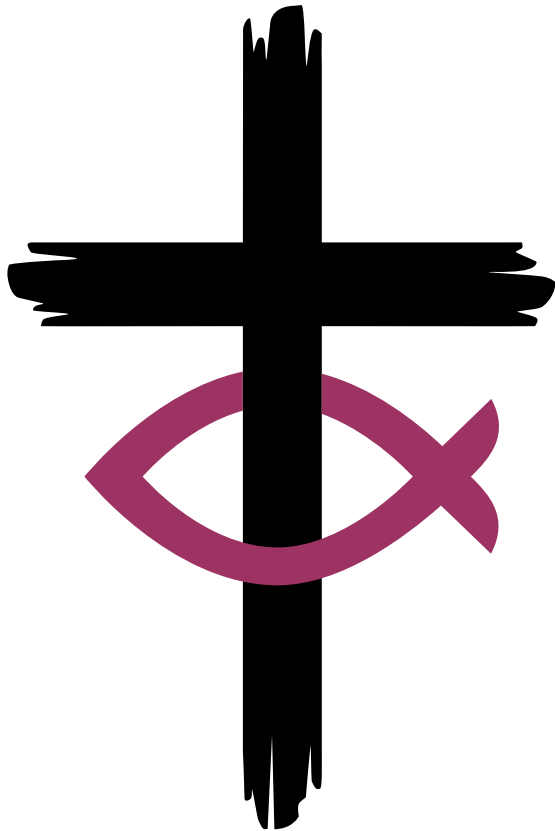


ESTD 1901

The Recorder

November '21

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

November

7th Angus Gregson

14th Delwyn Tilke (This is Remembrance Sunday so the service will begin 10.50am)

21st Rev.Helena Mckinnon

28th Rev. Douglas Burnett

December

5th Wendy Mcgee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Thursday 25th November at 7.30pm will be our next church meeting.

Tuesday 7th December will be the Southmead Church's prayer meetin. This will be held at the Pentecostal Church at 7.30pm.

NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

We are sorry to hear that **John** has had another chest infection which meant he had to spend a few days in hospital. He is now back home and feeling better. We send him our best wishes.

Both **Margaret** and **Wenda** have been visited recently. They are both in good spirits. Margaret is receiving treatment for an eye complaint but tries to remain cheerful. Both send best wishes to everyone.

We send our best to **Angus** who has tested positive for Covid and has had to self isolate. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Zac has been for an interview at 'Boomsatsuma' for a place on one of their Media courses. Apparently the interview went well and he now awaits to see if he has a place.

We uphold all these people to God in prayer asking that He minister to each for their particular need.

November is a busy month for birthdays among our fellowship these include 1st **Natalie**, 3rd **Zac**, 5th **Liz**, 27th **Mary** (who will be 94!)

We wish all these folk, and anyone else celebrating a special date in November a Happy Day. Praying, too, that God will Bless them as they celebrate with family and friends.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

This month starts with All Saints' Day and it finishes with what is known as the Feast of Christ the King.

The former is quite familiar. It is that time of year when our minds turn to those who have died in the faith, and those among them whom we have known and loved. Who would you light a candle for, and in what way might they have brought light to your faith? For some of those we might think of, they might be surprised or delighted to be celebrated in such a way. But very often it is the case that we can be unaware of the presence of God in our own lives and the fact that we do bring light to others. I suppose that in all of this that there is something about being rooted and authentic. It is not so much about what we do. It all begins with what we are. Simply by living our faith in whatever way we can, we become effective channels of God's peace. Hence that hymn, which captures the words of St. Francis of Assisi, is so much loved and has that sense of gentleness and peace about it.

So, the month of November starts with All Saints Day. It does end with the Feast of Christ the King. Remarkably that was only brought in after the First World War. For some reason we might imagine it as being centuries old, but it is that recent. The reason for its introduction was to remind people of the sovereignty of Christ over and above the empires of this world. Given that so much of the world back then had witnessed something of the destructiveness of empires, to point to the distinctiveness of the kingship of Christ was seen as something necessary and also hopeful.

And from there we will move into Advent once again with its emphasis on light in the darkness. But, has a year gone by quite to quickly?

