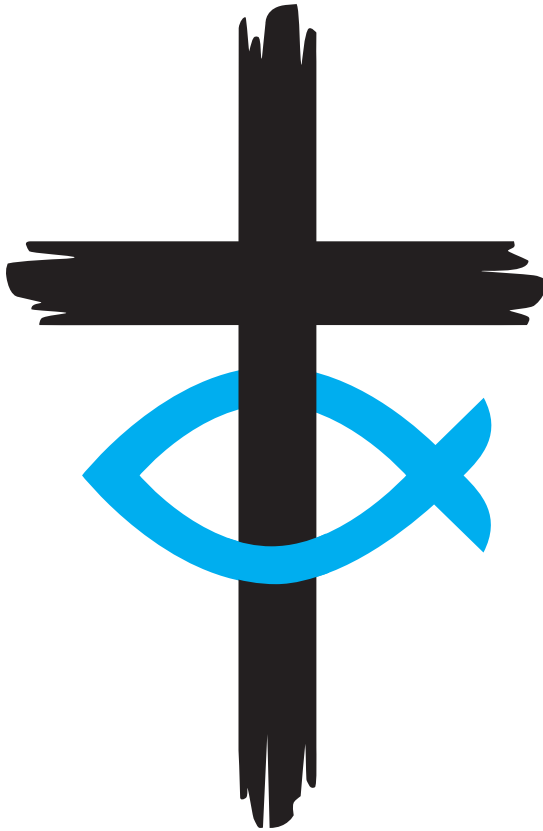


ESTD 1901

The Recorder

May '20

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | May Diary

We are still unable to meet on a Sunday morning because of the current situation we continue to find ourselves in. However I want to share with you some of the greetings I have received from folk who would have either shared with us in April or the coming month.

Ella Bryant had contacted me before we went into isolation saying she was unable to join us as she had moved to Devon to look after her Mum. Although willing to travel to share with us in normal circumstances she didn't want to risk taking anything to her dear Mum. But she sent greetings to us all and was upholding us in prayer.

Astrid Molyneux from the Leprosy Mission was due to be with us in April to update us of the work of this organisation and share more of her solo cycle ride she made around the world. Again she sent love and greetings to us all and continues to pray for us at New Brunswick.

I have also heard from **Trevor Ranger** who was due to be with us this month. He sends love and greetings and very sincere thanks as we continue to support the work that Trevor does with his work with Synergy Trust.

All these folk have said that they will be looking forward to sharing with us in the future but at the moment no dates have been arranged as none of us know how long it will be before we can worship together again.

Some good news! As we have heard that **Diesel** has been offered a place at 'Boomsatsuma' where he can continue his education in the performing arts. Diesel is really pleased as this was where he wanted to attend. Well done Diesel!

I am pleased to say that I have been in touch with **Jen** who is now back in Bristol after her stay in Stroud. Although I have not seen her she sounds well and positive about the

future. She sends everyone her love and can't wait to be back with us sharing with us once again.

We send best wishes to those who have celebrated birthdays during **April Elaine, David Fudge and Angus**. We pray you were all able to have a Happy Day even if it was a bit different this year! May God Bless you all during this coming year.

There are those who continue to need our prayers at this time. Those who are finding isolation difficult despite being surrounded with help of family and friends. They find it difficult to have to rely on others when they have been so independent. We pray that God will give those folk the Grace to accept the help offered and not to be ashamed to ask for help if they need it.

We must uphold to God all those folk who continue to work so that we can remain safe and well. Our wonderful NHS staff who are working tirelessly to nurse those who have fallen victim to the virus. Care workers, upholding especially Gill who continues to care for folk in their own home., We remember our Police especially praying for **Sarah** and the Southmead beat team. We also thank shop workers, postal workers, bin men and all who continue to work so that we can have the things we need. We prayer that they know we are thinking of them all as they do their day to day jobs asking God to keep them safe.

Of course we also pray for those who have lost loved ones in recent days either due to Covid 19 or other reasons. Upholding especially the family of **Lynda Cowley** (nee Seymour) who passed away on Easter Day. These families are unable to say their farewells as they would wish and so we pray for the comforting arms of Jesus to surround them at this sad and difficult time.

