The page is decorated with several light blue snowflakes of various sizes scattered across the background.

— ESTD 1901 —

The Recorder

December '20 / January '21

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

December 2020	January, 2021
6th Angus Gregson	3rd Sue Throne
13th Delwyn Tilke	10th Rev Douglas Burnett
20th Brenda Drake	17th Angus Gregson
25th Delwyn Tilke (Service will commence at 10am)	24th Sue Cossey
27th Brenda Drake	31st To Be Advised

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 5th January at 7.30pm Southmead Joint Churches prayer meeting. In the present circumstances these are held on Zoom. If you would like to be included please contact Brenda to be forwarded the link.

We have heard news of some of our friends who would appreciate prayers at this time. **Ivy** is still at the Rehabilitation Centre in St George. We have heard that she has tested positive for Covid so is having to be isolated in her room.

Natalie and Dave have also tested positive for the virus and are self isolating. This also means that **Zac** is unable to go to school. Which is unfortunate as he had just returned to school after damaging his ankle.

Margaret has recently had surgery on her face and is recovering well. We think of **John** who is awaiting results of recent tests. **Anita, Roger and Paul** would appreciate our prayers at this time. It has been good to hear that **Julie's husband Pete** has now had surgery and is back at home recovering.

We uphold all these folk to God and pray that He will minister to each as they need. May they also be assured of our love and support.

At our last service before the current Lockdown we celebrated the special birthdays of **Natalie, Angie and Brenda**. Each of these folk has expressed their thanks for the gifts they received from the fellowship. Although **Angie** didn't receive a gift on the day a bouquet of flowers was sent from us all.

We are almost at the end of a very strange and different year. None of us have ever experienced anything like it before. Lockdown, self isolation, no socializing with friends life really has been different. Even going to church took on a new meaning. No singing, having to book a seat! Sanitizing, face mask wearing and no singing! But despite all this we have seen God's Blessings. We were blessed with (most of the time) good weather through the spring and summer. Because we weren't rushing around we were able to sit in our gardens and be Thankful for God's wonderful world. He has shown us that He has walked these past months with us.

Now we look forward to celebrating the birth of His Son at Christmas. For most of us it will be celebrated in a different way. Perhaps not meeting up with family and friends as in the past. But perhaps using modern technology to be 'together'. However you plan to celebrate the most wonderful gift of all I hope you will know God's Love, Joy and Peace. **Then I pray that 2021 will bring us closer to being able to share together face to face. God Bless you all at this Christmastime and in the New Year.**

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

2020 finally draws to a close. Phew! As with any period of time such moments are there as an opportunity for reflection. What have been the highs and the lows of the past 12 months? With the Covid-19 pandemic, the low might only be too obvious. But even amidst of that mayhem there may well be somethings that we have learned and gained. Some of the losses have been painful and profound. Families have lost loved ones. We all lost the kind of freedoms we have all previously assumed as a matter of course.

We had to learn how to be distanced from each other, so as to help safeguard the well-being of those around us. There was busyness, frantic for fraught for some, but also enforced stillness. Maybe we learned that there could be some good in the stillness, and that some of our busyness was really not that necessary. There were fewer cars on the road and fewer planes in the sky. Pollution levels fell. But lives were unhelpfully disrupted, and we are still left wondering when we can greet each other with a handshake and even a hug. Vaccines and mass testing are on their way, but it will be the spring when so much of this will be delivered

But maybe in all of this we have learned something of what it means to be human. Maybe we don't always really work that through. As of today November 26th, I have been reading an article by Karen Armstrong in the Guardian. You might know her as a former nun, who has become a writer and broadcaster on religious matters. Her article was essentially criticising Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, for proposing to take a sabbatical in the summer of 2021.

Her point is that in a time of pandemic he shouldn't be doing so. I might be missing something, but when I read the gospels I see in Jesus times of both activity which is sometimes so very intense, such as ministering to sick and diseased people, but also times of quietness and solitude when reflection and centring on God is essential. With that, I read about him spending 40 days in the desert, or going off to a "quiet place" with his disciples, or going off to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane.