At times the seasons of the Christian year can seem just a bit like habit, and just something that we do. But there is always much more to it than that. It is very much about our human experience and everything that goes with that.

For this coming month what particular lives might we celebrate? What remembrance might we bring on the 11th and 14th? How has Christ's kingship impinged on our lives? And then, what about light in our darkness? Rather than being just dates in our diary, it all becomes part of our human experience.

Dougie



Bryan Jenkins underwent an eye operation on 4 October, which hasn't made much immediate improvement, but we hope it will eventually. He is still living a full life despite his years!

Our thoughts and prayers go to several of our members all recovering from, undergoing or waiting for treatment: **Jane Beazer, Malcolm Johnson, John Turner, Peter and Anna Ambrose.** together with everyone who uses our prayer box. Please pray for our other members and friends who are recovering from illness or operations; it is difficult to support as much as we would like in the current situation but they are in our prayers and thoughts. Dear God, please uphold these friends and surround them in your loving care.

The Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter starts on 1 November and goes through to the end of March 2022. We pray for all those being helped (some of the homeless of Bristol, some refugees) and hope that they find a new future for themselves, with our help. If anyone would like to volunteer to make sandwiches or cakes, buy fruit or biscuits, please see Carol Fry, or donations are always welcome of new underwear, toiletries, socks, hats, scarves, tea bags, coffee, etc.

COP26 is being held in Glasgow next week; the Youth Christian Climate Network has young people walking from Cornwall to Glasgow, 750 miles to link the G7 meeting to COP26 and they came through Bristol from 13 to 16 July, when several Redland Park people took part in various activities. RELAY | YCCN <https://www.yccn.uk>. We pray for success for them in all they are doing.

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 Sudan, Afghanistan and Libya at this time. We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters such as the volcano in La Palma, floods in China and India, wildfires in California and Greece, and the earthquake in Haiti.

Prayer page:

Gracious God, for your love for us, gentle as a shower,

Healing our pain, binding up our wounds,

We give you thanks.

For your love for us, sure as the dawn, transforming our darkness,

Revealing your truth,

We give you thanks.

For your love for us, mercifully steadfast, calling us to you,

Raising us up,

We give you thanks.

For your love for us, encouraging questions, open to our doubts,

Making us vulnerable,

We give you thanks.

For your steadfast love has brought us to faith.

You steadfast love has cradled a new creation.

Your reconciling power has brought to birth a new ministry.

Urge us on, O Christ, to find wholeness through serving you

By serving others, In the power of the spirit.

Amen

Please pray for:

Margaret Donadel

Jane Beazer

Janet and Mal Owen

Sheila Smart

Anna and Peter Ambrose

The bereaved

Those suffering from addictions, depression and anxiety.

The homeless, refugees and asylum seekers.

The lonely and housebound.

We thank you for all those who work to relieve the suffering of others.

Be with them and strengthen them.

May everyone feel the reality of your love, which is beyond our understanding.

Amen



Farewell to Bohyun Kim

On Sunday October 24th 2021, our very good friend the Reverend Bohyun Kim bid au revoir to us as he takes up his new post in Seoul. These were his departing words:

"It's time. Now it's my turn. It was an unexpected journey that started eight years ago with you. Thinking about moving, the standard of thinking has changed. While living in Bristol, I experienced hundreds of people moving. But I didn't see a single person take 100 percent of what they had. I saw them throw away things to throw away, give away things to give, sell things to sell, get new things to get and leave. It's time. Now it's my turn. In the meantime, I've seen many people die in their lives. But I didn't see a single person take a single percentage of what they had. I can only see what they have left in their lives through the people around them or through the world that has changed slightly due to them. We are all pilgrims moving toward the kingdom of heaven. We have to rely on the cross to put down the burden of sin. We must overcome fear, greed, and ignorance. The journey of our faith should not stop. It's dangerous if we're satisfied with habitual repetitions. When we move and move forward, we know what we need. We find out what we don't really need. It's time. Now it's my turn. This is not a farewell visit. I'll be away from you for a while. I have things to do on this journey. I have been to Korea several times. But this time, I do one more thing that no one asked me to do. It's a job to erase. It's about erasing my footsteps. When I travelled, I left countless carbon footprints, but this time I'm going to try erase them. Two years ago, my good friends Dougie and the elders already showed me, but I realized it now. It's time. Now it's my turn. I want to erase my shameful appearance of not being able to speak properly like a child and not understanding the culture around me. I want to take my gratitude for you without leaving any behind. I also want to keep all the unexpected grace of God, has allowed here in Bristol. I believe all of these will be unmovable milestones for the journey accompanied by both URC and PCK beyond our two churches, RPC and BKC. Thank you everyone. Soli Deo Gloria!"

