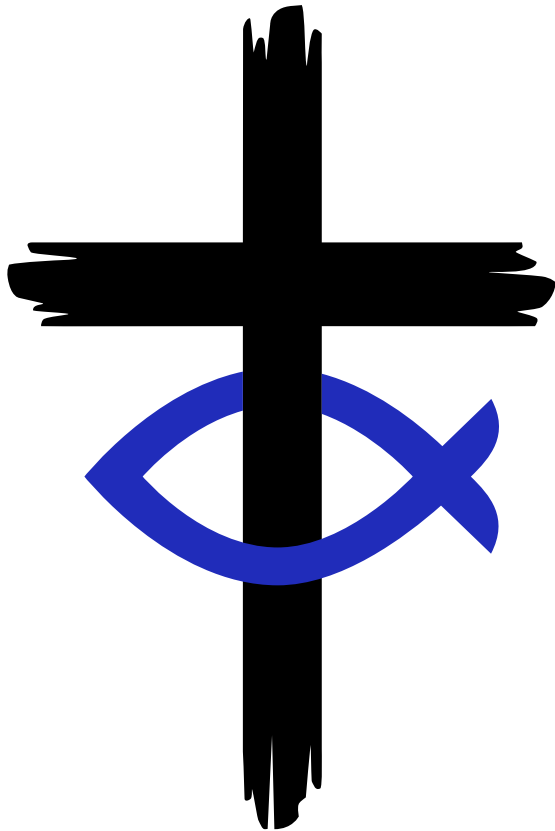


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The Recorder

July/August '22

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



New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

July	August
3rd Brenda Isherwood	7th Angus Gregson
10th Rev Helena Mckinnon (Will include Communion)	14th Sue Thorne
17th Angus Gregson	
24th To be Advised	
31st Delwyn Tilke	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 5th July. Monthly Southmead Joint Church's Prayer meeting. This month it will be hosted by Kingsholm Church at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Thursday 28th July Church Meeting at 7.30pm all welcome.

Tuesday 2nd August Monthly Southmead Joint Church's Prayer meeting. This time it will be Hosted by the Pentecostal Church at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Saturday 13th August Southmead Festival at Greenway Centre. Further details to follow.

Saturday 20th August Church Quiz and CreamTea. Further details to follow.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

It has been good to hear that **Elizabeth** is making good progress. Now able to sit in the chair and do some gentle physio. We praise God for His healing for Elizabeth. May Elizabeth be assured of our continued thoughts and prayers.

Good to hear that **Zac** has now finished his exams and is looking forward to moving on to 'Boomsatsuma' in September to study 'Sports Media'. We send him best wishes as he continues his education.

We are also pleased to hear that after much deliberation **Diesel** has now chosen to go to Lincoln University to further his studies in the 'Performing Arts'. Again we wish him well on the next step in education journey.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who, for one reason or another, are not able to join us on a Sunday morning. Thinking of **Wenda and Susan, Margaret, Robin, Gareth and Eugene, Joyce B and Ivy**. We pray that God will minister to them as each has need.

We send Birthday Greetings to those who will be celebrating in the coming weeks thinking especially of **Delwyn** on 21st and **Carol** on 27th. May all those who have a Birthday in July have a very happy day, one full of God's richest Blessings.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

This October sees the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church. Were you there at the time? For myself I was still living in Scotland and all of that passed me by. However Helena was born into the Presbyterian Church of England and she remembers so much of what happened at the time. It was a time of great hope and optimism. The ecumenical movement was very much getting under way and it was hoped that this union would be the first of many. Some did follow. In 1981 the Churches of Christ joined the URC. Then in 2000 The Scottish Congregational Church also joined. However hopes of more pervasive link ups between the other mainstream denominations failed to materialise. However at the local level there are many ecumenical partnerships, with URC-Methodist churches being the most common of there in our part of the world. It is beyond doubt that the URC's ecumenical ethos has had an effect beyond our immediate boundaries. That is good and that is something that we can certainly celebrate.

Beyond all of that, the question might well be that of, what comes next? The world we inhabit now is radically different from that of 50 years ago. If you look at the photos from the first URC General Assembly that was held at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster in 1972, the stage party is overwhelmingly made up of ordained white men dressed in black. That would not be the case now. These days there would be a far greater diversity of male and female, and from across the world as well. Back in 1972 it was still very much the case that little else happened on a Sunday except for church. These days shopping and leisure pursuits dominate. In recent years we have begun to explore other forms of church. These can be known as Fresh Expressions of church.