May God continue to Bless us all in these strange times. Brenda

MORE ON PG 10 >>

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

As I write this we are now some three weeks into lockdown, and we continue to live in unprecedented times. Over the past few weeks at Redland Park we have gradually moved many aspects of our worship, governance and fellowship on-line. For those who have not been able to access Zoom, we hope that you are able to receive worship materials and other information through e-mail. The elders groups have been sent out to all elders, and hopefully you will now know who your elder is. If you don't know, and you would like to now, then please contact Andrew as the church secretary, or myself as the minister. Especially at these times it is good to chat. By all these means we seek to keep people connected to each other and also informed as to what is going on.

There will be many things that the whole of society will have to learn from this quite unique experience in the history of the world. Never before have we been impacted by the same crisis at exactly the same time and for the same reason, with the same consequences worldwide, and all within a very short space of time. Most certainly Covid-19 has thrown into sharp relief questions about the nature of community. There is a truism that has been around the Church for many, many years which is, "The church is people, not the building." Given that churches all around the world have had to move their activities on-line within a very short space of time, we have all discovered a new truth in that truism. And there is a particular joy when we can actually see each other on Zoom. We can thank God for the gifts and insights that allow such technology and connecting to happen.

There is something here also about how we are connected through the Holy Spirit as brothers and sisters in Christ. So, on Easter Sunday we broke bread in our first ever on-line/virtual communion. That spoke of a particular solidarity even while we are separated. But maybe what we have also learned through this time of lockdown is the importance of actually/physically being together in the same space and being able to greet each other through a handshake or a hug. How we miss such things when they are denied to us for the time being. That also reminds us as Christians that our faith is incarnational, it is all about the Word made flesh. That says that the material and the tangible really does matter. It matters to God.

When we emerge from lockdown there will be a real sense of relief. And alongside what ever the new "normal" consists of, perhaps when we gather there will also be a new sense of the joy at just being able to be together. Christ called together a new community because in that particular understanding of community you can also discover what it truly means to be human. There is something of all of that in those Holy Habits that we have been exploring. So, gladness and generosity, fellowship, breaking bread and eating together and all the rest. I mean EATING TOGETHER!! How amazing and strange that will seem. So, it turns out that what was discovered 2000 years ago is still so relevant today.

Dougie



Redland Park is sorry to have lost a good friend in **Ernest Gudgeon**. He died on April 27 after a sudden decline in health, and he would have reached 90 this year. Ernest has been a staunch supporter of the church and the Synod for many years and we pray for him and his family as he is now at peace. A fuller obituary will come later. (see page 10 for memories)

We were also very sad to hear that **Anne Moody** had died on 30 April. Anne was a member of Redland Park for many years, and actually lived on Redland Park; at the time, she acted as key holder for several organisations using the church. Her health has declined over the last few years and she was unfortunately moved a few times as her health worsened. Her funeral (with limited attendees) will be held on 19 May and a fuller obituary will be published later.

We pray for the family of **Myra Jenkins**, who died on Wednesday 25 March. Unfortunately, because of the Covid-19 crisis, there was no funeral, but there may be a thanksgiving service when this is possible. Please pray for **Bryan**, for whom visiting Myra was part of his every day; he

was our church caretaker for many years, and is not in good health himself.

We continue to pray for some of our members who are in poor health at present: **Reg Dickson** recovering from a bad attack of shingles, **Sheila Smart** and **Margaret Prigg** after falls.

We also think of **Lewis Manyika** who is recovering at home after a hospital stay.

Everyone needs to be aware that, whether people are living alone or with others, being in a lockdown situation can be very difficult; please look after your mental health as well as your physical health. There are help lines available for those who need them, and please also call on the Christian love and support of the Redland Park congregation.

As the members and friends of Redland Park are unable to worship together at the moment during the coronavirus emergency, our online and personal prayers are even more important than ever. We pray for all these members, friends and people we know who need the loving, supportive, healing hands of God around them at this time.

