

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

February '20

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | February Diary

Preachers for February 11am services

2nd Rev. Ruth Browning
8th Delwyn Tilke
15th Angus Gregson
(Will include Communion)
23rd John Waines

Preachers for March 11am services

1st Wendy McGee
8th Rev. Douglas Burnett
(Will include Communion)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th February Joint Southmead Churches prayer meeting at Kingsholm Church at 7.30pm

Friday 21st February Monthly Southmead Quiz held at New Brunswick URC. Start 7pm.
Cost £3 which includes 'nibbles' tea and coffee.

Sunday 1st March Joint Southmead Churches Service which will be held at the Pentecostal Church at 6.30pm. The service will be followed by Refreshments and a time of fellowship.

Tuesday 10th March Church Meeting at 7.30

We remember those of our fellowship who would appreciate pray at this time. Thinking especially of Elizabeth's daughter (Geraldine) who is experiencing trouble with her eyes. We pray for a positive outcome.

Ivy, too, is in our thoughts after her recent surgery We pray that she will be feeling less sore and giddy.

We have heard that Dave has now moved into his new home in Keynsham. We hope he will be very happy there and will soon settle.

Another of our fellowship is also 'on the move'. Carol and Dave will be moving to Bradley Stoke in the very near future we pray that the move goes smoothly and that they, too, will soon settle in at their new address and be happy there.

We send best wishes to those celebrating birthdays in the coming weeks, especially those who are reaching an 'O' birthday! Thinking especially of Lisa and Morag. We pray that all who are celebrating will know God's Blessings on their 'special' day.

We continue to pray for all those who have been recently bereaved and assure them of our continued love and support.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

The Holy Habit that we shall be exploring next is that of "Biblical Teaching". When we hear that phrase our reaction or reactions might be many and various. There is the reaction of "of course!" What could be more obvious a Holy Habit than that! But then again, it could be the kind of phrase that sends a shiver through our bones, as opening the Bible and reading and trying to understand it just isn't that easy.

I recall many years ago, when I was at primary school, one of the translators of the New English Bible coming round and at one of our assemblies telling us, that if we were to read through the Bible and find an error, that they would give us a guinea coin! The next night I started in. I think that I got as far as Exodus when I gave up!

Our reactions to the idea of Biblical teaching may be many and various, but somewhere therein there is a real love for what we learn from it. For us the Bible is one of those formative influences that is so embedded within us, that we can hardly imagine our lives without it. Each of us can name a favourite story or reading, something that has connected profoundly with our own lives and that has made a difference. It is not that we are just snatching at a few verses, it is more that those few verses point us towards God's big story and our experience of God.

And that really is the point of Biblical teaching. It is all part of our living experience of God. We use the Bible to help us make sense of that living experience. And because that experience is so immense, we also need the companionship of those around us to bring more sense an insight to our own experience.

Recently I have had the joy of sitting with the Year 1 classes at St. John's School as they have been exploring various of the Bible stories from the Book of Genesis using Godly Play, which is a wonderful story-telling form now widely used across schools, hospitals and other places as well. I have been enthralled to see how these stories help the children to express their own experience of God.

That fascination never really leaves us. So, over the next couple of months we shall be creating various new opportunities to engage and to learn. But maybe as a starting point we could all think about:

- What might be your favourite Bible passage?
- What makes it so?
- What difference has it made to your life?
- How might you share that experience with someone else?

Dougie



We again pray for the family of **Derek Skelcher** after his death in November and at his funeral on 21 January; Margaret is now being looked after by Social Services, and we send her every blessing.

Myra Jenkins continues to be cared for in a nursing home and by **Bryan**, who visits each day, and who isn't in the best of health himself. We think of them both.

Sheila Smart hasn't been able to attend church recently as often as she would like, as her mobility isn't very good at present.

Margaret Prigg has injured her leg again which is now being dressed several times per week. We send them our prayers and God's blessings and hope they will feel better soon and will feel supported by us. Please also pray for the health of **Maxine Davies** and **Anne Moody**, both of whom are very ill at the moment.

Reg Dickson continues to suffer from the after-effects of Shingles and we offer our thoughts and prayers to him and **Joyce**, and hope that he feels better soon.