So, even, or maybe especially, in a time of crisis there must be a time and space for that focus on God. And maybe that is truly part of what it means to be fully human. Getting that balance right will always be a bit of a struggle. But it is for that reason that Christ came into the world that we might have "life in all its fullness" (John 3.16).

It is Christmas and this Christ 2020 is going to be a bit quieter for all of us. There will be the loss of sitting and eating together with friends and family. But maybe a gain will be entering into that deeper mystery of God which for us is to be found in the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. It is about stillness (Silent Night, Holy Night), but it is also about activity (Go Tell it on the Mountain). We all take time to work out what that means for each and everyone of us. 2020 has been and gone. We peer, maybe somewhat apprehensively, into 2021, but trusting that God is with us every step of the way.

Oh, and I wish the Archbishop of Canterbury a truly wonderful sabbatical.

Dougie

Redland Park People



We give thanks for the continued recovery of **Malcolm Johnson** and **Lewis Manyika**, and all those known to us in poor health or recovering from treatment and surgery.

We pray for **Wendy and Brian Day's daughter Alison**, who is undergoing surgery and treatment for a heart condition, and we pray for recovery.

For those who remember **Mal and Janet Owen**, we give thanks that they have now settled in St Monica Home (Westbury Fields). Janet was in respite care for a while but they are now happily in their own flat, with the care they now need.

We pray for Lesley Brentley's dearly loved **Aunt Joyce**, in a care home and approaching the end of life. We pray for peace and comfort for all the family.

The Tuesday cell continues to pray for **Rosemary**, a former colleague of John Neugebauer, who has undergone many years of treatment but is now very weak and nearing her passing.

Also we pray for **Teblez and Teame Mebrahtu**, particularly at this time when there is fighting in Eritrea and so many people are suffering; we pray for peace.

APPRECIATION

I would like to add my thanks to Peter Hawkins who, despite having a young family and a busy job, has produced a quality issue of the Recorder each month for several years. Many thanks from those of us who have sent in our contributions each month, and from everyone who has received and read it with interest. **Carol Fry**

We continue to pray for **David**, who was on life support but is now improving, and needing further investigations; for **Debbie** in intensive care, for the homeless and Big Issue sellers, especially as the winter comes on.

We pray for everyone to become good stewards of the earth and help to avoid disastrous climate change. This affects the developing world more, despite the Western world causing more of the problems.

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, especially in Eritrea, Hong Kong, Cameroon

Please pray for all our members and friends, and those known to us, who need our prayers at this time, whether through mental or physical health issues, financial problems, conflict, or family matters.

Prayer page:

Jesus, gift of God to a worn-out world, let your presence open our eyes to see your salvation.

Jesus, gift of God to a violent world, let your presence guide our feet into the way of peace.

Jesus, gift of God to an unprepared world, let your presence rouse our sleeping spirits into welcome and worship.

Jesus, gift of God to a rebellious world, let your presence confront our disobedience, redeeming our lives and transforming our society.

Jesus, Christmas gift to us and the world, we offer you our lives that they in turn may be a gift to your world for its peace, its joy, its future, displaying for all time your self-emptying pilgrimage to power and glory.



Please pray for:

- David Lawton, recovering from surgery
- Alison (Wendy and Brian's daughter)
- Robin Protheroe, poorly with Covid
- Debbie, in intensive care with Covid
- Lesley Brentley's Aunt Joyce
- Rosemary
- Millicent, Truida's 16 year old niece, who went missing in Harare on her way home from school, and her family
- All NHS and healthcare workers
- All those in hospital and at home suffering from Covid
- The prime minister and government
- All living in food poverty
- Teachers
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- The homeless as winter approaches
- The anxious and depressed
- All countries where there is political unrest and fighting