Christian Aid

As you will know, all fund-raising for Christian Aid had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 crisis, and Christian Aid Week is the main fund-raiser for this charity that we usually support. We may be able to hold a lunch or other event once the Covid-19 crisis is over but, in the meantime, if anyone would like to make a donation to Christian Aid, please see their website or ring 020 7523 2269

Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

Stay with us Lord Jesus Christ
Stay with us for you alone can meet the aching needs of our hearts
And feed the unmet hunger of our waiting souls.
We dare to affirm that we shall fear no evil when you are beside us
And we shall be strong with your love within us
A love that we know through those in whom we see your face
And from whose hands we take the bread of life.
Stay with us and keep us mindful of your cross and resurrection
That now and always we may be sustained by truth and hope.
Stay with us and open to us the mystery of your love,
That our hearts may burn with wonder as we glimpse the awesome truth
That life is sorrow and joy
Darkness and light
Cross and resurrection
For with you beside us
Your hope amongst us
And your truth within us
We shall not want in the hour of need.

Amen

Please pray for:

- Brian Jenkins and his family after Myra's death.
- The family and friends of Bernard Chart, who has died recently.
- The family and friends of Ernest Gudgeon and Anne Moody also.
- Hillie and David
- Gracie after the death of her father
- Enid
- All who work for the NHS or in care homes and those who care for people in their own homes.
- All who have died from Covid 19 and those in hospital.
- Families and friends who have not been able to say goodbye to their loved ones.
- People who live in confined spaces with no garden especially families with small children.
- All who have lost their income or whose businesses are in danger of collapse.
- The Somali and Islamic communities in Bristol
- The prime minister and government and their professional advisors.

Father God, we turn to you in these difficult times when social distancing is place and pray that you will hold us all in the safety of your everlasting arms. Amen.



Zooooom...

I rejoice in how technology is enabling us to worship together on a Sunday morning during this Coronavirus crisis- it is wonderful to watch familiar faces appear on the screen and to be reminded how many terrific people are engaged and committed to the life of Redland Park URC.

We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Andrew Hayden, Andy Grand, Derek Jones and Ben Atkins who are piloting us through the technological challenges of this phase - THANK YOU !

Zoom is also enabling Junior Church to thrive each Sunday- Jane Penrose is reaching out to younger children and challenging parents with craft activities and Les Brentley and I are thoroughly enjoying active on-line participation with up to 13 young people - all of whom are more Computer literate than me, but who are also very kind to me!

In addition, the 7pm services on alternative Sundays are being maintained - the discussions are great even though we are struggling with live contemporary music which is an important aspect of our shared worship. Do log on!

Both the Monday and Tuesday Cell Groups are maintaining their meetings, although we are probably spending more time on social chat than usual, catching up with each other in that way before returning to Bible Study! Do join us!

I feel confident that this cycle will continue throughout the Lock Down and so here is the key log-in information - I look forward to meeting you there (but even more to being back with you at Redland Park!)

Sunday Morning Worship 10.40am

– Meeting ID & Password from andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk

7pm Worship, (second and fourth Sunday of each month)

– Meeting ID & Password from lesbrentley@hotmail.com

Monday Cell, 7.30pm

– Meeting ID & Password from lesjfry@hotmail.com

Tuesday Cell, 7.30pm

– Meeting ID & Password from carolmfry@gmail.com

Saturday Cell, 10.30 am

– Meeting ID and Password from douglas@douglasburnett.co.uk

Redland Park Church Calendar

All the following events will happen remotely until further notice due to Covid-19.

All other events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice, including First Thursday and all Christian Aid events.

Dates for May 2020

Sun 3rd	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 10th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Evening Worship led by members
Sun 17th	10.30am 10.30am 11.45pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Church Meeting (tbc)
Sun 24th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Evening Worship led by members
Sun 31st	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship

June 2020

Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 7th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship

Silver Linings Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

India's capital is one of the world's most polluted cities, but its skies have turned blue and many people can see the Himalayan Mountains for the first time.

In Italy's Venice, meanwhile, canal water is so clear fish can be easily seen.