We also pray for the health of **Margaret Donadel**, who has been diagnosed with cancer once again; she currently cares for a friend in Oxford and visits each weekend, so we haven't seen her for a while, but she has been a loyal member of Redland Park for many years, and we send God's blessings to her.

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.

Church action on poverty

Speaking truth to power; Putting faith into action

'You can help people speak truth to power. Church Action on Poverty opened my eyes to injustice and gave me the courage to speak out.'

Redland Park raised £278 (increased to £347 with Gift Aid) when we led a church service on Sunday 5 January 2020 with a soup, bread and cake lunch afterwards. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the service and/or lunch, and those who made donations to reach this excellent total.

A prayer for Church Action on Poverty 2020:

What if we raise our voices?

Echo the truth once spoken to power.

The kingdom will be proclaimed;

The still small voice of God will comfort the exile.

The roar of the righteous will drown out the wicked.

The hope of resurrection will be sung out.

Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

God, we hear the voice of the prophets' call to justice, peace and action.

We invite you to pierce our complacency, fire our hearts and strengthen our wills.

This world is hurting, broken and wounded.

Use our feet to stride towards justice.

Use our hands to bring about healing.

Use our mouths to preach Good News.

Use our gifts to usher in peace, equity, reconciliation and love.

Dear God, acting justly is not easy.

Yet this is what you ask of us.

In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.

Amen.



Please pray for:

The family and friends of Rev. Tim Pittock, who died in December.

Margaret Donadel.

Susan Harker

Maxine Davies

Reg Dickson

Margaret Skelcher

Enid

Sean.

All those undergoing hospital treatment or waiting for test results.

The Queen and the royal family.

The Prime Minister and Government.

All affected by the bush fires in Australia.

The easing of tensions between the USA and Iran.

The overflow church night shelters in Bristol.

The work of Church Action on Poverty.

Our continuing following of Walking the Way and Holy habits.

God, we are assured that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus.

Amen

All welcome at the 7 o'clock service

Everybody is always welcome at our informal fortnightly Sunday evening service at Redland Park...

Every couple of weeks - 2nd and 4th Sundays - some of us meet to worship in the church at 7 in the evening. Our format always includes contemporary hymns from writers like Graham Kendrick, Matt Redman and Stuart Townend as well as other rich Christian songs, a Bible study or discussion of current issues and then open prayer time .

We've just started developing the Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching, looking at passages where "scripture" is made use of in New Testament accounts. Which passages did Jesus talk about, for example, on the road to Emmaus when "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself". (Luke 24:27)

As I've mentioned in the KuwTV 101 bit at the end, we've just had a revelatory study of Jesus being tempted by the Devil, where Jesus counters the temptations with verses from Deuteronomy. But the Devil isn't averse to throwing back a bit of scripture (Ps91) himself. (Herself?) There was much more than just using scripture verses which we discovered when we explored it.

None of us are learned biblical scholars; we just share from our experiences, our doubts, our understandings, and that enriches our time together. When I've occasionally mentioned the 7 o'clock service to other members of Redland Park, the response is often the same as with fruit cake or Guinness: "I haven't tried it but I know I wouldn't like it." I wish now I'd tried fruit cake a lot sooner than I did. Why not risk joining us for worship at 7 on alternate Sunday evenings? Yes, it's a bit of a sacrifice - I miss The Archers each time - but what I gain is inestimably greater.

What we'll be looking at over the next few weeks is:

- 26 Jan** Luke 4 vv 1-13 Resisting temptation through texts.
- 9 Feb** Ezekiel 3 vv 1-11 Prophet is given God's words
- 23 Feb** Matthew 24 vv 15-28 The awful horror (plus OT references!), or
 - a. Colossians 3 vv12-17
 - b. Colossians 1 vv 9-12
 - c. Ephesians 3 vv 7-21
- 8 Mar** Luke 4 vv 14-30 Jesus preaches in Nazareth
- 22 Mar** Acts 8 vv 26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian.
- 12 Apr** Easter Sunday
- 26 Apr** Luke 24 vv 13-50 The Road to Emmaus
- 3 May** Acts 2 v 14- 41 Peter's Pentecost sermon.

Angus Gregson, with additions from Les Fry

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for February 2020

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship with communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 6th	2.30pm	First Thursday – Lunch at The Cowshed
Sun 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 16th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

March 2020

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

Prayer Circle

As part of Walking the Way and the Holy Habit of Prayer it was felt it might be useful for people to try and set up an email Prayer Circle.

