include Februarys, and even that only works for some months. What is it?

But if you do include Februarys, how many more options become available?

Worship at Church and on Zoom.  
December.

4Th 10.30am. Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion)

11th 10.30am. Family Service.

18th 10.30am. Rev Dougie Burnett  
Also; 6.30pm Lessons & Carols.

24th 4pm Family Crib Service,

25th 10am, Christmas Day Worship.

January- all at 10.30am.

1st Joint Whiteladies Road Church Service  
at Victoria Methodist Church.

8th Rev Dougie Burnett

15th Rev Dougie Burnett.

22nd Family Worship, led by Members.

29th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

7pm Sunday service @ 7pm.

11th December and 8th and 22nd January through Zoom.

Zoom log in; 815 4053 7777; passcode 087103

Elders Meeting.

Wednesday 11th 7,30pm at church.

Church open for prayer.

Wednesdays between Midday and 2pm.

Church Meeting.

Wednesday 18th January at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

Cell Groups.

Mondays, 8.00pm.

Zoom log in; 831 5113 5751; passcode 508239

Tuesdays, 7.30pm.

Zoom log in; 312 983 3387; passcode 795550

**Deadline for contributions for the  
February Recorder is 29th 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**

**Minister | Rev. Douglas Burnett**

**0117 330 9910**

**douglasburnett@wwmail.co.uk**

**Secretary | Les Fry**

**07769 253279**

**lesjfry@hotmail.com**

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**Redland Park United Reformed Church,**

Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS6 6SA

**redlandparkurc@gmail.com**