All this is an unexpected upside of the coronavirus crisis that has proved global air quality can be dramatically improved and fast.

The change has been created by lockdowns that have grounded flights and shut factories. But environmentalists warn it could be temporary.

Climate talks have been delayed to next year because of the outbreak, and there are fears countries could prioritise human and economic welfare before that of the environment.

Many are questioning whether the world will just go back to business as usual when it recovers from the pandemic.

So, moving forward, are there lessons the pandemic can teach us about living with nature? Suddenly the air we breathe is cleaner than it has been in decades. In China, the drop in airborne pollutants over two months is estimated to have saved the lives of 4,000 children below five and 73,000 adults above 70, according to Stanford University research.

For some the social impact has meant that they now know their neighbours much better and there have been thousands of Community initiatives to help out the more vulnerable in our society. Time to make those telephone conversations or write a letter to an old friend or relative that you have lost touch with.

The Thursday "Clap" for the NHS, Care workers and Key Workers show that now we realise how important these people are to our health and wellbeing.

We appreciate our local green spaces and how important these are for our mental health. We can hear the birds, we have time to stop at the spring flowers. Many people are discovering the joy of growing things, baking bread, having more time with their children and doing creative things they might not normally have time for.

I am sure we can all think of other positives.

Of course there are downsides but hopefully when this is all over we will remember the positives and the changes we have had to make it and stick with those for the benefit of our Planet and Us.

Myra Jones

Junior Church Party Sunday March 1st 2020.



Minutes of the Church Meeting 15.03.20

PRESENT

The Minister and 25 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 10 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 the Lent Conversations scheduled for 19th and 26th March had been cancelled due to Covid-19. The Christian Aid Fair was still scheduled to go ahead on Saturday 16th May, for which books, bric-a-brac, CD's, DVD's were needed. In addition, the Big Brekkie was scheduled for Sunday 10th May.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

On behalf of John Neugebauer, Andrew Hayden reported that the year-end accounts for 2019 were being prepared. Looking ahead to 2020's finance's the Covid-19 pandemic was likely to have a very significant impact on lettings income, with a reduction of up to £30,000 possible for the year. The downturn in global stock markets would also significantly reduce our reserves. As a result, John was hoping that our Gift Aid claim could be submitted during the second quarter to ease cashflow issues.

The Elders had also taken a number of steps to minimise the risk to people using and maintaining our premises, including putting up hygiene notices, replacing tea towels with paper towels and asking Adam to be even more vigilant with his cleaning. The situation would be kept under review and further steps implemented as and when necessary. Sally King emphasised that she was maintaining close links with the people and organisations who let our premises and she was hopeful that most would stay with us after the pandemic had abated.

Dougie thanked Terry and Sally King, Derek Jones and Tony Milligan for their excellent work in arranging the installation of the new audio system, and made a small presentation to each of them.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Work on the partnership between the BKC and SPCK was ongoing, with a visit by the SPCK planned for May or June, Covid-19 permitting.

A long-term leader of the young people's music group was being sought, even while they continue to practice for Easter.

WALKING THE WAY

Les Fry explained that the Holy Habit to be explored was "Biblical Teaching". This topic would form the basis for Café-style worship on Sunday 22nd March, for which members were invited to nominate their favourite Bible passages. "Reading the Bible with the Archers" was planned for Saturday 30th May alongside an art workshop to be run by Lucy Pollard. In addition, an evening event was being planned for Tuesday 21st July, with another come time in October.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of member was shared.

A.O.B.

Myra Jones asked people to remember the food banks by placing donations in the baskets provided at most large supermarkets.

Myra also reported that the Prayer Circle Online was up and running; subscribers should have received their first email. New subscribers were welcome to join up by contacting Myra.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Sunday 17th May at 11.45am

Ernest Gudgeon...

Ernest Gudgeon, along with his first wife Margaret joined the choir at Redland Park shortly after I was appointed organist & choirmaster, some 30 + years ago, eventually assuming the role of Choir Secretary. Although he professed not being able to read conventional notation, Ernest had a remarkable memory and only had to hear a bass line played once or twice, when it then became locked in his memory. It was not unknown for him to remind me when I had played a wrong note!

