

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

Dec/Jan '18

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | Dec/Jan Diary

Preachers for December 11am services

2nd Les Fry
9th Angus Gregson (includes Communion)
16th Wendy Magee (Gift Service)
23rd Angus Gregson (Family Carol Service)
25th CHRISTMAS DAY (10am) Led by Brenda Drake
30th Ella Bryant

Preachers for January 11am services

6th Angus Gregson
13th Brenda Isherwood
20th Helena Mckinnon (will include Communion)
22nd Angus Gregson

Preachers for February 11am services

3rd Trevor Ranger

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 6th will be our next church meeting commencing at 7.30pm

December 16th will be our Christmas Gift Service when we will bring along, Socks, Gloves, Hats, scarves and warm clothing for the 'Seaman's Mission'

Christmas Day Service. Please note this will commence at 10am and we will be joined by friends from Bethany and Pentecostal Church.

January 25th Southmead Quiz at New Brunswick at 7pm. £3 pp includes nibbles and tea and coffee or bring your own.

As we look forward to the Christmas Season may we be mindful that for many this time of year is anything but a 'Happy Time'. For those who have lost family or friends during the past twelve months this will not be a time for celebrating. There are others whose health is giving them cause for concern and will find it difficult to share in the Festivities. The lonely, the homeless, those in debt, those whose job prospects are uncertain. All these and more will not be able, or feel like rejoicing in the birth of the Baby born 2000 years ago. But may all these people both known and unknown to us feel the nearness of Jesus in their particular situations.

Let us remember that as we pray to our God that perhaps WE are the answer to those prayers. Pick up the phone and ring someone who is living alone or going through a difficult time just to let them know you are thinking of them. Pop into see someone in a home, they may surrounded by people but still need to see a friend who has taken the trouble to visit. You may never know how much such a gesture will mean to that person. What will it cost? Nothing financial but half an hour of you day.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of EVERYONE AT NEW BRUNSWICK to wish all those who read this magazine a Blessed Christmas and a New Year full of God's Richest Blessings.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

It is Christmas once again. Let's be honest with ourselves, while Easter is the actual focus of our faith with the death and resurrection of Christ, Christmas has a particular special quality to it.

If those who never normally come to church at all, it will be at Christmas and not at Easter. The world in general may know when Easter happens, but Christmas is what they celebrate.

Death and resurrection are fundamental to the shaping of our lives and our hope, but we can manage the image of a small and helpless baby that somehow holds the key to so much more.

As a general fact, the secular society in which we live may not pay too much attention to matters of faith, but they love what we do at Christmas with the child in the manger. It does have a particular fascination.

That was also the case for St. Jerome. Heard of him? Just in case you haven't, and not that many have done so, he was one of the great scholars of the church in the west, living from 347-420. One of his greatest works was to translate the Bible into Latin, thus enabling a much wider readership. For much of his life he was based in Rome, but eventually he gravitated towards Bethlehem. For him there was something very particular about the place where heaven and earth met through Christ's birth.

He spent his final years living and working by the Church of the Nativity, the supposed site of the stable.

Jerome would imagine a conversation between himself and the baby Jesus. Jerome was actually called to be a bishop. But that he declined, preferring to be where he was. He replied to the invitation:

"Nothing can draw me away from the Manger of Christ. There is for me no better place on earth. From that very place at which God gave to me His Son from heaven, I would like to send my soul back to Him in heaven."

The elements on that conversation between Jerome and Jesus were written down by Jerome, and it is a moving conversation.

Holding a child in your arms is a moving experience. It is a moment full of hope. Both Christmas and Easter offer hope. If you were to have a conversation with Jesus, baby or otherwise, what is the particular hope that you would seek at this time? And, what might be Jesus' response?

Happy Christmas!

Dougie

Redland Park People



We send our condolences to **Truida Mutare** whose mother died in Zimbabwe in early November; Truida had to fly there last month on hearing the news and she and her family are in our prayers.