Many years ago we did have a Telephone Prayer Circle which operated for several years. The idea is that if you would like to be part in this you allow us to use your email address and you will be contacted when there is a request for prayer.

Anyone can ask for the circle to pray for people both in and out of our Church and for any issues people are concerned about. It would not be necessary for names or precise details to be given if this was felt to be inappropriate.

Please send your names and email addresses and any requests to myraejones@btinternet.com.

Thank you Myra Jones and the Walking the Way committee.

Bristol churches winter night shelter

In serving our neighbour and in loving the marginalised we are serving our friend Jesus and proclaiming his glorious Kingdom.

This shelter for homeless people is now in its fourth year in Bristol. Seven churches take one night each week of hosting up to 12 homeless people selected by St Mungo's charity, men who are clear of addictions to drink and/or drugs, and who would benefit from secure accommodation. This security helps them to find or keep a job and possibly to find secure accommodation for the future.

The clients of this shelter are all treated with respect; they are grateful for a hot dinner, a safe, warm bed for the night, and breakfast the following morning. They can also watch TV, DVDs, play games, chat, charge mobile phones, or just settle down after a day either walking the streets or working – sometimes they have jobs but struggle to keep them without secure accommodation.

Tyndale Baptist Church is hosting Tuesdays for six weeks in January and February 2020 and several members of Redland Park volunteer. Phase 2 will start from February to March 2020, some with the same churches as in the first phase, and some with churches new to hosting. Again, a few of our churches members volunteer.

The volunteers are very happy to be able to help and support the shelter and, together with the soup run each October, this is one of the ways we can help those unfortunate enough to be homeless in Bristol during the cold winter months. It is also a way for Gladness and Generosity to flow from those who have to those who have not.

Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter, 32 Stapleton Road, BRISTOL, BS5 0QY
bristolchurcheswintershelter@gmail.com

Churches Together in Clifton Cotham and Redland Lent Conversations 2020

*For your Diaries! World Day of Prayer (Zimbabwe)
Friday 6 March, 10.30am - 11.30am (with Refreshments from 10.00am)
Cotham Parish (St Saviour's with Mary's)*

All meetings start 7.00 for 7.30pm and end by 9.00pm

Thursday 5 March, Apostles' Room, Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road BS83BX

Reverend Dr John Weaver Vice President of the John Ray Initiative,
Former Principal of South Wales Baptist College and former
President of the Baptist Union
Faith and Climate/Pollution

Monday 9 March, Victoria Methodist, 1A Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 1NU

Nick Spencer Senior Fellow Theos, Author, Broadcaster, Visiting Research Fellow at
the Faiths and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London and a Fellow of
the International Society for Science and Religion

Science and religion: what are they actually disagreeing about?

Thursday 19 March, Cotham Parish Church, Cotham Road, BS6 6DR

Former Bishop Dr Alastair Redfern The Clewer Initiative,
Former Bishop of Derby, and of Grantham, Author
Modern slavery

Thursday 26 March, Redland Park URC, Redland Park BS6 6SA

Laura Hobbs CFA Deputy Head of Ethical Investment, CCLA
Managing Investments Ethically





World Day of Prayer



This year Cotham Parish Church (St. Saviour's with St. Mary's) BS6 6DR is hosting the World Day of Prayer on Friday March 6th 2020 from 10.00 for refreshments. The service is from 10.30 to 11.30am. There is a crèche space with toys for any one with young children who want to come to the service.

It has been written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe. They are calling on all women, men and children of all ages to **'Rise Take Up Your Mat and Walk.'** The women of Zimbabwe are encouraging us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that has plagued their country over many years. Over those years we have been made aware of these difficulties through our friend Truida and her family here at Redland Park. It would be wonderful if as many of us as possible could support the people of Zimbabwe this year.

Anne Neugebauer (Secretary for World Day of Prayer Committee)

If you want to find out more about the WWDP please visit their website www.wwdp.org.uk



First Thursday: When Christmas was cancelled

Although it will probably be February 2020 when you read this and Christmas seems but a distant memory it may surprise you to know that in 1644 our Puritan forbears passed an Act of Parliament banning the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun; it was later repealed at The Restoration. This was the unexpected beginning to an afternoon of Christmas music and readings compiled for First Thursday in December by our own John Turner, ably assisted by Joan.