Their forms are many and various. Messy Church, for instance, has become especially popular. This is a form of church all modelled around craft and play for adults and children. In the past two years, and during the pandemic, another seismic shift has taken place. Suddenly we all had to discover how to go digital. Until two years ago most of us might have thought that Zoom was an ice lolly from the 1970s. Now many of us assume it as part of how we work and what we expect. 50 years ago, that would have been the stuff of science fiction and would have been considered very far-fetched.

So much change, but the constant has been our faith in Christ. It is the same faith and the same passion. We might feel a bit wearied by it all, but it is still what gets us out of bed every day. It is simply that we learn how to interpret and express that faith for every age and for every generation. In a sense it is what the early church had to do as they lived and witnessed in the decades just after Christ's death and resurrection. They trusted in the Spirit, and the message of the Gospel travelled far and wide.

So, we celebrate this anniversary and thanks God for journeying with us. We shall be marking this anniversary in various ways. We hope to take a coach up to London on Saturday October 1st, this with members and friends from other URCs in Bristol. We shall be putting information out about that. But, hopefully, there will be other events local to Bristol as well. In the meantime, enjoy the summer and rejoice that God is always with us!

Dougie

Redland Park People



We pray for the families of two of our long-standing members this month – **Margaret Donadel** who died after living with cancer and undergoing treatment over many years. She died at the end of May and her funeral will be at 1.15pm on Wednesday 6 July. We also pray for **Joyce Dickson** after Reg died on 12 June having been ill for some time; funeral arrangements are still being made but will be later in July.

We hope for successful treatment for **Lewis Manyika** who has glaucoma, and **Peter Ambrose** with a cataract operation, as well as **Truida's** cousin **Peter Mutare** with a brain tumour following a stroke. We also send prayers for **Andrew Sims** and his family, and **Jane Beazer** and hers, hoping their treatment will be successful.

We congratulated **Adam and Ali Stewart** last month on the birth of their new baby boy who we learn is called **Finlay**.

We pray for **Janet Stables'** younger son, **David**, who has been suffering pain and immobility in a shoulder for many months and is awaiting an operation in July; we pray that this will go well and he makes a successful recovery.

We wish a warm welcome to their new home to **Myra and Derek Jones**, as they move to a smaller house and garden after many years; we hope all goes well with the move. New address: 24 Shipley Road, Westbury-on-Trym BS9 3HS.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 has not gone away, so everyone take care, and **Martyn Steel**, our organist is now suffering from it, and we wish him a speedy recovery. It was good to welcome **Michael Kearley** back to the organ in his place at short notice.

From our prayer box, **Keith** asks us to pray for his friend **Samantha** who died several years ago but who is still struggling with his grief.

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 pray also for Eritrea, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan at this time.

At this time, we pray for those who died and those who survived the Grenfell Tower fire five years ago, and hope that those to blame will take responsibility and make reparations to the survivors.

We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, and hope that leaders of all the countries will put COP26 pledges into action, especially those areas suffering from the effects of Climate Change bringing drought and famine to countries like Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. We give thanks for companies that undertake research and develop technology that will help to tackle climate change.

For those countries suffering from economic crisis and poor government such as Sri Lanka and those feeling the effects of disrupted food supplies due to war in Ukraine. 60 million people are displaced around the world either in their own countries or refugees in other countries. We pray for the Ukrainian refugees that have come to our countries and all those organisations trying to support them. This includes churches and members in our own area.

We pray for those caught up in the massacre at a primary school in Texas, we remember their devastated families and pray that the gun laws will change.

We pray for students taking exams at this time and ask that they feel supported by teachers, family and friends.

Prayer page:

Your way – THE WAY – is hard, Lord.

Don't give me a bowl and towel.
I'd rather have people at my feet than be at theirs.

As for my fellow travellers –
I really struggle to love them at all, most of the time –

Let alone love them like you do!

Thank you for loving me the way you do.

Thank you for welcoming me back every time I fail or deny you.

By your Spirit, help me to plant my footsteps in yours
so that we can walk the Way together.

Amen



Please pray for

Andrew Sims

Jane Beazer

Tim Norton

The family and friends of Margaret Donadel and Reg Dickson

The people of Ukraine especially those who seek safety and refuge in Bristol

Those living with anxiety and depression

Refugees and asylum seekers, that they may be treated with dignity

The URC congregations in Bristol, who are facing uncertain times.