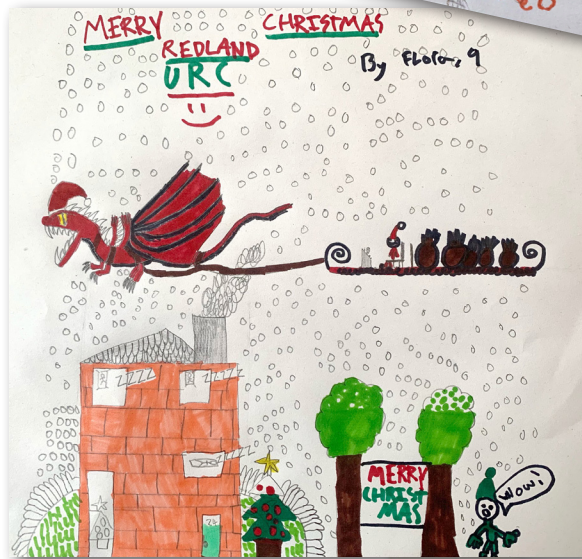
Lord, let us look upon your coming as a time for raising up those who are cast down, drying the tears of those who weep and filling a saddened world with unexpected joy. Let it be a day of jubilee, celebrating your power to transform human life into all you expected and hoped it would be. Amen



Louis Seymour



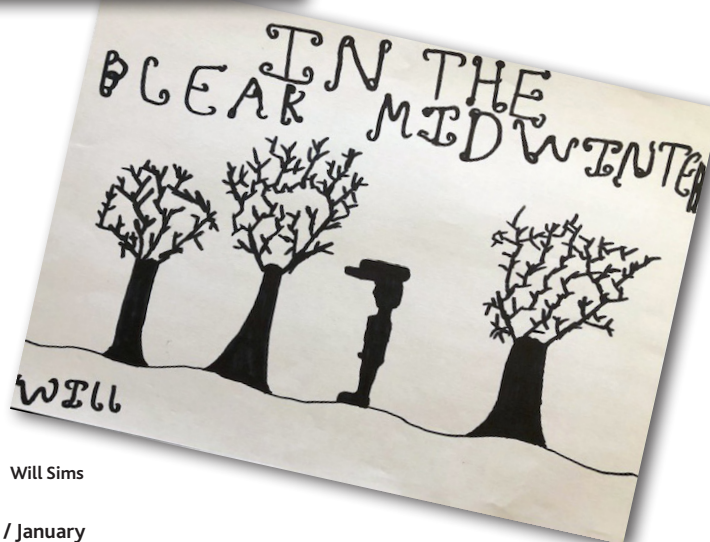
Jonah Grand



Flora Seymour



Robin Grand



Will Sims



Sophie Sims

Persecuted Christians in Iran

Iran is at number 9 on Open Doors World Watch List.

Christianity is seen as a Western influence and a threat, and all ethnic Persians are seen as Muslims. An ethnic Persian who leaves Islam can face the death penalty or imprisonment for 'crimes against national security' and it's illegal to produce Christian literature or hold services in Farsi. Much of the persecution of Christians comes from the Iranian government.

Christians who convert from Islam have to keep their faith completely hidden. Secret house churches are monitored and frequently raided, and dozens of Christians are imprisoned in appalling conditions. Believers from Armenian and Assyrian churches can practise their faith openly, though they still face discrimination and are forbidden from sharing the gospel with Muslims.

And yet the church is growing - praise God! Open Doors supports Christians like Wahid, he was a house church leader who was imprisoned for his faith. Last year, along with 30 other people who had been imprisoned for their faith, Wahid was able to receive trauma care support. Some Christians while in prison continue to evangelise to other prisoners. Open Doors supports the church in Iran through partners – as well as trauma training, this is done through distributing Bibles and other Christian literature online, advocacy for those in prison and various forms of training.

Coronavirus has hit Iran hard - possibly 20 times worse than the official figures. The economic situation is dire, with inflation making even fruit unaffordable. Open Doors partners have helped provide believers with food and equip them with the resources to meet together online.

Prayers for Christians in Iran

Lord we pray for our persecuted family in Iran. Please give opportunities to believers to share the good news of Jesus Christ, despite the obstacles and opposition. We praise You that the number of believers is growing, and we pray that many more Iranians would turn to Christ.

For more information, www.opendoorsuk.org.

Another organisation supporting Christians in the Middle East and North Africa is SAT7. They beam the Good News of the Kingdom of God straight into people's homes, into the centre of family life. They deliver Christian satellite television for the Middle East and North Africa.