We also send our condolences to **Suzy Sims** whose own mother died recently as well. She is in our prayers.

We are glad to know that **Derek Jones** is recovering from his recent operation and we hope this recovery continues.

Congratulation to **Haen Kim**, daughter of **Boyhun and Yoon Joo Kim**, from our Korean Church. She has recently graduated from her music course and we hope to celebrate this with a concert in January. Also from the Korean Church, we congratulate **Bon Hyuk Kim** and **Harim Jin**, who attend the Tuesday evening cell group, and who recently had a baby boy, a brother for Junmo.

We pray for all our members and friends who need our prayers at this time, for better health, for help with decisions, for peace of mind; we hope they feel the love of God around them.

TRAI DCRAFT

Orders are still being taken for Christmas cards, gifts, food, etc, as well as all the usual goodies. Carol Fry

Christmas Postal Service

Verna Milligan has kindly agreed to take over the Christmas Postal Service this year. It will run on Sunday 2nd and Sunday 9th December. Please place fully-addressed cards in the post box provided, and collect any cards addressed to you after each morning service. It would be very helpful, too, if you could take cards to anyone you know who won't be able to collect in person. Please note that a separate board will be available on which you can post any cards addressed to "the whole church" – please see Myra Jones for more details about this.



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:

Truida, whose mother has died in Zimbabwe.

Sarah and family after the death of her grandmother.

Enid, who has been diagnosed with leukaemia and faces a long period of treatment.

Derek, recovering from surgery.

David Hayden and Viv.

The moderator, Ruth Whitehead and the South West Synod staff.

All who will be alone at Christmas.

The homeless, refugees and asylum seekers.

Our local homeless charities and night shelters.

All who volunteer at foodbanks, and all who have to use them.

The government and all MPs.

All our friends at New Brunswick church.

Loving God, we ask your blessing on all these people and situations.

Amen

A Christmas Story

By Derek Skelcher

A baby was born,
And like most others do,
Maybe kept both his parents awake!
For night after night
All that baby would do
Was to shed all the tears he could make!
He cried!
He cried!
But those tears were not for himself,
And Mary, his mother, knew right from the start
The difference to mankind he would make!

The baby grew up
And a joiner became,
Maybe lots of wood goods he did make
Though carpentry work
Was a means to an end
For the intended journey he'd make.
Tools shied
Aside
Without any assets or cash
He set off to take on the task that he knew
He'd always been destined to take!

Then down by a place
That was named Galilee
He, some followers, did pick by a lake.
Who'd take up his cause
When the time came that he
No more action was able to take.
He died!
He died!
They killed him without any cause;
And only because they were scared that his words
A difference to their lives would make!

Yes, this is a tale
Should be told every year
Just as Christmas is almost to break.
The reason is clear
For this Man was Our Lord
Who would help us our sins to forsake!
Evil
Defied
He's ready to always forgive
All of the despicable things that we do
And all the mistakes that we make!

Copyright Derek Skelcher November 2018

Redland Park United Reformed Church
and
Bristol Korean Church

A Celebration of the Cello



with

Haeun Kim Violincello
Yoonjoo Hong Piano

Sunday January 20th 2019

2:00pm

Redland Park URC
(Corner of Whiteladies Rd and
Redland Park)

Haeun has recently graduated with an MA from
the Royal Academy of Music.

Free admission, retiring collection

A light Lunch will be available for £5 at 1:00 pm

Refreshments after the concert



Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for December 2018

Sun 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett (Gift Service for Bristol North West Food Bank)
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sat 15th	2.00pm	Christmas Fai in Aid of CLIC Sargent
Sun 16th	3.30pm	Carol Service with BKC led by Rev Dougie Burnett
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Christingle Service led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Mon 24th	4.00pm	Crib Service
Tues 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day Worship at Redland Park
Sun 30th	10.30am	Service at Victoria Methodist Church

January 2019

Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Wed 9th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 13th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 20th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	2.00pm	"A Celebration of the Cello" Concert by Haeun Kim
Sun 27th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	11.45am	Church Meeting
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

February 2019

Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

The 93rd meeting of the South Western Synod was held on October 20th 2018 at Westfield URC, Bridgwater. It was attended by Dougie, Helena, Anne and Truida.

