

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

November '19

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | Nov Diary

Preachers for **November** 11am services

3rd Ella Bryant
10th Remembrance Sunday. Angus Gregson
(will include Communion)

PLEASE NOTE SERVICE WILL START AT 10:50am

17th Delwyn Tilke
24th Rev. Douglas Burnett

Preachers for **Dec** 11am services

1st Brenda Munden
8th Angus Gregson
(will include Communion)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 3rd November: Southmead Joint Churches Service at Pentecostal Holiness Church at 6.30pm followed by a time of fellowship over a cuppa.

Saturday 16th November: Quiz and Cream Tea 3-6pm. £5

Friday 22nd November: Southmead Quiz Night 7pm. Entrance £3pp. Free tea/coffee and nibbles.

A BIG THANK to everyone who contributed to our wonderful Harvest Display last month. This year our gifts were given to 'The Julian Trust.' They collected these during the week following the service and were overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation.

We hope that in the coming weeks someone from the 'Trust' will come and share with us about the work they continue to do in the City.

We also gave a small gift of Harvest goods to Dave and Robin. These were much appreciated and they were pleased to be remembered in this way.

We continue to uphold in prayer all those who need God's Love, Comfort, Guidance, Peace and Strength at this time. Thinking especially of Elizabeth's Grandson, Jen as she continues to settle in her placement in Stroud. Angie who needs God's Comfort as she adjusts to life without John.

We ask for God's healing for Gill who is suffering from a painful back, praying for ease from the pain. We uphold John in prayer asking for healing for his health issues.

There will be others who need God's healing who are not named here but are known to Him.

Our prayer is that He will meet their needs as each requires.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends

Suddenly it feels a lot darker and colder outside. It is no coincidence that many of the major faiths have festivals of light at this time of year. The Hindus have diwali. The Jews have Hannukah. And we have Advent. But before Advent we have a hint of that celebration of light with All Saints Day. With this celebration there are hints of the resurrection, given that it celebrates all those who have gone before us in the faith. But with this celebration of light, there is that focus on where and how light shines through our individual lives. It is not just a general concept of the light of God as being around us, it is about how that light of God shines through us. Jewish tradition had a long history of celebrating that light of God. But this was not the created light that we get from the sun. This was God's uncreated light that speaks of God's presence. So, this is a light that we don't see with our physical eyes. But it is a reality that we sense through our faith and through our souls. It is something that registers within our hearts, and maybe also within our minds. Though this sensing is more intuitive than rational. I remember one celebrity (for the life I can't remember who it was!) speaking of someone else, an older man, who had a great impact of his life. The celebrity said, "It didn't matter how old he was. What mattered is that I could see light in his eyes!"

The Holy Habit that we are exploring at the moment is that our prayer. Prayer is a particular aspect of our lives whereby we sense for the presence of God in our lives, and reach out to embrace that light. We can reach out in prayer in all sorts of way. Various of those we shall be exploring in our day at Barton Camp on November 16th. Please do come along if you possibly can. It will be fun, time to be together, and just to enjoy the green of the countryside.

In the meantime, coming back to All Saints Day, here is a picture and a prayer that comes from Jan Richardson, an American artist, theologian and blogger. Maybe we can use this image and prayer to give thanks for the saints who have brought the presence of God into our lives.

Dougie



For Those Who Walked With Us

For those
who walked with us,
this is a prayer.
For those
who have gone ahead,
this is a blessing.
For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us
while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.
For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction.



It was good to see **Sheila Smart** again as she has been unable to come to church for a while.

We send our best wishes to **Lewis Manyika**, **Derek Jones** and **Margaret Prigg** as they recover from operations or ill health.

We also pray for **Reg Dickson** who has been very ill with shingles so we do hope he begins to feel better.

We think of **Truida Mutare** as she goes for a long visit to her home and family in Zimbabwe, to **Alison Hooper** who travels to Australia for a month to visit her son, Richard, and her grandchildren, and to **Jane and Dave Penrose** as they visit Beth in Tasmania for a month. Bon voyage to them all.

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.

Calling all chocoholics...

Come and hear 'The Chocolate Dinosaurs' on Thursday November 7th at 2.30

Audrey

URC Prayer Handbook 2020.

"Prayers form the Heart" cost £4.99

Many of us find these prayers very useful. There are two prayers for each week based on the Lectionary readings for that week and written by lots of different people.

If you would like a copy please let me know. Myra Jones

Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war:
For we know that you have made the world in a way
That man must find his own path to peace within himself and his neighbour.

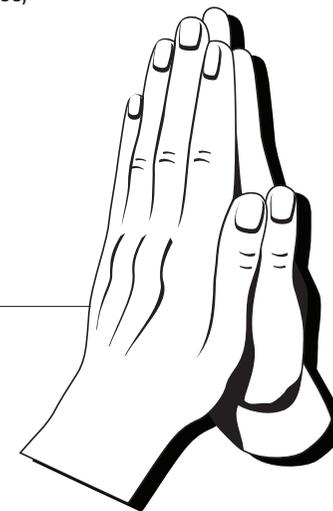
We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation
For you have already given us the resources with which to feed the whole world
If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to root out prejudice
For you have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all men
If we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end despair,
For you have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope,
If we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end disease,
For you have already given us great minds with
which to search out cures and healing.
If we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to you instead, O God,
For strength, determination, and willpower,
To do instead of just pray,
To become instead of merely to wish.