Dougie, Les and John and the Elders

Lord, you see us sometimes strangers on the earth,
Taken aback by the violence, the harshness of oppositions.
You come to send out a gentle breeze on the dry ground of our doubts,
And so prepare us to be bearers of peace and reconciliation.

Known or unknown, in our darkness you kindle a fire which never dies away.

Amen

QUEEN'S JUBILEE 2022

I hope everyone celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee well - in your home or street, or on TV. As announced in last month's Recorder, we had intended just having cakes after the service on 5 June with the dedication of our Tree for the Jubilee on Sunday 12 June. Unfortunately, the man we hoped to dedicate the tree wasn't available on the 12th, so the ceremony was brought forward to the 5th.

Dennis Stinchcombe MBE, with his wife Edna (also MBE) is the manager of Broad Plain Boys Club which has a long connection with Redland Park Church, came and dedicated our tree, followed with prayers by Dougie and the drinks and cakes back in the church



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!:

The Church in Society group is organising a garden party but, as a Sunday has been chosen, we will be holding this as a lunch rather than afternoon tea, so that people don't have to go home and come out again, especially those who live a long drive away.

The date is Sunday 24 July, the time is after morning worship, and the venue is the beautiful garden of Jane and Richard Pedlar (Trymwood, Trym Road, Westbury on Trym, BS9 3ET)

Bring a folding chair if you have one, lifts will be available, please speak to Carol Fry if you need one, and we look forward to a lovely church family event. Please come.

TYNDALE CIRCLE

For those who may not know this, if you know anyone with dementia who would benefit from a day centre, here is some information about the Tyndale Circle which is held at the Tyndale Baptist Church on Whiteladies Road. Tyndale Circle started up again post-covid in April 2022 and has spaces for more guests.

Tyndale Circle Day Centre provides help for those suffering from Dementia and associated conditions by providing a Day Care Centre every Thursday from 9.30am-2.30pm for up to twelve members. It allows their carers to have a free day, and there is a self help coffee morning for carers with a facilitator about five times a year.

At the Centre, tea and coffee are served at 9.30pm with a two course lunch at 12.00. There is a stair lift for wheelchair users.

Sustainable clothing and fashion

The Climate Justice group are trying to cover various aspects of our living that are impacted by climate change, and where we can also make a positive difference by changing our habits and lifestyles.

There was some chortling in the elders meeting when it was mentioned that I would be contributing something on clothing and fashion. As you know I always wear much the same and I always wear black. So, indeed, I know absolutely nothing about fashion.

But, then again, what I have and what I wear has usually been with me for many years. And maybe in the world of climate change, that is a good thing!

What has been known as fast fashion has become a real no-no in recent years, because of its impact on the environment.

Did you know that the industry is responsible for a shocking four to 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions every year – a figure that can't be overlooked considering the urgency of the climate crisis we're facing right now.

But what does sustainable fashion actually mean? In short, it's an umbrella term for clothes that are created and consumed in a way that can be, quite literally, sustained, while protecting both the environment and those producing garments. That's why cutting CO2 emissions, addressing overproduction, reducing pollution and waste, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring that garment workers are paid a fair wage and have safe working conditions, are all crucial to the sustainability matrix.

To be fair, Redland Park might not be hugely into fashion (though we are always very nicely turned out!), but maybe we can still be aware of what we buy in the way of clothes>

Buy less and buy better

Invest in sustainable fashion brands (Find this out through an internet search)

Shop secondhand and vintage (Helena loves charity shops!)

Know your materials (I'm told this involves avoiding polyester. That uses fossil fuels. I will need to think about all my lycra!)

Ask who made your clothes (fair wages?)

Look for scientific targets (have brands signed up for reducing their CO2 emissions?)

Take care of your clothes

Ensure your clothes have a second life (When they are really done, can they be recycled?)

Dougie

O Lord grant that we may not be like porridge-stiff, stodgy and hard to stir, but like cornflakes-crisp, fresh and ready to serve.

OR

O Lord grant that we may not be like cornflakes-lightweight, brittle and cold, but like porridge-warm, comforting and full of goodness.

MOVING STORIES

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Committed to supporting | our global partners | **BANGLADESH**

Reflection on Refugees

Amnesty International reports that in 2019, more than two-thirds of all refugees came from just five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar.

Syria has been the main country of origin for refugees since 2014 and at the end of 2019, there were 6.6 million Syrian refugees hosted by 126 countries worldwide.

