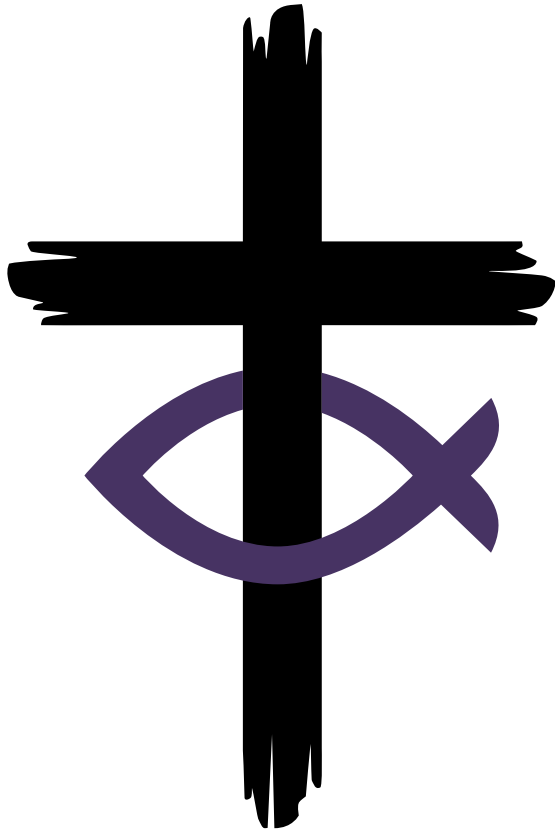


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The Recorder

February '22

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



New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

February	March
6th Delwyn Tilke	6th Angus Gregson
13th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)	13th Rev. Douglas Burnett
20th Sue Thorne	
27th Les Fry and Friends	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Wednesday 9th February 6pm Girls Brigade recommences after being unable to meet since Covid. We would appreciate your prayers that the girls will return.

Thursday 10th February 7.30pm at the church we will be holding our next church meeting.

Friday 18th February at the Greenway Centre there will be a Quiz. Commencing at 6.30pm. Everyone Welcome.

Monday 21st February at 7.30pm will be our next Prayer, Praise and Bible Study meeting. This will be held at the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday 1st March at 7.30pm at Pentecostal Church will be the next Joint Churches Prayer Meeting.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

It was with much sadness we learnt of the death of our dear friend **John Waines** the week before Christmas. He had fought his illness bravely. We uphold to God, at this time, **Gill and the family**. May they know the comfort of God's Love. In the assurance that John is now resting in the arms of Jesus. We assure the family of our Love and Support in the coming days. A memorial service was held on 22nd January when John was remembered with Love, humour and fondness.

We have also been saddened to hear of the sudden death of **Rob Lowery**. He had only been worshipping with us for a few months but his family had been associated with the church for many years. His Mum had been our Cradle Roll Secretary for many years before her death. We send our deepest condolences to his sister Jill and his cousin Anita and the wider family.

Several of our folk have fallen to the Covid virus, we send our best wishes to Julie and several of her family members who are recovering well. **Angie** who has been left with a nasty cough having tested positive for Covid. Several of **Carol's** family have had to have time off from work and school because of the virus. May all these folk all soon feel the healing touch of Jesus.

We also uphold to God others who are known to us who are not mentioned here but are known to Him. He knows their needs. Those waiting for test results. Folk who are worried about financial matters. Those who are worried about family members. All their concerns are known to God and we ask that He minister to each as they need.

Vestry Vibes

by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

By the time you are reading this it will be almost two years since the Covid-19 pandemic first started to make a real impact on our lives. Of course by this time in 2020 we had all heard of the Corona virus, as we were mostly calling it back then, but we all felt that it was still a long way away on the other side of the world. But bit by bit it crept closer to us. In February of 2020 we had a Taiwanese student staying with us here in the manse. She developed a cold and, because she had changed flights in Hong Kong, she had to get tested. The two of us were picked up by an unmarked ambulance from outside the manse and taken to the back of the BRI. Two medics in PPE came out and swabbed her. The result was negative. Even so decided to return back to Taiwan, as a precaution for what might yet happen. Little did we know. Never could we have guessed!

Two years on from those beginnings we might just be seeing the end of the Omicron surge, and that might also bring into sight the end of the pandemic. We hope and wait to see. But, what would say has mostly profoundly changed and affected you over this period?

For me there has been something of the vulnerability of our humanity. Maybe we are not quite the "masters of the universe" that we might have imagined. But for me, and much more positively, there has been something of the solidarity of our common humanity. That was expressed in particular through the "clap for the NHS" events that happened weekly for a number of weeks. But there were also countless acts of kindness expressed by friends and neighbours.