Please pray for:

Tim Pittock

Sean

Enid

Maxine Davies

Lewis

Laura and Ken

Derek

Teame and Teblez

Lydia

Surround them with your love and hold them safe in your everlasting arms. Amen

Food Banks and now Home Banks:

First Thursday heard about these two organisations at the meeting on 7 March; people of Redland Park donate to the Food Bank and the items are taken to Tyndale Baptist Church, which is our local hub. For those of you who are replacing or decluttering household goods, you might consider donating items to the Home Bank.

They are currently preparing for the launch of the New Homebank service which will provide basic household goods for those referred to them in need. They are currently looking for the following donations

Items they can collect:

Fridges and freezers less than 10 years old. There is a £10 collection charge as these items are classed as hazardous waste by EU laws. This charge helps towards the cost of collection, safety checks and for potential disposal. Collection is limited to Tuesday morning and to a 10 mile radius.

Items you can drop off at their Social Justice Hub by arrangement:

Toasters,

Microwaves,

Small Heaters & Vacuum cleaners

Plates, bowls, mugs & cutlery (no sharp knives)

Baking trays, Ovenproof dishes, pans,

Kitchen utensils

Towels and bath mats, sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers

Duvets, pillows and blankets

Small lawn mowers

For further information please phone: 0117 9235343 the Food Bank office

All items must be in good working order, in a clean condition without any tears, stains or other damage; they are in progress with getting a donor leaflet ready, which will be sent out to their supporters in due course and will be available on the website.

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for November 2019

Wed 6th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 10th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sat 16th	10.00am	"Walking the Way" day at Barton Camp
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	11.45am	Church Meeting
Sun 24th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Ray Adams
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

December 2019

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
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Our Local Food Bank:

Redland Park URC has been a consistent supporter of the Bristol Food Bank (run by the Trussell Trust) for many years.

There are many reasons why someone, or a whole family, should have the need for emergency food donations, but the three main ones (totalling 70%) are low income, benefit delays and benefit changes. Others include debt, homelessness, ill health, domestic abuse and so on. In the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children.

If you would like to support the food bank, you can donate money, time or food.

A typical food parcel includes: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk and fruit juice. Many food banks also provide essential items such as toiletries and hygiene products.

Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 21/7/19

Minutes of the Church Meeting held on Sunday 15th September 2019

PRESENT

The Minister and 29 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 after one correction: in the penultimate paragraph under "Finance and Property", the word "not" was removed from the phrase "as the church printer had not stopped working".

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 gave notice of the following forthcoming events:

Sunday 29th September – Harvest service with Bristol Korean Church followed by lunch

Saturday 5th October – 11am to 1pm: Book sale in aid of Christian Aid

Sunday 20th October – 9:15am: Big Brekkie in aid of Christian Aid

Saturday 14th December – CLIC Sargent Christmas Fair

She also thanked Derek Jones for running the quiz which raised £80 for church charities.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Derek Jones explained that he would be heading up a small group to look into the replacement of the church's sound system, which had stopped working. (He thanked Terry King for the temporary loan of his personal sound equipment.)

The replacement system could not be purchased "off the shelf" due to the uniqueness of the church building and the complex nature of available sound systems, and the two quotes received thus far were difficult to compare because they proposed different solutions. Thus, Derek would be drafting a series of questions to be put to the respective suppliers in order to assist the decision-making process. He would also draw up a list of minimum requirements and aim for a simple solution.

The Bristol Korean Church would be involved in the process, given the interference experienced with their system. Give the complexities involved, Derek was planning to seek independent, external advice and was hoping to source a replacement system before Christmas for under £25,000, but he could not guarantee to achieve these targets.

Helena McKinnon asked if the new solution would consider the church as a concert venue; Derek confirmed that it would. David Hayden asked that cost should not inhibit the choice of the replacement system; it would be better to get a system which is fit-for-purpose than a cheap system, even if this meant dipping into reserves.

Truida asked how the old system would be disposed of; Derek confirmed that existing equipment would be kept if appropriate, and surplus working items would be offered to charitable causes.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie reported that the holiday club was in full swing, with two weeks of activities still to go.

Planning for Christmas had started, with "Christmas Through the Keyhole" returning on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December for local schools. Any willing to help should see Dougie or Helena.

The Christmas Carol Service would be at 3:30pm on Sunday 15th December and would be joint with the BKC. There will be no morning service that day.

Helena McKinnon reported that Megan Brand had been recruited to lead four musical items in the Junior Church's Christmas Story Telling on Sunday 22nd December, with a number of rehearsals planned for the preceding weeks.

