The Recorder March '20

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



New Brunswick | March Diary

Preachers for March 11am services

Wendy McGeeg

8th Rev. Burnett

(Will include Communion)

15th Angus Gregson

23rd Angus Gregson

29th Les Fry and friends

(This will be our GIFT DAY)

Preachers for **April** 11am services

Ella Bryant

12th EASTER DAY. Angus Gregson

(Will include Communion)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday March 1st. Southmead Joint Churches Service at Pentecostal Holiness Church at 6:30pm. The speaker will be Jon Richards the new vicar of St Stephens. After the service there will be light refreshments and a time to share socially together.

Friday March 20th Southmead Quiz 7pm. £3 per person which includes nibbles and tea//coffee or bring your own. Please note the change of date.

Tuesday March 10th Church meeting. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS CANCELLED because of the meeting on 11th March.

Wednesday March 11th at 2pm a special meeting with Raoul Hewitt regarding land at the back of the church.

NEWS

After a long illness we were saddened to hear of the passing of Gwen Head. We send our condolences to Roger and the family assuring them of our prayers at this difficult time.

We are also sorry to hear that Ivy has to have further surgery. May she be assured of our prayers and support.

Carol and Dave have now moved into their new home and we are pleased to hear that the move went well. We uphold Dave's brother, Mike, in prayer as he is in hospital having tests. We pray that the outcome will be a positive one.

We wish Diesel and Fidel good luck as they both take part in a production of 'Shrek' in Clevedon later in the month 'Break a leg!!' boys.

There may be others of our fellowship who have not shared with us the things that are troubling them but they will be known to our Loving, Caring God. We uphold these folk to Him asking Him to minister to them as each has need.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends.

The month of March brings us into the season of Lent, and also our latest Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching. The latter was the subject for last month's Vestry Vibes, and with that I asked the following questions:

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

Thinking of those questions made me think of what Bible passages that have truly spoken to me over the years.

I recalled this one:

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, a about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead." (2nd Corinthians 1.8-9)

Why this one? Many years ago, 40 years ago in fact, I had been going through a tough time after the death of my father. Having felt down for quite some time I was wondering what to do about it, and when the up-turn might finally happen. Then I happened to open my Gideon's Bible one day (a bible we had all been given at school in 1976).

I happened to open the Bible at that page, and read that verse. Now, reading the Bible and plucking out a single verse is not a form of study that I would typically recommend. But on this occasion it worked for me! I had been relying on myself. Maybe I should give God a chance? So, I started going back to church after an absence of some years. And that was the point at which things started looking brighter and better.

Looking back, I suppose that it was all about putting my life and experiences in a much bigger context. And things don't get any bigger than God. The whole point of biblical teaching and learning is that we learn to interweave our own lives and experiences with that of God. There is nothing new under the sun, and all those stories that we have grown up with over many decades deal with the issues that we go through still.

I have never regarded the Bible as a manual like a Haynes Car Manual (remember those!), but I do see it as a truly God-inspired companion and guide to the mysteries of life and God. It has a central role in our discipleship. So maybe we could delve in just a little bit more. And as we journey through Lent maybe we could make the Bible just a little bit more of a Holy Habit.

Happy journeying in Lent.

Dougie

Redland Park People



Please pray for the family of **Maxine Davies** who died on 13 February, after being in poor health for some time; she is now at rest.

We continue to pray for some of our members who are in poor health at present: **Reg Dickson** still suffering the after-effects of shingles, **Sheila Smart**, **Margaret Prigg** and **Anne Moody**. We pray for all those who have been affected by floods in this country, by fires in Australia, by coronavirus around the world but especially in China, and for all those affected by war and conflict, climate change and disease.

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.



12 FACES OF HOPE EXHIBITION

We hope that everyone was able to read and study the comments from 12 Palestinians and Israelis on their hope for the future of the Holy Land. This exhibition, which was organised by the URC, has visited many churches, coming from Tavistock URC to Redland Park, and has just gone on to Cardiff URC, before travelling to Scotland and to churches there. We pray for the peace and prosperity for the Holy Land, for both Palestinians and Israelis.



Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

O God, help us to realise that human flourishing cannot be achieved by worldly economic systems.

These shift wealth upwards and relegate the poor to debt, hunger and slavery.

Inspired by the gospel, help us to understand Jesus' mission afresh.

May we declare again the Year of the Lord's Favour:

forgive all debt, overturn tables of monetary greed, and tear down the hoarded barns.