What many of us found particularly challenging was lockdown and, more recently, self-isolation. Not being able to be with others has been a huge challenge. I managed lockdown, thanks to being with Helena, and being able to Zoom with you and others. When I tested positive for Covid-19 at the beginning of January and had to isolate by myself just for a week, that I found very testing. There is a profound sense in which we are made for each other in deep and lasting relationships.

For me, all of this is best understood through our being made in the image of God. If we are to flourish then we need to be in good and healthy relationships with God and with each other. Our essential humanity consists of serving communities rather than hoarding resources.

During lockdown the church moved on-line and experienced incredible highs of attendance, including those who had never known worship before. The Archbishop of Canterbury had thousands watching as he preached from his kitchen. After lockdown numbers have fallen once again. Patterns are yet to emerge, but I hope and pray that over the coming years new things will be learned. But maybe a very old thing as well: that it is God through whom and in whom we can make some sense of all these experiences and grown in our humanity.

I wish you well, and hope to see you all physically before too long!

Dougie

Redland Park People



Please pray for our friend **Andrew Sims** and all his family as he undergoes treatment, a second course of chemotherapy, and we hope for a good outcome. We pray for a speedy recovery to good health for several of our friends and members – **John Turner** after an operation; **Suzie Atkins** having dental treatment after an accident; Jane Beazer undergoing chemotherapy at home. It is good to see **Viv and David Hayden** in church again now that they are back driving.

It was good to see **Peter and Anna Ambrose** again with their daughter and grand-daughters for the Carol Service and we wish them all well.

We pray for the family of **Bryan Jenkins** who died on 17 December 2021, aged 92, after being in hospital for three weeks. Bryan has continued to attend church most Sundays, come rain or shine, for many years, after having been our church caretaker until his retirement. His funeral and cremation was at Canford on Monday 17 January, which Dougie led and Bryan's daughter Anita gave a tribute.

We have heard from **Kate Lincoln** who is in New Zealand for the time being (rather than six months here and six months there) because of lockdown restrictions, but sends her best wishes to everyone. **Alison Hooper** is also on the other side of the world visiting her son and his family in Australia, seeing them for the first time in three years, so we wish her well.

We received a Christmas card from **Mal and Janet Owen** who say: 'Hoping you have a merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.' Janet now needs more care than her current accommodation can provide so has moved to a nursing home in Westbury-on-Trym – Westbury House. Mal is no longer driving so several people are offering to take him to visit Janet, although he is in poor health himself. We pray for them both.

Sheila Smart is happily settled in Avenue House in Cotham, and **Margaret Prigg** lives in Avon Court, Clifton, but they miss being able to come to church or attend online. They always sends their best wishes to everyone at Redland Park.

A pack of eight woolly hats for children were left at church before Christmas with a note that said: "Dear 'From Bristol with Love' – I hope someone will enjoy these hats. They were knitted by a lady from France who got stuck over here during lockdown. I couldn't resist them but they don't suit me! Our local chapel can no longer send out Christmas show boxes so thank you for taking them. Sincerely, Margaret." If anyone knows who Margaret is, please thank her and say they will go to underprivileged children at Barton Camp, and be very much appreciated.

Please pray for any other members and friends who are recovering from illness or operations; they are in our prayers and thoughts. Dear God, please uphold these friends and surround them in your loving care.

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 Tonga, Eritrea, Sudan, Afghanistan and Libya at this time. We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, including Tonga, and hope that leaders of all the countries will put COP26 pledges into action.

LOST AND FOUND

A set of keys has been found in church, a few keys with a trolley token with a smiley face on. If these are yours, please see Les Fry.

Prayer page:

God of wisdom and love, light and truth and all that is good,
We thank you for your first words, which brought light into the world.
Forgive us for our words, which have hidden all that is good.
With our wisdom we build temples of stone but you desire a home
Where your Spirit can live and inspire.
Forgive us, Lord, and knock down the walls dividing the nations,
So you can have the last word,
Which will bring back light and goodness.
We thank you for your first words, which brought light into the world
And may we hear you last words
Bringing the promise of new life.



Amen

Please pray for:

The family of Bryan Jenkins

Gill Waines and her family

Andrew and Suzy Sims

Jane Beazer

Janet and Mal Owen

Alison Hooper

Sheila Radford

The people of Afghanistan

Ukraine

Tonga

Refugees and asylum seekers

The homeless

NHS and care workers

All living in poverty

Loving God, you know the needs of your suffering people. Help us to find ways to make a difference as we follow Jesus.

Amen

Climate Justice

Many of the people who went to Barton Camp back in October had the chance to make some pledges about things they were going to do to reduce their own carbon footprint and use of unsustainable resources. That work goes on. (If you want to know where to buy celery not entombed in plastic, ask Verna Milligan!)

The church's Climate Justice Group will be regularly suggesting more things we can each do. They may not suit all of us all of the time but why not give them a go? As someone once said, "Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today, because if you do it today and enjoy it, you can do it again tomorrow".