After singing the traditional "The Holly and the Ivy" we were introduced to the little known poem by Martin Luther written to accompany a Nativity play "From heaven above to earth I come"

It's 154 in R&S but I doubt any of us even realise it's there let alone sung it. En route to our final destination of a carol written in the 21st Century we were able to join in some very familiar favourites together with others which we rarely have the opportunity to sing.

Interspersed with the carols were various seasonal readings from our members. One of the earliest was "I sing the birth was born tonight" by the 16th century Ben Johnson (it's 713 in Congregational Praise but not in Rejoice and Sing). Other poems and readings included the lesser known "Advent 1955" by John Betjemen, quite long but in true Betjemen fashion gets to the heart of comparing the secular and true meanings of Christmas. In contrast were three delightful short poems originally written for Christmas cards and poems by U A Fanthorpe including BC:AD which movingly records the event which changed time.

John also entertained us with an organ chorale prelude by Telemann which intersperses the Christmas melody "How brightly shines the morning star" with a sailor's hornpipe – clever writing and playing.

And finally.....we were introduced to a modern song by Gloria Shane and Noel Regney "Said the night wind to the little lamb", written during the international tensions following the Cuban Missile Crisis. Not entirely to my taste but it is good to reflect that even in these days of the secularisation of Christmas contemporary writers are still keen to give voice to the event which changed history. Although it was written 50 years ago, the song has featured heavily this Christmas on BBC TV.

Thank you John for an interesting and stimulating afternoon. David Hayden

First Thursday has planned a lunch at The Cowshed, Whiteladies Rd on Thursday 6th Feb @ 12.30. Everyone is welcome. Please give your name to either Carole Atter or Audrey Bryant if you would like to join us.

Greta Thunberg calls for divestment and the end of fossil fuel subsidies

The 17 year old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has called on world leaders to **end the 'madness' of fossil fuel investments and subsidies**. The article, published by the Guardian, was written with other youth climate activists from around the world. It urged leaders meeting in Davos for the 50th anniversary conference of the World Economic Forum to end global investment in fossil fuels.

The young climate strikers demanded that 'at this year's forum, participants from all companies, banks, institutions and governments immediately halt all investments in fossil fuel exploration and extraction, **immediately end all fossil fuel subsidies and immediately and completely divest from fossil fuels.**' They emphasise the urgency of action needed, adding that 'we don't want these things done by 2050, 2030 or even 2021', but are calling for divestment 'now – as in right now.'

A few days after the young activists demanded an end to investment in fossil fuels, the divestment movement in the UK celebrated the milestone of **half of UK universities committing to divest and going fossil free**. This is a result of several years of protests, campaigns and lobbying from the student environmental movement People and Planet, working in conjunction with the National Union of Students.

In addition to the success of university divestment campaigns, there is growing pressure on banks to stop their lending to fossil fuel companies. Last week, eleven institutional investors and shareholders filed a resolution urging Barclays to cut its support of oil and gas corporations. The resolution will be brought for discussion at the bank's AGM in May. Two of the eleven shareholders pushing Barclays to reconsider its financing of fossil fuels are the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the Jesuits in Britain, and the Church Commissioners have also expressed their support of the resolution.

The increasing focus on calling out the banks supporting and financing fossil fuel extraction is simultaneously taking place in the US. Stop the Money Pipeline is a new campaign, supported by the founder of the divestment movement and 350.org, Bill McKibben, demanding an end to the connections between Wall Street and Big Oil. McKibben and a group of campaigners were recently arrested while occupying a branch of Chase Bank in Washington DC as part of a sit-in protest against the bank's financing of fossil fuels with \$196bn since 2016.

On January 6th 20 UK churches, dioceses, religious orders and Christian institutions announced their divestment from fossil fuels. They join the growing 'Fossil Free' divestment movement, where faith institutions make up 29% of divesting organisations – the greatest proportion of divestment commitments globally. The global total of assets under management of divesting institutions has now surpassed \$12 trillion.

The announcement came on the day the Christian world celebrated the feast of Epiphany, at the start of 2020 – a vital year for climate action in the UK, especially with the COP26 coming to Glasgow in November.