Help us to restore water, land and air to their pristine state.

Give us your spirit of generous love, and a spirit of fierce determination, as we seek to build an Economy of Life that champions a just and equitable society.

In Christ's Spirit we pray. Amen.



The friends and family of Maxine Davies, who died recently.

Anne Moody, who has been in hospital and is now convalescing.

Sheila Smart, who has had a brief hospital stay after a fall.

Reg Dickson, who is still suffering from shingles.

Margaret Donadel.

Trevor Fowler.

Enid, who is still having chemotherapy.

The Carr family.

All those suffering from anxiety and depression.

The hungry and homeless.

Those living with dementia and their carers.

The congregations of Redland Park, New Brunswick and the Korean church.

God, we pray for your healing hands to touch their lives.

Amen.

The April Concert by Portishead Choral Society.

Joan and I sing with Portishead Choral Society, (PCS, http://www.portisheadchoral. co.uk/) which is a mixed choir of about 80 singers. PCS sings three concerts a year as well as Carol singing around Portishead at Christmas.

We'd like to interest our friends in Redland Park in PCS' next concert, on April 4th at 7:30 pm in Gordano School, Clevedon Road, Portishead. The music at this concert includes the "Song of Destiny" by Brahms, "Blest pair of Sirens" by Parry and Mendelssohn's famous "Hymn of Praise". We have some excellent soloists and a resourceful orchestra. The music is unusual and exciting and is the type of music that British Choirs have always relished singing. We started rehearsing for this concert in January under our Musical Director, Jonathan Palmer and our preparations are developing well; there is a real excitement in the choir over this concert.

So, if you fancy an evening of lovely, exciting and thoughtful choral music, do come along to PCS concert on April 4th. Tickets are £12, though under 18s have a free ticket. We can get tickets for you. Just let us know you'd like to come. John and Joan Turner

The Creation

(see Genesis 1, or ask a physicist, for further details of the actual event)

Saturday 21 March 2020, 7.30pm St George's, Bristol, BS1 5RR

Bristol Bach Choir presents an immersive performance of Haydn's Creation, in which the vivid score will be enhanced by atmospheric image projection and creative lighting design. This unforgettable performance, which promises to enchant and beguile, will be a feast for the senses and the soul. With text from Genesis and Milton's Paradise Lost, The Creation is filled with soaring melodies, blockbuster choruses and vibrant orchestral writing. Inspired by his trips to England, where he first heard Handel's oratorios, The Creation is widely considered Haydn's crowning masterpiece.

Tickets: £28, £22, £18, £12; students and under 18s, £5

Either from Angus Gregson or the Bristol Bach Choir box office: 0117 214 0721

First Thursday

Our February meeting took place at the Cowshed Restaurant, sixteen of us met for lunch. It was a happy social event enjoyed by everyone.

Walking the Way, eating together.

For our March Meeting a firefighter from the Avon Fire Service is going to give us a talk about the service, and fire safety. Carole Atter

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for M	arch 2020				
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting			
Thurs 5th	2.30pm	First Thursday			
	7.00pm	Lent Conversation at Apostles Room, Clifton Cathedral "Faith and Climate/Pollution"			
Fri 6th	10.00am	World Day of Prayer at Cotham Parish Church			
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Sue Cossey			
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room			
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members			
Mon 9th	7.00pm	Lent Conversation at Victoria Methodist Church "Science and Religion: what are they actually disagreeing about?"			
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett			
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room			
Thurs 19th	7.00pm	Lent Conversation at Cotham Parish Church "Modern Slavery"			
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett			
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room			
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members			
Thurs 26th	7.00pm	Lent Conversation at Redland Park URC "Managing Investments Ethically"			
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett			
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room			
April 2020					
Wed 1st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting			
Thurs 2nd	2.30pm	First Thursday			
Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship with communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett			
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room			

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Minutes of the Church Meeting 19.01.20

PRESENT

The Minister and 30 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 3 members.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting that were not already covered on the present agenda.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Carol Fry reported that £347 had been raised for Church Action on Poverty, and the "12 Faces of Hope" exhibition had been shared with local churches.