The opening worship was led by Stephen Newell on the theme of supporting the wider mission of the local church.

Synod was asked to approve the General Assembly resolution to adopt the following amendments to the Structure of the URC:

Change no.1 to make the number of synod representatives equal – to be, for the present, sixteen for each synod.

Change no. 2 to introduce some flexibility to the 50 - 50 ministerial/lay divide – requiring at least a third of each synod's representation to be ministerial (this term includes CRCWs) and at least a third to be elders or lay.

This change was voted on and carried by our Synod.

Further changes were outlined concerning the work to support local churches. The Executive had been trying to re-allocate resources through the imaginative use of Mission Grants and had proposed a re-launch of "Enabling Grants" for churches who would like to do something in their life but need extra financial help. There will be a simpler process to apply for small grants (up to £2,500) and greater generosity in large grants (up to £25,000 per year). This was launched at Synod as part of the financial report and further details are on the website.

Dick Gray, the Synod Treasurer, stated that apart from exceptional income from the sale of redundant churches, he expected the Synod's income to be broadly flat looking forward to 2019,20 and 21.

The Synod was also informed that the committee has also considered plans to relocate the Synod Office to Taunton URC, in order to cut running costs, have a location which is more easily accessible by public transport, and release the value of the Norton Fitzwarren property, which is too large for their needs. The move will be going ahead in 2019.

A major concern is going to be the number of stipendiary ministers that the synod can deploy– the target for the end of 2020 is 22 full-time equivalent (i.e there can be more if they can find part-time ministers). Presently the Synod has about 25 full-time equivalent stipendiary ministers.

Of changes within the Synod I thought these two would be of particular interest:

- Revd Tracey Lewis has moved to serve at Holt URC, Trowbridge and Trowbridge Wesley Road from this September 2018
- Janet Sutton Webb is moving to the Ely Diocese in December 2018

- Michelle Howard is the new Church Development worker who introduced herself to us at Synod. Her role is to:
 - develop and deliver new projects
 - source training opportunities
 - write funding bids
 - assist children's work in Swindon and Bristol
- Youth assembly 2019 is to be held at Whitemoor Lakes , Alrewas, Staffordshire from 18-20 January. Its theme is One Body; we are all in this together. Anyone aged 10 to 25 can attend.

Stepwise is the URC's new training programme for anyone who wants to explore and enrich their personal faith. Leaflets about Stepwise will be available at Synod, or information can be accessed on the URC website <https://urc.org.uk/stepwise.html>

After lunch, Jon Oliverio, on behalf of Youth Genesis [YG] spoke about working with Synod to help support and develop youth work in the synod. The Executive had asked for a decision to be made at the meeting. Youth Genesis has been supported by the URC, and South Western synod in particular for 11 years.

Youth Genesis is offering:

a package to work with SW Synod - need to identify 3 - 5 churches to develop provision.

training for any projects that the local church has already identified. The developmental work, training etc are paid for by YG.

this package costs up to £27,000 for one year Churches need to register their interest with their SPA who will take this to Pastoral Committee for a decision.

Synod agreed to this project which would be reviewed in a year's time.

Ruth lead our closing worship based on the life of St. Oscar Romero who she suggested should be the Patron Saint of the URC. Ruth openly wept as she quoted words from Oscar Romero. She shared with us that she had lost both of her parents this year. There is also the constant pressure on her of reducing the work of the Synod to fit in with our declining numbers and consequently the loss of financial support to achieve all we would want to do in God's name. I think we should pray for Ruth and the work of the Synod as they face this challenging time in the life of our Churches'.

I am grateful as always for the experience of attending synod because it shows me how our church fits in the context of the wider church community.

Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 25/11/18

MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising from the previous meeting were covered in other items on the agenda.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Jane Rogers reported that approximately 30 people from outside the church had attended the "Uprooted" exhibition in October and thanked all those who assisted and attended.

She asked for volunteers to help serve tea and cakes at the Christmas Fair from 1pm on Saturday 15th December in aid of CLIC Sargent.

Finally, she reported that Bristol churches were again organising a night shelter for the homeless in March 2019, with Tyndale Baptist Church being one of the hosts. Anyone interested in volunteering should notify Carol Fry and bear in mind that they would need to attend a compulsory training course, the last of which was being held from 7pm to 9pm on 10th December.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer reported that the church's bank account currently held about £72,000, similar to the same time last year. However, much ongoing work costing in the region of £20,000 meant that expenditure for the year was likely to exceed income. He also explained that several expensive projects were planned for next year, including a refurbishment of the organ, improvements to the manse and church premises.

LONG-TERM FUNDING OF BKC

John continued by outlining the need to help the Bristol Korean Church (BKC) secure funding beyond 2023, when their Special Category Ministry (SCM) funding would cease. He reported that the Presbyterian

Church of Korea (PCK) might be able to meet as much as half of the costs and had invited Redland Park to send a delegation to Korea to discuss this possibility. The delegation would consist of Rev. Bohyun Kim, Rev. Dougie Burnett (both of whose travel expenses could be met by a central URC fund), the Church Secretary and an Elder. Travel expenses for the Church Secretary and Elder would need to be met by Redland Park and would be in the order of £2,000 in total. John asked the meeting to approve this expenditure and it was duly agreed.

SYNOD REPORT

Anne Neugebauer had attended the Synod meeting in October but was unable to attend Church Meeting, so John gave a brief report.

The Synod office would be relocating from its current premises in Norton Fitzwarren to Taunton URC in order to reduce costs. The number of stipendiary ministers in the Synod was under review and was likely to reduce to 22 by 2020.

A new Church Development Worker, Michelle Howard, had been appointed and was now in post.

The URC Youth Assembly would be held in January 2019.

The Youth Genesis project that has existed in Brixham and other towns in Devon for some time was now offering to come alongside other churches in the Synod over the next year, so as to facilitate and enhance their youth work. This would be done through being funded by the Synod. This was voted enthusiastically through as an innovative way of attempting a new model of youth work provision.

Finally, Rev. Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of the South West Synod, had been through troubling times over the last year and the meeting was asked to remember her in prayer. Ruth preached an inspiring sermon at the end of the Synod meeting, which received a standing ovation.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie reported that Sue Cossey had reluctantly agreed to be the interim moderator of Trinity-Henleaze.

He thanked Verna Milligan for organising the Remembrance Sunday commemoration.

The next "Walking the Way" planning meeting would be held next Tuesday, 27th November, and planning was under way for next year's Holiday Club for those of older age, which was likely to be held in the autumn.

In order to thank Redland Park and the BKC for supporting her through her masters degree in music, Haeun Kim would be hosting a concert featuring cello music on Sunday 20th January 2019, at 2pm. St. John's School had also expressed an interest in being involved. As a result, it was agreed that the next Church Meeting should be postponed from Sunday 20th January to Sunday 27th January.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Andrew Hayden reported that the Hayden family would not be running the Christmas postal service this year. If anyone was willing to take it over, he would be glad to hand over to them. In addition, Myra Jones would once again provide a board on which members could post cards addressed to the whole church.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of members was shared.

AOB

Sally King explained that the scaffolding inside and outside the church would be removed on Monday 10th December. She also promoted the Showcase Concert scheduled for Tuesday 18th December.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

Next meeting: Sunday 27th January 2019, following the morning service

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 90 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. Last month I suggested that during the coming year, Year C in the cycle, we consider how Luke tells stories differently to the immediacy and astonishment in Mark - how often was The Crowd "amazed" in Mark's accounts? I'll start us off. Luke often includes less obvious or likely characters - the people Jesus chooses to eat with, outsiders he encounters, even the shepherds as the first to visit Jesus. And more women feature in his gospel than the others. (Should Elizabeth feature in our nativity sets?) Why does he do this?