Reverend Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of URC South Western Synod: 'The South Western Synod covers a beautiful part of God's creation and we are very aware of our responsibility to be wise stewards. We therefore made the decision to divest from fossil fuels and also challenge everyone in the life of the synod to ask themselves how best to respond to the climate emergency by cutting our carbon footprint. We are hopeful that as Christians we can help to build a more sustainable economy for the good of all God's children.'

As a result of pressure from Churches and increased demand from clients, several investment management companies have begun offering 'fossil free funds' to institutions that no longer wish to invest in fossil fuels. CCLA Investment Management announced last July that its 'COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund' would have completed divestment by 1 December 2019, and Epworth Investment Management (a wholly owned subsidiary of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church) will also launch a fossil free fund in early 2020.

In the powerful words of Greta and her fellow young activists: 'Anything less than immediately ceasing these investments in the fossil fuel industry would be a betrayal of life itself. Today's business as usual is turning into a crime against humanity. We demand that leaders play their part in putting an end to this madness. Our future is at stake, let that be their investment.'

Myra Jones

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 101* Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for February and the first Sunday in March.

Although Luke sets out to present an "orderly account" (as NB people will have heard a zillion times last year), in a sense Matthew is even more organised in his gospel. He collects Jesus' teaching into 5 blocks, each with its own theme. The first block is chapters 5-7, about how to live a lifestyle so that people "may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (5:16). Hmm. I don't think I measure up to that standard. Yet.

We don't get the rest of chapter 5 nor any of the rest of the Sermon on the Mount during this year, so maybe you could read the rest for homework. The other teaching blocks, if you really want to get ahead with your readings, are: ch.10 about mission; ch.13 with images of God's kingdom - "It's like..."; ch.18 about how our relationships with others should be; ch.24-25 looking forward to God's saving and judging work.

Lent begins in March with the account of Jesus' temptations in the desert after his baptism. As I type this, I've just come back from a wonderful 7 o'clock service where we were looking at this passage, and how it was that Jesus was able to withstand the Devil's temptations. Sometime before March 1st ask someone who was there to tell you about it.

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.

Feb	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
2nd	Micah 6:1-8	15	Matthew 5:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
9th	Isaiah 58:1-12	112:1-9	Matthew 5:13-20	1 Corinthians 2:1-16
16th	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	119:1-8	Matthew 5:21-37	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
23rd	Exodus 24:12-18	2 (or maybe 99)	Matthew 17:1-9	2 Peter 1:16-21
Mar				
1st	Genesis 2:15-17	32	Matthew 4:1-11	Romans 5:12-19
Lent 1				

A surprise in January

I had a lovely surprise in January. I came into Redland Park to do some organ practice because I was playing for the service on 19th. I had chosen some music which was new to me and was working through it on the organ, trying to make sure the notes were right and choosing stops and groups of stops which showed off the music well. I had not played the RP organ since the restoration work started in June 2019, and after a few minutes of playing realised that something marvellous had happened to the organ. The sound the organ made was much clearer and brighter than I had been used to and I thought that the clearer sound was improving the precision of my playing.

The improvement isn't surprising, because the recent restoration has repaired some wind leaks, removed dust from the organ chamber and washed and cleaned the pipes which make the sound. For me it was a reminder that the organ we have is a well-designed versatile musical instrument. Some parts of the organ date from 1895. It has been well cared for over the years, overseen by Mike and is a great musical asset for our church and the community.

The organ is an exciting instrument which is great fun to play, but at the same time, testing. It is unusual among musical instruments, because it doesn't (normally) belong to the person playing it. Instrumentalists choose an instrument they like, buy it and it is their property, so practice for them is easy. People (young or old) learning the piano can only make the transfer to learning the organ if they have access to a church or a school with an organ. With the closure of churches, the availability of organs for anyone to practice is reducing. Redland Park's organ is large, complex and versatile. It is important because it exists and because it can present all types of music well. It is there to enhance our worship, to aid our singing, by which we express our faith and to present great music in our services. It is also an asset for training and encouraging future organists, who in their turn will take our message forward. It is available for the community in which we are placed to aid their music making. There are few instruments like it.

John Turner

*sounds like an Open University foundation course. It isn't!

Deadline for contributions for the
February Recorder is 25th February.

Please send to the editor

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