Sally reported that December had been a very busy month for lettings, with two sell-out concerts, the CLIC Sargent Christmas Fair (which raised over £1,000), the Scouts' Christmas tree sales, and crib service. She hoped that leaflets advertising Christmas events would be ready by mid-November this year, and asked for more help when we hosted large events. One such event was coming up soon - St. John's School would be holding a concert in the church on Wednesday 12th February at 11am, and Sally asked for volunteers to assist. Also, June 13th would see the Clifton Music Festival "Singer Rutter". Tony Milligan had suggested that advertising boards should be placed at the front and back of the church so that other lettings could see what was coming up; this was being pursued.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Andrew Hayden gave a very brief report on behalf of John Neugebauer, explaining that the final accounts would show that expenditure for 2019 would considerably exceed income.

With the backing of the Elders and on behalf of the group tasked with sourcing a new sound system, Derek Jones presented such a proposal. He started by thanking Terry King for loaning the church his personal sound equipment when the church's equipment had failed. The group had sought a system that would last at least 10 years, and hopefully 20 years, and believed that the system being proposed met this criterion, as well as being state-of-the-art and sympathetic to our church building. It had been chosen after considering other, cheaper and less-flexible systems, and would be supplied and fitted by a company, CAVS, that specialises in church sound systems. The proposed system would consist of six speakers, six microphones and a mixing console, with capacity for expansion if needed. It required minimal cabling between the dais and mixing console, would have a recording function built in, and could accept input from CD, Bluetooth and USB (for MP3). It would also include an induction loop, hopefully using the existing wiring but replacing it if necessary, with the whole system costing £25,500 incl. VAT. The price included free sub-woofers and discounted prices, taken just before a price increase was announced. It

was expected that it would take one week to install the system; a suitable window had been identified for the week beginning 24th February. CAVS had also promised to be in church on the first Sunday of operation to provide immediate support in the event of any teething troubles. It was confirmed that there would be an ongoing licensing charge of £95p.a. for the microphones, and that outside lets wishing to use the sound system would be charged at a higher rate. The meeting was asked to approve the proposal and it was approved nem con. Derek concluded by asking if the church could raise money to offset the cost.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Following the success of the young people's music group at Christmas, a meeting would be held at the end of January to explore the possibility of continuing it.

Rev. Michael Jagessar, outgoing head of Global and Intercultural Ministries, had put together a framework for building a lasting partnership with the Seoul Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Korea. All approvals were now in place, so work would start in earnest to make it happen.

WALKING THE WAY

Les Fry hoped that all ten Holy Habits would have been covered by the end of 2021, but that should not be seen as the end of our commitment, which should be ongoing. Planning had started for one or two more away days at Barton

Camp. Dougie explained that our next Holy Habit would be "Biblical Teaching", with café-style worship being used to explore our favourite Bible passages. It had also been suggested that we might a) attempt to write our own version of Marks' gospel, and b) have a training day/morning with members of the cast of The Archers on the subject of public reading.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Andrew reported that the Elders had been reviewing the Safeguarding policy and sought approval for Les Brentley to become our Deputy Safeguarding Officer; this was agreed nem con.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of member was shared.

A.O.B.

None.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Sunday 15th March at 11.45am

A Letter

Dear Members of Redland Park Church,

You have made a real difference to people experiencing homelessness in Bristol this winter

'It's everything. People, company, food and warmth.' These are the words of one of our guests at Caring at Christmas last year. Your generous gift of £327.55 will significantly help us in getting closer to solving homelessness in Bristol. Thank you from all at Caring in Bristol.

This period, a time traditionally of celebration, warmth, and giving and receiving of gifts, is the most critical for Caring in Bristol as we run the South West's biggest homeless project at Christmas. Up to 60 people per night will benefit from a warm and safe place to sleep, hot meals and company. Our Christmas Day Centre also provides medical and emotional health support, activities, housing advice, drug and rehabilitation advice, clothing, and other facilities for around 150 people daily. Beyond the Christmas period, our 365 Night Shelter offers a warm place for people to stay every night of the year.

Our vision is to create a city empowered to solve homelessness. Your donation will enable us to reach out to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, develop the necessary services, create and evidence base, and engage the public to create permanent change in Bristol and beyond.

You can see further details of our work, sign up to receive our newsletter and find out how you can further support our work at www.caringinbristol.co.uk.

Once again, we thank you for your support and helping us in our work.

Yours sincerely,

Edd Smith

Head of Development



Syrian Christians.

Syria is the Eleventh Country on Open Doors list of countries where Christians faces the most persecution.

Syria has been in the news a lot recently. The attacks in northern Syria, and the threat of further instability, have already had a devastating effect on Christians in the area. Open Doors partners have been on the ground in Syria for many years.