Myra Jones

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for December 2020

Sun 13th	3.30pm 7.00pm	Carol Service led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Evening Worship led by members
Sun 20th	10.40am 12.30am	Morning Worship incl. Junior Church presentation Korean Worship
Fri 25th	10am	Christmas Day service
Sun 27th	12.30pm	No Morning Worship at Redland Park (We are invited to join St. Paul's Clifton @ 10:30am) Korean Worship

January 2021

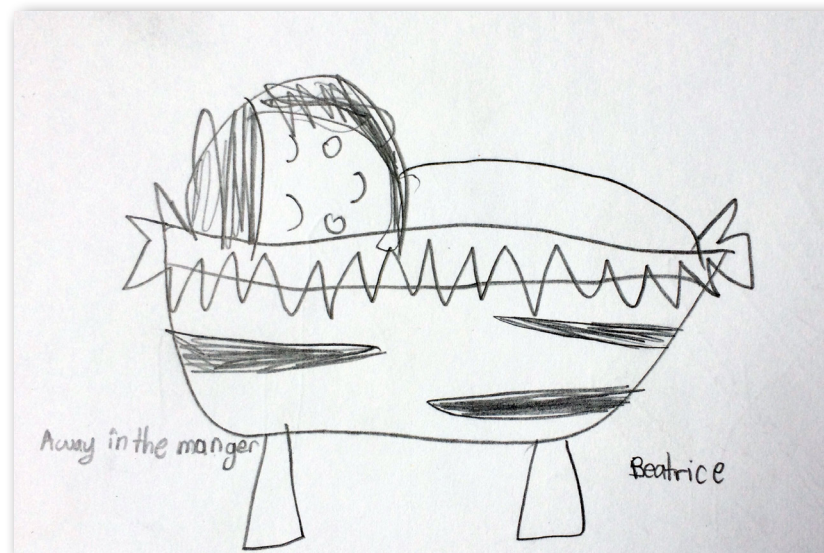
Sun 3rd	10.40am 12.30pm	Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 10th	10.40pm 12.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Mike Peat Korean Worship Evening Worship led by members
Sun 17th	10.40am 11.45am 12.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Church Meeting (tbc) Korean Worship
Sun 24th	10.40pm 12.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Evening Worship led by members
Sun 31st	10.40pm 12.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship

February 2021

Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 7th	10.40am 12.30pm	Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship



Romy Cross



Beatrice Pedlar



Thomas Pedlar



Les Brentley



Iivia Cross

Minutes of the Church Meeting

18.11.20 (via Zoom)

PRESENT

The Minister and 26 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 3 members.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters were covered by agenda items.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Carol Fry reported that the latest quizzes had raised £85 for church charities and £360 to Tearfund. Another quiz would be held in due course.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer expected the books to be reasonably healthy at year-end due to increased giving and reduced expenditure. He also reported that synod had set our M&M payment for 2021 slightly lower than this year, but proposed maintaining our level of contribution to help aid synod's finances; this was agreed.

After 28 years, David Hayden had stepped down as the synod's investment officer. John thanked David on behalf of the church and synod for such lengthy service, and his contribution was recognised with applause from the meeting.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Prevailing Covid-19 protocols had meant that this year's Christmas Through The Keyhole had to be cancelled, and a proposed replacement "Christmas Trail" had also been cancelled due to the second national lockdown.

The Giving Tree Project had also been cancelled; instead, the meeting agreed to donate £500 to the project.

This year's carol service and Junior Church presentation will be rather different, each consisting mostly of pre-recorded materials. The Christmas Day service, to be held at Redland Park in conjunction with Tyndale Baptist Church, would be live-streamed via Zoom. The offertories from these services had, in previous years, been donated to Caring In Bristol and The Tyndale Circle so, with physical attendance likely to be greatly diminished, it was agreed that people should be invited to make donations directly to the church's bank account, with a suitable reference to make it clear that the money was intended for the charities. Bank account details would be circulated with the service orders prior to each service.

The night shelter could not be run as previously due to Covid-19 restrictions, so an alternative proposal was being considered in which a bed & breakfast would be hired for the rough sleepers to use. This would require considerable funding. A Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland meeting would be held during the week after church meeting to consider the proposal in more detail, and to try and discern any more input from our ecumenical group.