In 2019, only half a per cent of the world's refugees were resettled. Over the past decade, just over 1 million refugees were resettled, compared to 3.9 million refugees who returned to their country.

Wealthier countries aren't doing nearly enough to share the cost of protecting people who have left everything behind. Appeals for humanitarian assistance for refugees are consistently – and often severely – underfunded.

In short, the world urgently needs a new, global plan based on genuine international cooperation and a meaningful and fair sharing of responsibilities.

Prayer for Refugees

Lord of the journey, we ask for your protection on all who have fled their homes.

Give them strength on their journeys and grant that they may find places of compassion at which to rest.

Ease their fear as they throw in their lot with strangers and keep alive their vision of finding a secure and welcoming home.

Amen.

'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!' THE ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS

To mark World Refugee Day tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh staged demonstrations (the Bari Cholo' or 'Let's go home' campaign) to demand repatriation back to Myanmar. Most have had to flee a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar. People came out despite a ban on rallies since 2019.

Almost a million Rohingya are confined to bamboo and tarpaulin shacks in thirty-four unsanitary, inadequate camps. They have no work, poor sanitation, and little access to education.

"We don't want to stay in the camps. Being refugees is not easy. It's hell. Enough is enough. Let's go home," Rohingya community leader Sayed Ullah said in a speech at one rally.

More than 890,000 Rohingya refugees are sheltering in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar region, the biggest cluster of refugee camps in the world.

About 92,000 Rohingya refugees reside in Thailand, 21,000 in India, and 102,000 in Malaysia. The Rohingya also make up a portion of Myanmar's 576,000 internally displaced people.

Please pray for an end to the brutal suppression of the Rohingya people so that a speedy and safe return of refugees might be possible. Thank you for your continued support through Commitment for Life for the work of our partners in the region.



Photo – Mustafa Ceveck: Pixabay

MOVING STORIES

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Committed to supporting | our global partners | **ZIMBABWE**

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Amen.

THE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CRISIS

There are almost 3.4 Zimbabwean refugees, roughly a quarter of the population. Most have gone to South Africa and Australia, with over 400 000 now living in the UK. Zimbabweans leave their homes because of poverty, climate change, and repressive government policies.

South Africa deports many of those who cross the border – over 14 000 every week. Most Zimbabweans crossing at Beit Bridge are turned back. Some attempt to swim across the Limpopo and are attacked or killed by crocodiles and hippos.

Many Zimbabweans seeking refuge in South Africa are children. They are vulnerable to abuse and sex trafficking. The large number of refugees has contributed to xenophobic attacks and harassment from locals.

Much of Zimbabwe is financed by money being sent back by refugees to family members, who use the money to pay for groceries and school fees.

Commitment for Life works with Christian Aid in Zimbabwe to improve conditions in Zimbabwe so that having to leave home becomes less likely. But the task is enormous, and we are grateful for your ongoing support and prayers.



Photo – Bob Brewer: Unsplash

suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk

www.bit.ly/URCFL

kevin.snymman@urc.org.uk

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 126 Angus Gregson

It's time for the bumper summer holiday edition of the Recorder. Something to settle into once the night's start drawing in, or maybe to while away the wait at the station or airport till you find out your train/flight's been cancelled. Here are the Lectionary readings for July, August and the first day of September.

Having worked through Galatians, there's a big focus on Colossians, a beautifully succinct setting out of the heart of the gospel. Paul's key point is that it that our faith is the key, nothing else. If we're rooted in Christ, our faith will be strengthened and everything else will follow. (2:6-7) It's a pity that the lectionary stops just short of the bit describing what we, the church, would look like if we did that. Could we use Col 3: 12-17 as a checklist for how our church is getting on in its faith journey?

Paul offers some tremendous prayers for these early churches. Have a read through Col 1:9-12, for example, and then go back and read Philippians 1: 9-11. Who could we, who could be, be praying that for now? Why not take a moment today, and every day, to single out one person in your mind and pray this for them?

The lectionary readings also miss out Col 4 - it's largely personalised greetings - but one verse struck me. It's that Epaphras is "always wrestling in prayer for you" (4:12). Is that how we'd describe the intensity of our prayers for others?

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.