There are 744,000 Christians in Syria, 4% of the population but that is 70,000 fewer than 2019. There are still areas that are controlled by radical Islamic groups. Anyone who doesn't conform to their extreme brand of Islam is a target to these groups, with church leaders particularly vulnerable to abduction. Believers from Muslim backgrounds face pressure from their families and communities, as leaving Islam is seen as a huge source of shame.

Christians in Aleppo may not currently face immediate threat of fighting or terrorism by so-called Islamic State (IS), but there are people still suffering the consequences of the crisis. People like Jina. Her husband, Rober was kidnapped for his faith in 2013. She and her young son, Abraham, are still waiting for him to come home. Another man was kidnapped and later released – he told Jina that Rober refused to convert to Islam: "Rober refused and said, 'I have my God and that's it." Jina and her young son Abrahaham are being supported by a church that operates as a Centre of Hope in Aleppo, run by Open Doors partner Pastor Abdalla. These centres are providing vital short-term aid for thousands of vulnerable families and also offer long-term support, including trauma care and business microloans.

More recent attacks in north east Syria have left believers vulnerable to Islamic militants among the Turkish army.

Please pray for strength and encouragement for Jina and Abraham, and for the safe return of Rober. Keep praying for our brothers and sisters across Syria, for protection and hope and the opportunity to share the light of Christ. Thank God for the 16 Centres of Hope delivering help to vulnerable people in Syria through the local church, and pray that the vision of opening another 20 can be achieved.

For more information about Jina, Rober and Abraham go to https://www.opendoorsuk.org/



Holy Habits for 2020.

During Lent, we are focussing on "Sharing Resources" with a particular angle, looking at our use of plastic. The Plastic Challenge is designed to keep before us the needs of the planet created by God for our use. Of course as Christians we feel a real responsibility and ideally would commit to every green and conservation initiative. In our rich western lifestyles, we have become accustomed to using plastic in most areas of our lives- as reflected in the details of the Challenge. This is not designed to be a checklist monitoring our individual behaviour- so no guilt (!) but as a reminder of some adjustments that we could make towards giving up single use plastics. So keep the chart prominent and each Sunday morning, the Junior Church will highlight the challenges of the week ahead.

We will return to "Sharing Resources" later in 2020!

In March, we will be changing our holy habit to "Biblical Teaching", a constant feature of our Christian lives. To initiate this, there will be a Cafe Style Worship on Sunday 22nd March. This offers us all the opportunity of sharing with each other, our love of God's Holy Word.

As Christians, different texts speak to us at different times and the table activity on 22nd March will offer each of us the opportunity to express our love of a particular Bible Reading which we find helpful or meaningful. As such, this service should be a time of sincere enrichment, of sharing Christian truths and I hope that you enjoy choosing your special verses.

Les Fry

			,				
During Lent, we remember Jesus' 40 days of challenge and temptation in the Wilderness. This year, you are challenged to safeguard and sustain God's Creation by giving up (initially for Len!) single use plastics. More details each Sunday morning!			26.2 The earth dries up & withers, the world languishes & withers: the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants. Isaiah 24 vv 4/5		27.2 Give up disposable cups & drinks in plastic bottles.	28.2 Take your own reusable bags with you	29.2 Carry your own plastic cutlery
1.3 There is the sea, vast & spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number- living things both large & small Psalm 104 v 25+	2.3 Buy food & drink in bulk to minimize or eliminate packaging	3.3 Avoid overpacka processed frozen convenier foods	ged d or	4.3 Buy fresh bread in either paper bags or no bags	5.3 Choose milk in returnable glass bottles	6.3 Use non- plastic containers for food storage or takeaway	7.3 Shop for fresh fruit & vegetables at markets
8.3 And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. Jeremiah 2 v 7	9.3 Check out plastics in the bathroom - can any be bought in bulk or be refilled?	10.3 Use a razor with removable blades		11.3 Check toiletry labels & avoid polyethylene as an ingredient	12.3 Use a bamboo toothbrush or one with recyclable heads	13.3 Use soap bar instead of liquid hand soap	14.3 Choose lotions and lip balms in plastic free containers
15.3 For by Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible & invisible Colossians 1 v 16+	16.3 Check out your kitchen & see if any plastics can be replaced	17.3 Use natural cleaning cloths instead of plastic or synthetic sponges		18.3 Use a blender made of glass not of plastic	19.3 Buy glass or stainless steel containers for food storage	20.3 Avoid foil wrapped crisps or sweets or chocolates	21.3 Share or re-use any leftovers or unwanted food
22.3 But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? Job 28 vv 12, 13	23.3 Choose clothes made with natural fibres	24.3 Alter & modify old shoes & clothes		25.3 Buy and wear second hand clothing	26.3 Organise a clothes swap!	27.3 Invest in quality clothes that will last longer	28.3 In shops request zero plastic packaging
29.3 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it. Psalm 24 vv 1,2	30.3 Put a "No Junk Mail" on your letter box	31.3 Try to co snacks sandwich from scra	& nes	1.4 Avoid Wet Wipes	2.4 Don't buy new plastic items	3.4 Purchase second hand, plastic free furniture	4.4 Don't buy new CDs or DVDs- stream or download
5.4 He has shown you O mortal what is good, And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6 v 8	6.4 Avoid gathering plastic pens & giveaways	7.4 Take your toiletries w staying ii hotel	/hen	8.4 Avoid mini- bar snacks and drinks	9.4 Decide which of these Lent changes you will maintain!		e up Plastic Challenge!!!