Luke is 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.

The angel told Mary her baby would be special (Lk 1:35), Elizabeth recognised it before Jesus was even born. As 2019 gets going, in our readings we begin to glimpse of just how special he is: the wise men, John the Baptist, the master at the banquet. And then the people in the synagogue in Nazareth. How would we have reacted to hearing Lk 4:21 spoken to us directly? What does it mean for us now?

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	OT	Psalm (or alternative)	Gospel	NT
2nd Advent 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	25:1-10	Luke 21:25-36	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
9th Advent 2	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Luke 3:1-6	Philippians 1:3-11
16th Advent 3	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Luke 3:7-18	Philippians 4:4-7
23rd Advent 4	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Luke 1:39-55	Hebrews 10:5-10
30th	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	148	Luke 2:41-52	Colossians 3:12-17
Jan				
6th	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Matthew 2:1-12	Ephesians 3:1-12
13th	Isaiah 43:1-7	29	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Acts 8:14-17
20th	Isaiah 62:1-5	36:5-10	John 2:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
27th 31a	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	19	Luke 4:14-21	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Feb				
3rd	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	Luke 4:21-30	1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A letter...

Dear all'

Patience has never been a virtue I possess and may I say that recently mine has been tried to the limits. Knowing that showing any form of emotion apart from a welcoming smile and some head nodding, I have just managed to conceal most of my frustration with only a slight raise in voice, which did not go unnoticed!

I had been trying to meet with Mr Isuru the Head of the local Education office in order to plan the 5 months workshops. That had proved impossible as he was very busy on Government business. If you have been following the small print in the big newspapers, you might have caught a glimpse of the corruptive turmoil in leadership of the country and the coup!

However, imagine how I felt when I heard from his nibbs, through Janaki, that there were no workshops available in the south until 2019. With volunteers due in a few days, Janaki and I were on the phone to contacts, around the island, to set up a programme. A few anxious and sleepless nights resulted in a trickle and then an avalanche.

Penny, Jo, Sarah and I are now set to travel to Puttalam, to work, tomorrow, 140km, north of Colombo on the edge of a lagoon. From there we will go north to Vavuniya to work the week of 12th Nov. The girls then will roam there while I return here and we have work locally the next week and back to Colombo the last week of Nov.

I have also spent considerable time at the Print Shop, ordering 1000 word wheels and 1000 storycard packs as gifts for the teachers and thank you to my family and friends whose generosity made it possible. On my first visit (this year), the boss was lounging in his glass panelled office, feet on the table, phone in hand. I waited 10 mins and then quietly asked the secretary if it was friend or business on the line "Friend" she whispered. I waited a further 10 mins and then asked if I might avail myself of one of their fine printed paper carriers. In large black letters I wrote PLEASE HELP ME and knowing how improper it would deem to be to speak to him, I walked into the office and stood in front of him Carrier akimbo. A moment of shock followed by a thumbs up, was received.

Should I have been surprised that the order was not ready for collection on Monday, but could I go in and do a second proof read. The order was not ready yesterday as they could not proceed with printing, unable to find the order and "How much was the total?" they asked me!

Still with their bunglings the price has come down and delivery is due today to the house!

Cricket proceeds on the turf of Galle and the streets are full of the Barmy Army, but I have tried to avoid the ground as the billboards and fairground atmosphere impedes travel.

The sun is shining and Vajira below me is cooking all sorts of curries for the temple. Smells delicious. Dribbling Mary xx

Deadline for contributions for the
February Recorder is 27th January.

Please send to the editor

email: 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

Secretary | Andrew Hayden

07984 146 318

andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk

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

redlandparkurc@gmail.com