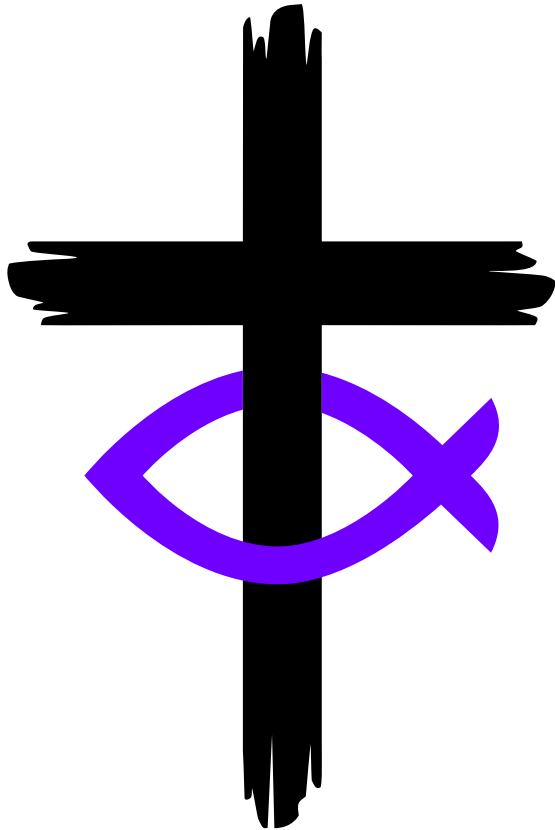


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# The Recorder

February '23

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



# New Brunswick Update

## Preachers for 11 am Services

February	March
5th Brenda Drake	5th Brenda Isherwood
12th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)	12th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)
19th Wendy Magee	
26th Rev. Helena Mackinnon	

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 7th February at 7.30 Southmead Joint Churches Prayer Meeting, Hosted by Kingsholm.

Friday 24th February at 7pm Southmead Quiz held at NewBrunswick. Entry £3 which includes tea, coffee and nibbles. Also a small raffle.

Saturday 25th February at The Greenway Centre will be the next Craft and Preloved Fair from 12-3pm entrance free.

## ADVANCED DATES FOR MARCH

Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm Southmead Joint Churches Prayer Meeting. Hosted by Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm Church Meeting

Saturday 18th March at 3pm Church 'Christmas' Party

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We are sorry to hear that **Ruth** has needed a spell in hospital after a fall down the stairs. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery from the fall.

We remember **Elizabeth** who too has had another spell in hospital. She is now on the road to recovery and has decided that she needs to have more care. So is looking at alternative accommodation. We pray that the right place will become available for her.

There are those in our fellowship who would value prayers at this time. We uphold **Julie and Pete**. As Pete continues to receive treatment. As well as Ruth we also pray for her husband that he may be given the strength to continue to care for his wife. Wenda would appreciate prayers for the situation concerning her daughter Susan whose current home is closing and a new place has to be found.

**Dave F, Joyce B, and Margaret** would also like to be remembered in our prayers. Each has their needs which are known to God. We pray that for all those mentioned He will give, Comfort, Patience, Guidance and Love. May all those mentioned also be of our love and support.

We uphold to God at this time **Paul** who is going through a difficult time at present. Praying that the treatment he is receiving will be helpful for a quick recovery. We also ask God to strengthen the whole family at this time giving them all His Peace and Comfort.

Although not of our Fellowship we uphold to God at this time the congregation of the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Southmead. It was with great sadness that we heard of their Pastor, **Kathy Glover**, passing at the beginning of December. She had bravely borne her illness with dignity. God saw she was getting tired and took her to Himself. We pray not only for their loss but also for guidance as to the way God wants His faithful people to continue to witness to folk in the area during this time. Again may they be assured of our support, friendship, love and prayers at this very difficult time.

We send belated best wishes to **Margaret** who celebrated her 90th Birthday on 1st January. It was good to hear that her friends made the day special for her with Helium balloons, cards and a Special Birthday Lunch!!

# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

How is 2023 going for you? That all might seem a bit soon, I know. How can we possibly judge that, you might well ask. But then again, we might be inclined to answer in the negative rather than the positive. We always start each New Year by wishing each other a Happy New Year, but very often a few weeks in, that sense of happiness by seem to be wearing a bit thin. After all it was in February of 2022 when we woke up one morning to discover that Russia had invaded Ukraine. After the trauma of the pandemic it was the trauma of a major war in Europe. We all wondered what might happen next. As it was Bristol became a place of sanctuary for many Ukrainian individuals and families fleeing the war. As we move through 2023, while we start the year by wishing each other all the best, we might also hold our breath as to what happens next. Though curiously there is always that thing that we call hope, and it is hope that gets us out of bed each and every day. Have you ever stopped to think about how strange and wonderful this thing called hope is? The author John Steinbeck (Of Mice and Men and East of Eden fame) once wrote:

*"Hope is a diagnostic human trait, and this simple cortex symptom seems to be a prime factor in our inspection of our universe."*

In slightly dated language he also says this:

"We have made our mark on the world, but we have really done nothing that the trees and creeping plants, ice and erosion, cannot remove in a fairly short time... In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the trait of hope still controls the future... Man in his thinking or reverie status admires the progression toward extinction,

but in the unthinking stimulus which really activates him he tends toward survival. Perhaps no other animal is so torn between alternatives. Man might be described fairly adequately, if simply, as a two-legged paradox. He has never become accustomed to the tragic miracle of consciousness. Perhaps... his species is not set, has not jelled, but is still in a state of becoming."

Hope is not a very scientific thing, but it is nonetheless something very real to each and every individual. What our faith tradition does is to explore the why and how of that sense of hope being real. It is rooted in God and all of God's dealings with humankind. For us it is most remarkably revealed in Christ dead and risen. That is a unique event in human history that takes us to the heart and pattern of life, the universe and everything. As we move into Lent, which starts in February, we start to focus again on what all of that means. Lent is all about getting a better perspective on life, the universe and everything. Do join us from our ecumenical Lent Conversations, if you can. Details will be forthcoming. And whatever happens next, let's be hopeful!

*Dougie*



Congratulations to **David Hayden** who celebrated his 90th birthday in early January. We send our best wishes to him. Unfortunately both David and Viv have had minor health issues since then but we send our prayers for better health.

We send our condolences to **Janet Stables family, Peter and David and their families**, after Janet's death in December. She had been suffering ill health for a while and this suddenly deteriorated. Her funeral was on Thursday 26 January, Canford, for the family then 2.30pm at Redland Park.

**Audrey Bryant** is still in Westbury Gardens and seeing specialists about her back; we pray that they are able to control the pain she is suffering. We wish her well, especially as she hopes to go home with support in February.

We wish **Helena McKinnon and John Neugebauer** better health as they have both been suffering from Covid for a couple of weeks and we hope they feel better soon.

We continue our prayers for **Andrew Sims and his family, and for Jane Beazer and her family**; they are both on treatment for cancer.

Please pray for our old friends **Janet Owen** in poor health in Westbury House, and **Mal Owen** in Trymview, who is finding life difficult.

**Martyn Steel** is recovering from a broken arm and finding life difficult at present; we pray for a successful recovery, and return to the organ and piano!

We think of **Joan and John Turner** after they both suffered ill health over Christmas; Joan is now feeling better and it's good to know that John is now home from hospital. We wish them both well.

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

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

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



## REDLAND PARK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Redland Park, Redland

Bristol BS6 6SA

[www.redlandparkurc.org](http://www.redlandparkurc.org)

Registered Charity No 1131460

### Minutes of Church Meeting 18.1.2023

**Attending:** Rev Dougie Burnett and 26 members

**Apologies for absence:** Mel and James Griffin, Helen Grand, Anna Sims, Lucy Pedlar, Cathy Warne, Jane Penrose, Les Brentley, Angus Gregson and Helena MacKinnon.

**Minutes of last meeting 18.9.22:** these were accepted as accurate with three amendments -

- Vimbai's surname is Fedrick
- Andrew Hayden will take over as Church Treasurer in March.
- Jane Rogers had also sent her apologies.

#### **Matters Arising:**

- Bristol URC Songs of Praise for 23<sup>rd</sup> October- thanks to Helena for co-ordinating.
- Trees planted as scheduled.
- Warmbank: Derek reported that this has been operational on Wednesdays and Thursdays since 7.12.22, with the number of visitors lower than expected, but three today! The supportive response of the Redland Park congregation remains excellent in providing resources and hosting. The sense of fellowship has been terrific and the next step may be a regular midweek soup lunch for both guests and Redland Park members.

#### **News of Members:**

Janet Stables died 24.12.2022, funeral at Redland Park on 26.1.23.  
In addition the needs of eight other members needing our prayers were shared.