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 102 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for March and the first Sunday in April. And welcome to Lent - where has this year gone? At least the days are visibly Lengthening. The three year cycle of the Lectionary centres on one of the three synoptic gospels each year - this year it's Matthew - but for most of Lent we have an interlude in John's gospel. They're longer than the average weekly readings. Maybe if we were going to give up something for Lent, we could give up a bit more time from other things and spend it on reading the Bible more? That would conveniently fit in with RP's latest Holy Habit.

At NB, when we were strengthening this Holy Habit, the group that meets for Bible study and prayer each month challenged themselves to try another study approach in addition to what we normally did during Advent last year. Listening to everyone's contributions the next time we met, I was really encouraged by the range of study guides, key verses or reflections people had used and, as ever, I learned a lot from the others.

Lent: a time of preparation. What Bible study aid(s) do you use that you find helpful, that others might benefit from? Maybe you could let me know - I'll add my email address at the bottom - and I'll put them all together later this year.

Sorry; there hasn't been much about this month's readings. What pattern do you see in them this month?

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.

Angus

Feb	ОТ	Psalm	Gospel	NT
1st Lent 1	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	32	Matthew 4:1-11	Romans 5:12-19
8th Lent 2	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	John 3:1-17	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
15th Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7	95	John 4:5-42	Romans 5:1-11
22nd Lent 4	1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	John 9:1-41	Ephesians 5:8-14
29th Lent 5	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	John 11:1-45	Romans 8:6-11
April 5th Palm Sunda	Isaiah 50:4-9a ay	118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	Philippians 2:5-11

A message from church action on poverty:

Our message to the UK's churches

There is a pressing need to bring the deepening crisis of poverty, afflicting many of our families and communities, to the centre of our life together as a nation.

Brexit debates and the recent General Election have revealed and exacerbated painful divisions in society. Far too many feel left behind, ignored and marginalised. As local churches, we bear witness to these realities in communities the length and breadth of the UK, and to the powerful currents that continue to sweep so many into debt and destitution. The Church cannot remain silent for as long as this situation continues to exist. For us, this is a matter of faith: it is about responding to the gospel priority to put the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable first. As churches, we must redouble our efforts not just to alleviate the symptoms of poverty, but to call out the root causes, systems and structures which ensnare so many in poverty today.

At local level, we commit to becoming genuinely part of a 'church at the margins' where those on the margins of society feel welcomed, where their God-given dignity is recognised, and where their talents, hopes and visions for the future are celebrated and affirmed.

At national level, we call on our church institutions to commit to the task of becoming a true church at the margins and to properly resource this, as a genuine expression of the gospel priority for the poorest and most vulnerable. Above all, as Churches we are compelled to speak truth to power, with and alongside those whose voices are consistently ignored by those in power in corporate, media and public life. Poverty and gross inequality are not acts of God but structural defects that can be corrected. Speaking truth to power is a task for the whole Church, and one given greater urgency now, amid political debates that continue to expose the divisions within society.

As the Lord heard the cry of his people in exile in the Old Testament and intervened, let churches hear the cry of the poor in our neighbourhoods, and work with them to realise a vision of a society in which all can enjoy life in all its fullness.

Deadline for contributions for the April Recorder is 29th March.

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