Ernest was never afraid of speaking his mind, even when he knew others around him would disagree with him. Many a time after a service he would come round to the organ console and offer comments on how things went, or more often, how they should have gone! I valued these observations, although I did not necessarily always agree with them; every choir needs an Ernest!

I will miss Ernest's commitment & unfailing loyalty, also his - 'speak up, we can't hear you,' at rehearsals, -the washing-up bowls he obtained for keeping music in, the- 'do we have to wear gowns, it's hot', requests before the service, and the 'has anyone got my music' pleas.

God bless you Ernest, our loss is the Celestial Choir's gain!

Mike Kearley

New Brunswick continued...

We are just entering the 'Merry' month of May with its' Maypole dancing and the Morris men (but perhaps not this year). But for some May is not Merry at all. It holds very sad memories because it's the month when they lost a loved one. So we uphold in prayer the family of our much loved Jim, we still miss him sitting at the front of the church. His sense of humour and wise words.

We remember the family of Jeff who also passed away in May last year. Once again we miss him sitting in his seat next to Liz. His sense of fun and help at the quiz nights at the Greenway Centre, cleaning chairs when we had our church 'spring clean'. All happy memories.

We pray that both these families will draw comfort that we still remember their loved ones with affection. We ask God to be close to them surrounding them with His comforting arms as they recall the first anniversary of their passing. Brenda

Chorister Extraordinaire!

Shortly after Ernest and Margaret moved to Portishead over thirty years ago and turned up one Sunday at Redland Park we were invited to meet them at a dinner party hosted by Pat and Morys Cemlyn-Jones. This was the start of what proved to be a lasting friendship sadly ended by Ernest's recent passing.

As we lived near to each other we shared car journeys to choir practise on Friday evenings and thus got to know each other very much better. This resulted in numerous theatre visits, outings and continental holidays the first of which was a coach holiday to Austria. During this we paid a visit to Vienna Cathedral and to our astonishment found a girls' school choir from Wiltshire practising for a concert they were to give there later that day. Ernest was so pleased to buy one of their CDs which he added to his large music collection.

Singing was Ernest's passion. He started as a choirboy in a local Anglican Church in Yorkshire and eventually migrated to Saltaire Congregational Church where he met and later married Margaret. His was a rich bass voice and even though he had a good ear for music he always claimed ignorance of the standard notation saying he preferred the old tonic-sol-fah. When we were able to present choral works such as "The Crucifixion" Ernest invariably was one of the solo "voices from the choir".

For some years he sang with "Unity" and even though this was not his favourite type of music he nonetheless joined in with enthusiasm.

For many years Ernest has been Choir Secretary. It was with great sadness that I last saw him a week or two before the current lock-down when he finally decided that he could no longer commit to regular choir attendance. He was however much relieved with the suggestion that he would be more than welcome to join us whenever he felt able. Regrettably this now will no longer happen.

Ernest was infuriating at times and I do wonder how the angelic choir will react when he insists that they should not wear gowns during August.

Goodbye dear friend, you will be missed by us all.

David Hayden

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 104

Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for May and the first Sunday in June. In this period between Easter and Pentecost the Old Testament reading is replaced with one from Acts.

And although this year in the Lectionary cycle the focus is on Matthew's gospel, John always gets a look in in this special time between Easter and Pentecost. There's not a lot of the gospels left for post-resurrection, so we look at some tremendous passages in John's gospel which not only include some of his famous "I am ..." sayings, but also include a lot of what he says about our how our lives should be once he's gone. Maybe just read through those passages from John in one block. It's staggering stuff. Just three verses:

10:10 *Jesus to his disciples:* I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

14:14 *Jesus to his disciples:* You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

17:11 *Jesus in prayer:* Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name - the name you gave me - so that they may be one as we are one.

That's how we can be living out our lives in the light of Easter.