#### **Ministerial Matters:**

##### **a. New Members:**

Martyn Steel will transfer his Membership from Muswell Hill to Redland Park on 1<sup>st</sup> February. 12 other potential members have been contacted and offered Membership classes in February and March, with a New Members' Service scheduled for Palm Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

##### **b. Bristol Korean Church:**

Rev Johan Song has been identified as a candidate for the BKC Ministry, and progress is promising for his arrival and the BKC joining the South West Province at Synod in July.

##### **c. Christmas 2022:**

- Junior Church presentation highly creative- thanks to Helena and the parents.
- Carol Service- well attended, with many excellent contributions and strong integration with the Korean congregation.
- Crib Service- very popular with over 70 participants including Helen Hill from Sing and Sign signing Away in a Manger. Possibility of a similar Easter event.
- Christmas Day service- a happy celebratory service. Hopefully to be shared with Tyndale Baptist Church in 2023.

**d. New Free Church Chaplain:** appointed for September. John Neugebauer and Malcolm Johnson being key to the appointment of a replacement for the excellent Rev Mike Peat.

**e. Moderator:** Rev Ruth Whitehead is leaving the post in March to take up a call to six churches in Pembrokeshire.

#### **Committee Updates:**

**1. Church in Society:** Carol reported on the good work being achieved through Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter, with Redland Park providing Wednesday lunches- thanks to various members.

Christmas collections raised £600 for our two nominated charities; so far we have raised £493 for Food Bank and £375 for Caring in Bristol.

Tyndale Circle re-establishing itself post Covid- scope for new guests.

#### **2. Climate Justice:**

a. Myra reported on the imminent Buildings Energy Review and its report which will shape the church's next actions.

b. Working ecumenically, Redland Park will present on our work to the next meeting of Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland

c. In response to Christian Aid/COP27 Loss and Damage agenda- cards are to be provided for Church Members to message Thangam Debbonaire MP

d. Redland Park still working towards the silver A Rocha Award.

#### **3. Finance & Property:**

John highlighted several points from his previously circulated written report;

a. It has been necessary to sell £50,000 worth of our investments to pay for extensive property work, especially fire precautions.

b. An additional significant expenditure is necessary for repairs to the Manse Roof- £9,000, plus decorations.

c. Repairs to the water damage at Hurl Road Club Rooms will hopefully be covered by insurance. We are currently working with loss adjusters.

d. Our 2023 Payments for Ministry and Mission will be £45,720.

e. The environment for Managing Church Finances is currently hazardous with the new Church Treasurer starting with £200,000 approx, adequate but needing cautious management.

John also paid tribute to the efforts and skill of Viv, David, Adam, Sally, Terry and Dan in the recent complex financial times.

Redland Park is much indebted to John Neugebauer's great skills and commitment throughout his tenure as Church Treasurer.

#### **Other Business:**

a. Safeguarding training, to be led by Jan Murphy via Zoom on 7<sup>th</sup> February between 6pm and 9pm, but all Elders are encouraged to participate- names and details to Jane Rogers.

b. Prayer box to be created in the back vestibule for outreach to groups who rent the premises, notably the choirs.

c. World Day Of Prayer- 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Tyndale Baptist Church- more details from Anne Neugebauer.

d. Lent Conversations this year at Victoria Methodist Church.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm by Zoom.**



World Day of Prayer 2023

This year the women of Taiwan have written the service. It is based on the theme 'I have heard about your faith.' This is taken from Paul's letter to the Ephesians 1 verses 15 to 19.

The artwork below to promote the service has been produced by the Taiwanese artist Hui-Wen Hsaio.



(Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill.)

The service will be a hybrid one. It will be held in Tyndale Baptist Church (BSQ 2C on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>). It will start with refreshments at 10.am. The service will start at 10.30am to 11.30am.

The zoom details are:

Meeting ID 831 8799 5291

Password 810959

The people who come to this service are always moved by the sincerity of the women who wrote it. If you have never attended this service before please come long and experience it for yourself.

Anne Neugebauer

(secretary for our local WDoP committee attached to Churches Together)

I normally ask people to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight by buying fair trade goods from either the Traidcraft stall at church or in your supermarket when you do your normal shopping. This stall has been running for many years, and I took over from Heather Jones then Jean Camp quite a long time ago.