WALKING THE WAY

The writing of Mark's gospel was almost complete; a few contributions were still awaited before creating an art installation.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Andrew Hayden confirmed that the church would re-open for Sunday worship as soon as Covid restrictions permitted. A booking system would again be employed and bookings were now invited for services starting from Sunday 6th December.

Thanks were expressed to Pete Hawkins who had expressed a desire to step down as editor of the Recorder, a role which he had filled for many years. Sarah Trigg had happily offered to take over from Pete.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of member was shared.

A.O.B.

None.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Sunday 17th January at 11.45am (subject to confirmation)



Reform

the national URC church magazine
NEWS COMMENT INSPIRATION DEBATE

Several of our members take Reform each month and there are many interesting articles inside, from 'One Question, Four Answers' to items by Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Mukwashi and Milton Jones, comedian and Christian.

For some time, Truida Mutare has taken responsibility for distributing the magazines and passing on our subscriptions each year. Distribution has proved difficult when the church is not meeting and she has not always been able to drive. It is being recommended that we all take responsibility for our own magazine subscription and, from February 2021, you can renew yours for £29.50 pa at

<https://urcshop.co.uk/reform-magazine?search=Reform>

or telephone 01371 851886 to request a subscription

or subscribe to a digital magazine on the same website @ £18.00 pa.



A huge thank you from me (and from Tear Fund) to everyone who took part on the Quiz on November 13th and for the generous donations from all the individuals and New Brunswick church.

We donated £360 to Tear Fund.

Over 17 000 people at nearly 500 churches across the country took part, and the total raised was just over £230 00 - it really was a BIG Quiz Night.

Angus Gregson

Thank you for the good wishes...

I am now back home recovering after my hip replacement surgery. Everything went well & I wish to thank all those who sent me good wishes. Particular thanks are due to John Turner, who has seamlessly taken over playing the organ. All being well, I hope to be back playing by the end of November, as soon as I am allowed to drive again. Mike Kearley

Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter 2020/2021

We knew that providing shelter for our guests this Winter wasn't going to be easy. Like many shelters we would not be able to run as before, using church rooms as dormitories. However God has showed us a new way! So with the co-operation of a Guest House on Coronation Road we will instead be providing 90 days of 24 hour shelter with seven en suite rooms.

We pray that this B&B will be like a fortress for our guests, where they will feel secure, where they will find the love of God.

He will spread his wings over you and keep you secure. His faithfulness is like a shield or a city wall. Psalm 91.

Thank you Lord for the provision of this B & B. Thank God that most of the churches involved last Winter are able to be involved again. Thank God for the outreach provided by St Mungo's working with those on the street

Please pray:

- that volunteers will be comfortable with this entirely new pattern of day shifts.
- that the grant from central government will be approved very soon.
- for protection from Covid for Amanda and the rapid appointment of a deputy to support her.

We serve a faithful God who is able to do all things. We do not rely on our own strength but look to Him to supply all that we need. I am confident that God will supply all we need to provide food, support and shelter to our guests this year in its new format" Amanda

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Book of Proverbs Ch 3

Please hold the Project Coordinator (Amanda Munday) and the steering committee in your prayers as they seek to shape a practicable and cost-effective provision for the guests this winter. The Coordinators are trying to resolve these issues and churches will be kept informed of ways they can help.

If you would like to help in this project, although they will not need the same type or amount as in previous years, the coordinator will be emailing out to ask for help with breakfast, lunch and evening shifts, or making cakes or packed lunches. Donations are also appreciated, of money, toiletries or clothing.

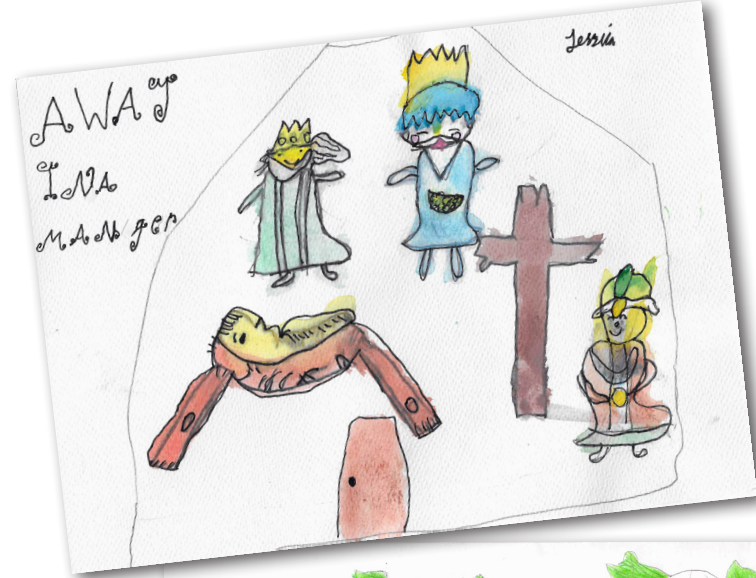
If you can help the address is bristolchurcheswintershelter@gmail.com