July	Old Testament	Psalm	Gospel	NT
3rd	Isaiah 66:10-14	66:1-9	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Galatians 6:7-16
10th	25:1-10	25:1-10	Luke 10:25-37	Colossians 1:1-14
17th	Genesis 18:1-10a	15	Luke 10:38-42	Colossians 1:15-28
24th	Genesis 18:20-32	138	Luke 11:1-13	Colossians 2:6-15
31st	Eccles. 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23	49:1-12	Luke 12:13-21	Colossians 3:1-11
August				
7th	Genesis 15:1-6	33:12-22	Luke 12:32-40	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
14th	Jeremiah 23:23-39	82	Luke 12:49-56	Hebrews 11:29-12:2
21st	Isaiah 58:9b-14	103:1-8	Luke 13:10-17	Hebrews 12:18-29
28th	Proverbs 25:6-7	112	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
September				
4th	Deut. 30:15-20	1	Luke 14:25-33	Philemon 1-21

Redland Park Church Calendar

Sunday services @ 10.30am. (At church and on line) JULY

3rd Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion)

10th Rev Stephen Newell.

17th Rev Dougie Burnett.

24th Rev Dougie Burnett.

31st Rev Dougie Burnett.

AUGUST

7th Rev Norman Whitaker.

14th Angus Gregson.

21st Rev Ken Marsh.

28th Les Fry.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

7pm service.

10th and 24th July, 14th and 28th August.

Zoom log in; 848 3007 5496; passcode 219761

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Elders Meeting.

6th July at 7.30pm at church.

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Church Meeting.

13th July on Zoom.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

Church open for prayer.

Wednesdays between Midday and 2pm.

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Can I talk to you whilst you are playing...



It is interesting to note how many people are totally unaware of the multi-tasking efforts required by an organist. He or she might not be an octopus, but does need both hands and feet to control such a complex beast and that's before arranging the stops with toe and thumb pistons. Just one misplaced foot or a wasp in your face can lead to a hideous and ghastly row!

To quote an anonymous paragraph from the internet with my own amendments: Playing the organ can be rather like driving a hired left-hand driven car with bald tyres, in a foreign country, without a sat nav, in the snow, at night time without lights or functioning wind-screen wipers. The children are in the back seat, with their own private agendas, which could include any combination from a menu including a full nappy, a toy car emitting a cycle of repeated vile electronic siren noises, an empty stomach, a full bladder, and requests for the umpteenth repeat of "Peppa Pig" on the tablet.

Concentration is all. Over the years many brides-to-be have come to speak to me as I play after a service. This is a good thing generally, as the comments and intentions are positive, but it is terribly difficult to respond conversationally, specially when playing and reading from sheet music.

My abilities, such as they are, were tested when I was playing in Bristol about ten years ago. The Bishop of the diocese was present for the morning and was due to preach at the next and more highly attended service. He was passing time till his bit and sat just in the pew directly me, which was rather unnerving. Bad enough, but he then started chatting to the hairdressers view he saw. Not only had I to keep playing, but tried to converse with him at the same time, my head cricked and rotated at what seemed 180°! He spent about 10 minutes reminiscing about a recent holiday in Tennessee playing his guitar in some kind of Country Music

fest. Never before have I been so glad to see the choir and clergy enter the sanctuary, thus depriving this excitable prelate of the House of Lords from further recounting his guitar capers in the deep south USA!



Some folk come to have a chat as if the music comes from the machine alone; as if it's some kind of churchy jukebox. The organist is often seen as a mere appendage to the instrument and just like the sort of person you might approach casually on a bench in the delight of Berkeley Square when asking for directions to the Victoria Rooms. Wedding couples are notorious for this. Little are they aware that all five senses of the performer are in complete overdrive! Where's the taste and smell of the five

you may ask? Well, there's the taste of a dry mouth as you do your best to reply politely whilst hyperventilating (usually in time with the rhythm of the music) which makes you seem a little odd to strangers. The smell sometimes comes from the close proximity of the perfumed bride-to-be, but more often it's the heavy Lynx potion emanating from the accompanying fiancé! Here's just one from a young bride-to-be, remembered from an occasion and one of many similar encounters: "Our wedding is in a years' time, can you do September 19th? We would like the Midnight Sinatra to come into. Can you suggest some hymns and other music?". So – "Can I talk to you whilst you are playing...?" "Yes, as long as I can tickle your feet when you are saying your wedding vows"!

**Deadline for contributions for the
September Recorder is 28th August.**

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**

Minister | Rev. Douglas Burnett

0117 330 9910

douglasburnett@wwmail.co.uk

Secretary | Les Fry

07769 253279

lesjfry@hotmail.com

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

redlandparkurc@gmail.com