I have to confess that initially when services were cancelled last month, just for a day or two I felt it was a like a "snow day" when I was a teacher. No sermons to prepare - hoorah! (I can imagine the churches where I should have been leading worship were celebrating even more.) But I have found it useful to read through the readings each week, and to think about how they link together and with the weeks' before. I've even gone so far as to rough out the sermon that might have been to help me reflect on what is God saying to us through these readings now. (I know, that's a bit over the top.)

It looks like - in these rather different times - that both Dougie-and-Helena-by-Zoom, and the URC Daily Devotions online service (on the whole), are using some of these readings each week as a basis for their sermons or reflections. So I'd encourage you to read them sometime in the week before so that if they are the ones used, it might help you get a bit more from the Sunday worship.

May	(not the) OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
3rd	Acts 2:42-47	23	John 10:1-10	1 Peter 2:19-25
10th	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	John 14:1-14	1 Peter 2:2-10
17th	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	John 14:15-21	1 Peter 3:13-22
24th	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	John 17:1-11	1 Peter 4:12-14
31st	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	John 7:37-39	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
<i>Pentecost</i>				
June				
7th	Genesis 1:1-2, 4a	8	Matthew 28:16-20	2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Night Shelter

The Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter 2020.

This winter, 16 churches across the city have offered their venues to provide twelve homeless guests each night of the week, with an evening meal, a clean and safe bed, an opportunity for a quiet, non-judgemental conversation and then a breakfast. This is a thoroughly ecumenical programme with 500 volunteers from more than 50 churches.

The guests are assessed by the Charity, St. Mungo's, who select individuals with relatively low support needs and most of them relax and build relationships with their peers and with the Volunteers. St Mungo's also offer training to Volunteers.

This year, I volunteered on overnight shifts at Horfield Methodist Church and Kensington Baptist Church and thoroughly enjoyed being part of a committed group of fellow Christians, all seeking to reach out into the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our City (and discussing the presence of God in our troubled world with each other, well after the guests are fast asleep!) I equally enjoyed talking with the guests, most of whom are open to share the circumstances that led them to lives on the street and to their determination to move forward with strength. Some have moved out of the scheme into more permanent accommodation already this year, but some have also returned from last year.

I am sure that there will be a need for a similar venture in Bristol in 2021 and if you are interested in volunteering, please have a conversation with any of us.

Les Fry

I volunteered at Tyndale Baptist Church and the Seventh Day Adventist Church (both on Tuesdays, and both are the same as I did last year). As I worked on the overnight shift, I didn't get the chance to speak to many guests as most like to have an early night; some are very sociable, some less so. When you know that several of them have been able to carry on with work because they have secure accommodation for three months, or that

some have found long-term accommodation or jobs during the time of the night shelter, then you realise just how worthwhile this project is.

Carol Fry

I volunteered, firstly at St Nick's of Tolentino in Easton, then at St Luke's in Barton Hill.

I did the breakfast shift, which meant getting in by 6.30 to prepare breakfast for the guests, waking them up at 7.00, then serving them with all sorts of goodies, from fruit, cereals and toast, to a cooked breakfast, croissants, petits pains au chocolat, and much more! It was also important to engage with the guests and help them prepare for the day. Some were quite garrulous, some just wanted some peace and quiet, before going out into the world. Either way, I found it a great privilege to get to know them over the weeks and at the same time a very humbling experience. They were, without exception, very appreciative of the safe space offered, the meals provided and the chance to get to know each other better (they were very supportive of each other) and the volunteers.

This is the third year I have volunteered and I will definitely be offering again next year. Such a worthwhile project!

Les Brentley

These reflections expressed our experiences in the middle of March, hiding anxieties about the viability of the night shelters as Coronavirus gripped the City and the homeless were denied sanctuary venues like Libraries, toilet access in cafes and pubs and footfall to bring them money or food and drink. Wonderfully on March 27th, all of our St Mungo clients, and lots of other homeless people in Bristol were offered their own en suite rooms in hotels which suddenly had extra capacity across this time of the Pandemic- real evidence of God bringing good out of bad and hope out of despair.

Deadline for contributions for the
June Recorder is 24th May.

Please send to the editor

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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