Many thanks.
Carol



By Jacob Cookson

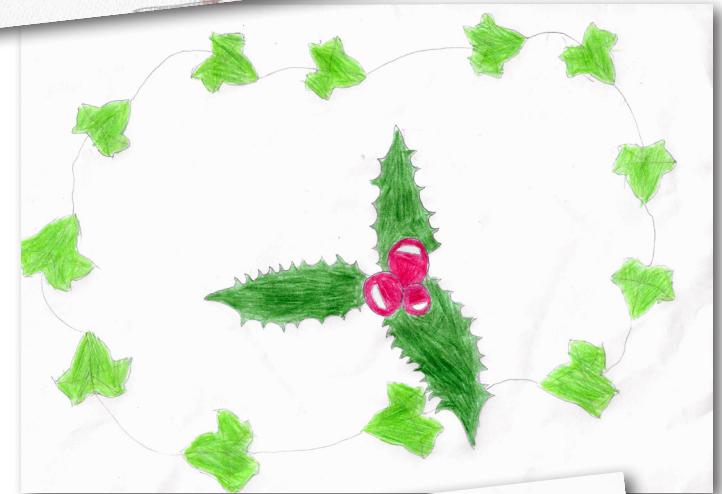
Jacob Cookson



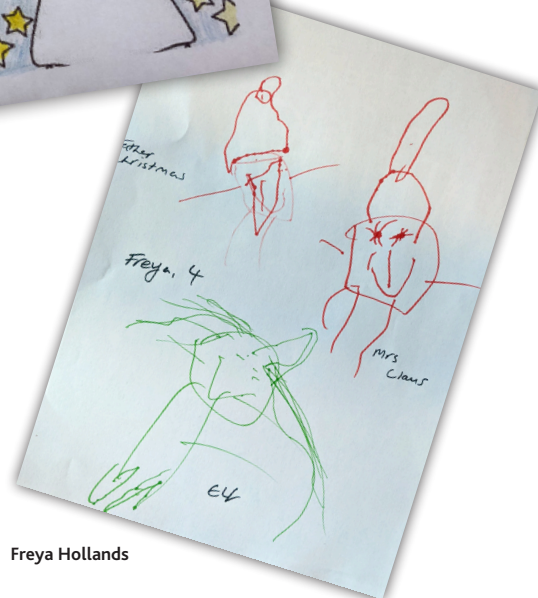
Jessica Hirsch



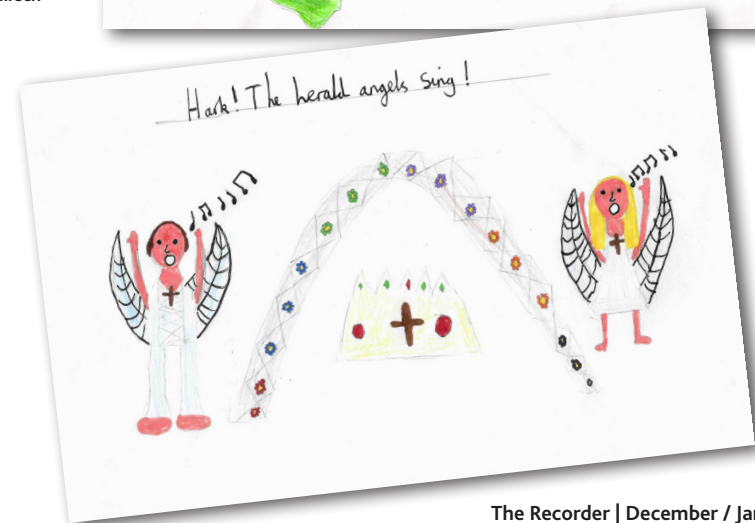
Daniel Cookson



Alexander Hirsch



Freya Hollands



Emily Hirsch

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 110 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for December, January and the first Sunday in February - a ten Sunday epic. By the time the next Recorder comes out it'll nearly be Lent.