The Crib Service will be at 4pm on Tuesday 24th December, and the Christmas Day service will be at 10am at Tyndale Baptist Church, where Mike Kearley will be playing the organ.

Redland Park will be hosting the joint service with other local churches on Sunday 29th December.

WALKING THE WAY

Les Fry and Helena McKinnon explained that the topic of "Making New Disciples", based on Acts 2:47, was being adopted nationwide across the URC. In addition to the Big Brekkie on Sunday 20th October (open to all, not just children and young people), a prayer walk down Whiteladies Rd was planned in October (date TBC), a calendar of prayerful activities would be published in the Recorder, and a whole-church activity day at Barton Camp would be held on Saturday 16th November, themed on "Prayer".

Linda Croft said she had particularly liked the topic "Gladness and Generosity", and was making a conscious effort to keep up this particular habit. Derek Jones asked if it would be possible to have a visual reminder of past topics.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Following the meeting on Sunday 1st September, Mike Kearley explained that the choir had decided it could not continue in its current form. They had decided, therefore, to "sit up" only when sufficient choristers were available, and that they would only sing an anthem at certain significant services, such as Easter and Christmas, with rehearsals at 9:30am on the day in question and the preceding Sunday. It was hoped that, particularly for these services, other church members would join the choir, given the reduced commitment for practice. It was recognised that the choir would need to use the church rooms on some Sundays leading up to Christmas in order to allow the children to use the church to practise for their service on 22nd December.

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 17th November at 11.45am

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 99 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for November and the first Sunday in December. As we come to the end of the church year - the new one starts at Advent - we reach the end of our focus on Luke's gospel. There's been a bit each week since 23rd June, and having that continuity helps, I think, to see how the message is building up. Remember, Luke's aim was to present "an orderly account" (1:3) for the reader.

These last couple of months we've been reading how Jesus alternated his teaching and parables between those who would listen - his disciples, tax collectors and other "sinners" - and those who really should have recognised his message, the Pharisees, but spurned it. The scene was set in those first two verses of chapter 15. And we start this month with Jesus not only teaching tax collectors but bringing about a radical transformation in one of them. And to round things off, what Jesus says about Zacchaeus in 19:10 shows his 3 part parable in chapter 15 - the lost and found sheep/ coin/son - being put into action. If he can do that for crooked (see 19:8) tax collectors, what can he do with us?

Alongside this we have a brief foray into Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians - as well as the books with the longest titles, probably the earliest bits of the New Testament. This was the second church Paul set up in Europe and probably a mostly Gentile one. It was faced with hostility from the outset but look at their chief Holy Habit - 2Thess1:3. Is that something we could say about our two churches?

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.

Oct	Old Testament	Psalm	Gospel	New Testament
3rd	Isaiah 1:10-18	32:1-7	Luke 19:1-10	2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12
10th	Job 19:23-27	17:1-9	Luke 20:27-38	2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17
17th	Malachi 4:1-2a	98	Luke 21:5-19	2 Thess. 3:6-13
24th	Jeremiah 23:1-6	46	Luke 23:33-43	Colossians 1:11-20
Advent / Dec				
1st	Isaiah 2:1-5	122	Matthew 24:36-44	Romans 13:11-14

Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter

In serving our neighbour and in loving the marginalised we are serving our friend Jesus and proclaiming his glorious Kingdom. Can you help?

This shelter for homeless people is now coming into its fourth year in Bristol. Seven churches take one night each week of hosting up to 12 homeless people selected by St Mungo's charity, men who are clear of addictions to drink and/or drugs, and who would benefit from secure accommodation. This security helps them to find or keep a job and possibly to find secure accommodation for the future.

The clients of this shelter are all treated with respect; they are grateful for a hot dinner, a safe, warm bed for the night, and breakfast the following morning. They can also watch TV, DVDs, play games, chat, charge mobile phones, or just settle down after a day either walking the streets or working - sometimes they have jobs but struggle to keep them without secure accommodation.

Tyndale Baptist Church hosted Tuesdays for six weeks in January and February 2019 and several members of Redland Park volunteered at that time. Phase 2 started from February to March 2019, some with the same churches as in the first phase, and some with churches new to hosting. Again, a few of our churches members volunteered.

The volunteers are very happy to be able to help and support the shelter and, together with the soup run each October, this is one of the ways we can help those unfortunate enough to be homeless in Bristol during the cold winter months. It is also a way for Gladness and Generosity to flow from those who have to those who have not.

The Bristol Churches Night shelter Project is now asking for volunteers to help during the first months of 2020 - one evening per week to help with dinner, one early morning to help with breakfast, or one overnight shift - all are vital to the running of this outreach. They are also grateful for anyone who could offer a service such as laundry, driving, cooking, clearing up.

Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter, 32 Stapleton Road, BRISTOL, BS5 0QY
bristolchurcheswintershelter@gmail.com

Deadline for contributions for the
December/January Recorder is 30th November.

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
address at the bottom of this page

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