Unfortunately, some of you may have heard that Traidcraft has gone into administration, and the Board of Trustees sent the below email to all their customers. I shall continue to try to find items that are popular with members of the church from suppliers such as Divine chocolate, and sell the remaining stock, including some Christmas items which will come out in November! Traidcraft has let us know of their suppliers who are still able to sell on-line so I will continue to keep the Traidcraft stall running as long as I can.

Carol Fry

**Traidcraft plc going into administration:**

It is with tremendous sadness that we announce that Traidcraft PLC is going into administration. The business has been in a weak financial position for some years and the Covid-19 pandemic presented a significant new set of challenges. Just as we were emerging from the pandemic, like many other retailers, we faced the combined effects of the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices, and increased transport costs.

Sadly, despite the heroic efforts of our team at Gateshead, low consumer confidence during the critical autumn trading period led to a sales result significantly short of what was required to sustain the operation. December sales were also negatively impacted by the uncertainty created by Royal Mail strikes.

After much deliberation and following advice from external advisors, we have come to the conclusion that the only honourable course of action is to appoint administrators. Our hope is that by doing this in a timely manner, we can minimise the impact on our suppliers and creditors. It is heartbreaking to bring the Traidcraft plc story to an end in this manner but we can at least take some consolation from the knowledge that we have been a major force for good in the ethical retail sector for over forty years.

We have championed the cause of trade justice to the point where we now have better standards and procedures in place to protect the rights and dignity of growers and producers all over the world. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have journeyed with us as employees, board members, shareholders and suppliers.

We would particularly like to thank our loyal band of "Fairtraders", many of whom have been with us since the very beginning. The mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete. It is important to recognise that Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of Traidcraft) will continue its vital work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people centred trade. Our hope and prayer is that others will also emerge to pick up the torch that we have carried for four decades.

*Board of Directors*

*Traidcraft plc January 2023*

## St Peter's Hospice Charity Shop Seeks Volunteers

St Peter's Hospice is opening a new shop on Whiteladies Road in March and are looking for people to join their volunteer team from the local community. There are opportunities for volunteers on the shop floor and stock room; all roles are flexible to work around your lifestyle and offer a chance to form friendships, build confidence, and most importantly support the local hospice and give back to your community.

If this sounds like your cup of tea, then visit the volunteering page on the website [www.stpetershospice.org](http://www.stpetershospice.org) or drop into the Blackboy Hill shop at 154 Whiteladies Road to find out more.

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. (You have to have a really late Easter to squeeze in a bit more into Year A, the focus on Matthew, before Lent takes over.) Maybe you could read the rest for homework. (Did I mention I used to be a teacher?)

We didn’t get the readings about the Magi this year. They normally come on the week after Christmas but we had a totally different selection of readings on January 1st this year for some reason. The visit of the Magi to Jesus is called Epiphany, which means a manifestation, a revealing of the divine. On January 8th, we had Jesus baptism and the Spirit of God descending on him; a second epiphany. And then on the last Sunday before Lent we zoom forward to the Transfiguration; a most dramatic epiphany. Have you had an epiphany moment, when the penny finally dropped and you realised who Jesus was? Why not tell someone 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	Old Testament	Psalm	Gospel	NT
5th	Isaiah 58:1-12	112:1-10	Matthew 5:13-20	1 Corinthians 2:1-16
12th	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	119:1-8	Matthew 5:21-37	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
19th	Exodus 24:12-18	2 (or maybe 99)	Matthew 17:1-9	2 Peter 1:16-21
26th lent 1	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	32	Matthew 4:1-11	Romans 5:12-19
<b>March</b>				
5th lent 2	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	John 3:1-17	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

P.S. What do you notice about all the dates this month...?

## Sunday services @ 10.30am. (At church and on Zoom)

5th Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion)

12th Rev Dougie Burnett

19th Rev Dougie Burnett.

26th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

## 7pm Sunday service @ 7pm.

12th and 26th through Zoom.

Zoom log in; 815 4053 7777; passcode 087103

## Elders Meeting.

Wednesday 1st 7,30pm at Church.

## Warmshare.

Wednesdays & Thursdays between 10.30am and 2.30pm

## Cell Groups.

Mondays, 8.00pm.

Zoom log in; 831 5113 5751; passcode 508239

Tuesdays, 7.30pm.

Zoom log in; 312 983 3387; passcode 795550

**Deadline for contributions for the  
March Recorder is 26th February.**

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

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**or by post to The Recorder at the Church  
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