So let's start with a food one. Why not try going meat-free for one more day a week than you currently do? Or if you're entirely meat-free already, why not try going vegan once a week?

Lots of recipe ideas at:

www.meatfreemondays.com

or

www.veganrecipeclub.org.uk



Redland Park Church Calendar

February Services at Redland Park URC.

10.30am services. (At church and online)

6th Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion)

13th Rev Dougie Burnett.

20th Rev Dougie Burnett.

27th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; **732 001 8996**; passcode **8cC7Zv**

7pm services,
13th and 27th.

Zoom log in; **848 3007 5496**; passcode **219761**

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Elders Meeting.

2nd February

Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter

Thank you to everyone at Redland Park who is helping with the night shelter – three who go and serve lunch on a Wednesday, many others who make sandwiches or cake, and others who have donated money to pay for fruit, drinks, biscuits, etc. If you would like to make sandwiches, etc, in February or March, please see Alison, Carol or Les.



Against the odds, the Winter Shelter did open at the start of November and all rooms in the B&B are fully utilised. Volunteers from a number of churches (including Redland Park) have regularly arrived bringing lunch or an evening meal for our guests.

Three guests have already found employment and are looking for private accommodation. A frequent comment is that no longer having to fend for themselves on the street, they now have the time and the energy to seek out a regular job. When you pray, please ask the Lord to bless their efforts as it takes a determined desire to search out suitable employment.

Thank God for Tracy, the owner of the B&B. She is very supportive of what we are trying to do and learning a lot about homelessness.

Please pray for strength and safety for Amanda and Jo who are effectively on call 24/7. There has been no success in finding permanent night staff and we still rely on two agency workers who have filled the gap exceedingly well. Please pray that the agency can find suitably experienced staff to cover the remaining months.

'Those who live in the shelter of the most high will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.'

This is the first time that the shelter has been open over Christmas. During this period please continue to pray that the B&B can provide a sense of hope for all our guests. For many of them it's a difficult and lonely time which they don't look forward to. There will be opportunities and invitations from participating churches. May our prayers be that, like the shepherds, our residents will discover that the infant in the nativity came for them as well.

One guest has come to stay recently having been on the streets for a long time. He was very reluctant to move in as he has had some bad experiences in night shelters in the past. The fact that he is staying with us means that his support workers are able to work with him more intensively and develop a plan for him to move forward. Please pray that he can be well supported while he is with us and that they are able to find a good plan for him.

Another guest who has been with us from the start has been working full time now for several weeks. He is all ready to move into private rented accommodation as soon as he finds something suitable. Please pray that something comes up soon.

Our guest has secured a new job and permanent accommodation. Pray that the move goes well and that he is able to move on in early January as planned.

Another guest is starting a new full time job on Monday. Pray that the job suits him well and that he is able to find permanent accommodation soon.

One guest is being assessed for a move to supported accommodation on Monday. If the assessment goes well then he will be moving on next Thursday. He is a little anxious about this move, so it would be good too pray that it all goes smoothly.

BCWNS, Carpenter House, 32 Stapleton Road, Bristol

Minutes of Church Meeting

Minutes of Church Meeting 19th January 2022 (held via Zoom)

Rev Dougie Burnett welcomed 28 members, introducing Martyn Steele.

Apologies for Absence.

from Jane Beazer, Lesley Brentley, Matt Sims and Alison Hooper

Minutes from previous meeting,

24th November 2021 were accepted as accurate, with the only matters arising being the suggestion that best practice was to include individual surnames for historical purposes.

News of Members was shared,

including the deaths of our former Caretaker Bryan Jenkins and of John Waines from New Brunswick.

Scoping in Bristol

a. Rev Stephen Newell, Bristol URC Transition Minister, had attended the Elders Meeting on 12th January, contextualising the current need to distribute and stabilise Bristol Ministry and congregation needs at a time of a national imbalance between the number of Ministers and URC members. He clearly acknowledged the pain caused by the mismanagement of this process in 2021 particularly to Dougie & Helena.

b. Stephen had also met with Dougie & Helena to review how best the Ministers' resources can be best used in the Bristol area. This was seen as an effective bridge building meeting.

c. Central to Stephen's meeting with the Elders was the completion of a Needs and Dreams pro forma designed to enable Red-

land Park to respond to our immediate local needs and to make full use of our strengths, to be blessed to be a blessing. This enabled us to review aspects of Worship & Worship Leadership, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Future plans and Ministerial oversight.

d. Stephen plans to report back in June but the Scoping issue will remain on the agenda for both Church and Elders' Meetings.

d. Needs and Dreams Chart= Review of

Committee Reports; Church in Society

a. Church Action on Poverty Quiz, 31st January.

b. Lent Conversation Groups- programme in the February Recorder.

c. Christian Aid Sale in May.