The Isaiah passage on December 6th famously begins "Comfort my people says your God". That's not "be comforted", but "go out and comfort the people". A very timely message for the end of what can't have been the best of years for anyone. And also the answer to the problem of what do you give someone for Christmas. Let them know of the gift of God's comfort for them. (Or buy something from the Traidcraft stall, obviously.)

Mark's gospel is the focus for the next year, but as Mark doesn't have anything about the nativity we get a patchwork of other gospel passages in December. Bit like an Advent calendar, piecing together little bits that together tell the whole story. John's gospel doesn't have a dedicated lectionary year but as Mark is fairly short (the gospel, not the man) you'll get quite a bit of John slotted in, especially between Easter and Pentecost and in August.

And here's a bit I've more or less copied from the Recorder three years ago. Hearing (or reading) a little bit each week means we might miss the bigger picture. Over the last few months we've systematically read through Matthew 21-25 where Jesus has taught about real kingdom values and challenged the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. And we've read through the letters to the churches at Philippi and Thessalonica, encouraging the early churches to focus on their ultimate citizenship of the kingdom of heaven. Just reading short passages each week seems to me a bit like my knowledge of London. I know the streets in several bits of London but not really how they fit together relative to each other.

As Mark's gospel is so short, why not make the time to read it in one go? Get caught up in the pace of the narrative and see if it helps answer the key question, "Who is this man?" [Spoiler alert: the answer comes in Mark 15:39 but I've just looked ahead and that verse doesn't come up at all in the readings next year!] And if we're still under some sort of Covid restriction and so have more time, why not go back and read Philippians and 1 Thessalonians too - a bit of revision, and certainly a couple of letters that can to bring a big dose of christian cheer to start a new year.

A big thank you from me to Pete Hawkins for putting up with these pieces, especially when he's got them a wee bit late, for so many years. Happy Advent, Christmas and New Year. Angus

Dec	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
6th <small>Advent 2</small>	Isaiah 40:1-11	85:1-2, 8-13	Mark 1:1-8	2 Peter 3:8-15a
13th <small>Advent 3</small>	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	126	John 1:6-8, 19-28	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
20th <small>Advent 4</small>	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	89:1-4, 19-26	Luke 1:26-38	Romans 16:25-27
27th	Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3	148	Luke 2:22-40	Galatians 4:4-7
Jan				
3rd <small>Epiphany</small>	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Matthew 2:1-12	Ephesians 3:1-12
10th	Genesis 1:1-5	29	Mark 1:4-11	Acts 19:1-7
17th	1 Samuel 3:1-10	139:1-6, 13-18	John 1:43-51	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
24th	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62:5-12	Mark 1: 14-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
31st	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	Mark 1: 21-28	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Feb				
7th	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-11, 20c	Mark 1:29-39	1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Prayer Online

Just a reminder that this is up and running and if anyone else would like to join, please email me at myraejones@btinternet.com. Usually you will receive a message once a week with people or issues to pray for. Even if you don't want to be part of this you can still send me a message if there is someone or something you would like us to pray for.

URC Prayer handbook 2021, entitled Conversations.

Price £4.99 [or £4.49 if I order more than 10 copies]

Please let me know if you would like one.

Myra Jones.

Thank You

And finally a note from your editor...

Many thanks to all, especially the regular contributors to the recorder. Thanks for the support, the timely entries and most importantly your patience over the past 12 years.

I leave you in the capable hands of Sarah Trigg, who has two months to get up to speed before the next edition in February. Many thanks for taking on the mantle Sarah!

Please send all future contributions for the recorder to sarahtrigg683@gmail.com

I have suggested the 20th of January as the next deadline but please feel free to share earlier to give Sarah extra time for putting together the next edition.

**Deadline for contributions for the
February Recorder is 20th 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
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