Climate Change.

a. Agreed purposes to educate and encourage Redland Park on carbon emissions and sustainability.

b. Next meeting 20th January.

c. Andy Grand has joined the group

Finance and Property

The Treasurer highlighted three issues from his previously circulated report;

a. The end of year cash picture reflects recent income of a Synod grant of £10,000, a transfer from our deposit account of £10,000, a £14,600 stage 1 insurance payment (loss of business income) and £46,000 from the sale of investments.

b. Members giving (about £45-50,000 (including Gift Aid)-only just covers M&M payments. 77% of giving comes from 50 retired members- a challenge to be discussed at the March Elders' Meeting

19.01.2022

c. The church's indebtedness to the work of David & Viv Hayden and Sally King.

Special Category Ministry.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm, on 20th January.

Ministerial Matters

a. Plans for a "Muddy Church" event guided by Lucy Hudson.

b. The Bristol Passion Play has been postponed until 2023.

c. Events to celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary- John Turner, Carole Atter and Helena McKinnon shared memories of 1972.

Secretarial Matters

a. The end of anti Covid precautions has been indicated for 27th January. We await guidance from the URC about best future practice

b. Special gratitude was expressed to Adam Stewart, Claire, all of the "Techi team" & Sarah Trigg for maintaining normal service during the pandemic.

Looking forward to church music.

A.O.B.

a. Myra Jones is seeking homes for some books from the estate of Rev Cyril Grant.

b. Sally King promoted the idea of planting a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, possibly with an additional one for the URC's Golden Anniversary.

The meeting closed with prayers and the grace.

Next meeting will be held on Sunday 20th March at 11:45am (tbc)

Lent Conversations: 2022

Our theme for 2022 is 'What is our God?'. It is intentionally broad, and is inspired by A W Tozer '...no people has ever risen above its religion, and our spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God'

By Zoom only
Please Join at 472 478 8260
Passcode: 2jRp7R



There is no need to pre register
Enquiries to Lent Conv@Gmail.com

Date	Speaker	Theme
16 March 7.30-8.30 pm	Very Reverend Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol Cathedral	The Bible and Ethics
22 March 7.30-8.30 pm	Dr Nick Spencer, Senior Fellow, Theos and Broadcaster	God and Science
31 March 7.30-8.30 pm	Harry Benson The Marriage Foundation	Commitment and Marriage
5 April 7.30-8.30 pm	Steph Lake Operation Noah (and formerly NUS Ambassador on Climate Change)	Christianity and Climate

World Day of Prayer Friday 4 March 2022

10.30 to 11.30, Redland Park URC, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS6 6SA
Hybrid: Also via Zoom, Meeting ID: 732 001 8996; Passcode: 8cC7Zv

Attendance at all these events is free of charge in 2022, but we would welcome donations to

For **Lent Conversations to North Bristol Foodbank**, via

<https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

For **World day of Prayer Collections on the day or electronically to World Day of Prayer, England, Wales, and Northern Island** via <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 121 Angus Gregson

When Jesus gets the dejected disciples to have another go (Feb 6th), and they pull in an enormous catch, it's not just the size of the catch that astounds them. They realise that following Jesus is life at a different level and begin to follow. Then we have two weeks on Luke's equivalent to the Sermon on the Mount that we read in Matthew. (Why do I feel I know that one so much better than Luke's Sermon on the Flat Ground? Well, apart from the fact that we studied it at the 7 o'clock service in the autumn – you missed something good there.) It's not really a set of dos and don'ts but more how life in the kingdom of God is so much better. And then just before Lent we traditionally have the account of the Transfiguration. What do you make of that? Who was it for?

Meanwhile, in our 1 Corinthians readings, Paul tackles some rather theological issues in chapter 15. I don't think they're always immediately straightforward (but that might just be me). Why not have a read through those readings and discuss with someone else what you think they're getting at. Answers on a postcard or email to me, please.

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 (or alt)	Gospel	NT
6th	Isiah 6:1-13	138	Luke 5:1-11	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
13th	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1	Luke 6:17-26	1 Corinthians 15:12-20
20th	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	37:1-11, 39-40	Luke 6:27-38	1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50
27th	Exodus 34:29-35	99	Luke 9:28-43	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
March				
6th Lent 1	Deut 26:1-11	91:1-2, 9-16	Luke 4:1-13	Romans 10:8b-13

Organ recital : Claire Hobbs

I will be giving an organ recital in church at 11.00 on Saturday, February 26th.

This will include music by J S Bach, Buxtehude and Durufle.

There is no need to book, and there will be an opportunity to make a voluntary donation as you leave.

If you would like to read more about me, do follow the link here which will tell you more about my musical life.

<https://claire-hobbs.wixsite.com/musicforawhile/about>

Deadline for contributions for the **March Recorder** is .

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

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