The Reverend Bohyun Kim, minister of the Bristol Korean Church, and now General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Korea

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for November 2021

Sun 14th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 21st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	11.45am	Church Meeting, incl. election of Elders
Fri 26th	7.30pm	Quiz in aid of Tearfund
Sun 28th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Ken Marsh
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

December 2021

Wed 1st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
		Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett

Barton Camp Report

Lockdowns have restricted the time we've been able to spend together as friends and as a church congregation. A very sunny October Saturday at Barton Camp helped us all to catch up!

The beautiful autumn context in the heart of the Mendips afforded us the perfect context in which to celebrate our Creator God and to address the issues of conservation policy which dominate the COP26 Conference. Angus and Alison presented us with genuine policy decisions which communities and governments are needing to make, and the discussions were both stimulating and lively, enabling us all to reflect both personally and as a group.



Rev Urijah Thomas of Redland Park was inspired in his selection of Barton for the heart of his ambition to offer vulnerable urban children the opportunity for rural refreshment, and 130 years later, the current congregation relaxed and enjoyed ourselves.

Whether we were reading plays, painting plants, decorating cakes, building dens, hiking, swimming or sharing picnics, we too experienced that refreshment.

Of course we are grateful to Bristol Children's Help Society for allowing us to use their premises, and to all those committed individuals who lead the activities throughout the day. But most of all, we give thanks to God for bringing us together in His beautiful world and for inspiring us to determined conviction and action in the campaigns to challenge Climate Change- campaigns that Redland Park URC will be visibly supportive of in the coming months.

Thanks for all of your energetic and joyful participation.

Les Fry



Hiking



Painting



Den Building



Sharing Food and Sunshine

THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT



Looking for an evening of giant, poverty-beating, community-building fun? You've found it!

On Friday 26 November 2021, at 7.30pm, Redland Park and New Brunswick Churches will take part in Tearfund's Big Quiz Night – and you can be part of it.

Since 2018, tens of thousands of people have taken part in a Big Quiz Night, raising over £675,000 to help end poverty.

TEARFUND'S BIG QUIZ NIGHT will be held at Redland Park Church (online by zoom) hosted by Angus Gregson. Please come and test your grey cells, and help us raise some funds for this wonderful charity. The link will be sent out nearer the time.



Junior church invitation



NATIVITY IN A BOX CHALLENGE

We want you to:

Read Matthew Chapter 1:18-25 & Luke Chapter 2:1-7, and wider if you want to. You can also use your favourite books for reference.

Choose a scene from the nativity story (anything from the enunciation to the wise men leaving Bethlehem returning home by a different route)

Get a shoe box (or a shoe sized box; it can be small, medium or large). The scene MUST be made with the shoe box on its side, so it can be viewed easily

Recreate your chosen scene to fit your box using whatever materials you like (e.g., plasticine, Lego, paper templates, dolly pegs etc)

Complete your design by the end of Junior Church on Sunday 5th December, ready to display for the all-age service on Sunday 12th December 2021

We will be working with the younger members of Junior Church on 28th November & 5th December to create a joint JC crib scene (or even two!). If you are part of JC please come and join in.

This is a Junior Church family challenge, but it is open to all members of the church. We can't wait to see what you'll create!

Please email Zoe & Verna Milligan with your idea/scene of choice if you want to take part.

RSVP: zoemilligan11@gmail.com



Open Doors

Libya has gone from 11 to 4 on Open Doors World Watch List in four years.

There are approximately 34,500 Christians in Libya – 0.5 per cent of a population of 6.7 million. But the number of Libyan Christians (rather than migrant workers from other countries) is very small – only about 150 believers.

There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion, and no possibility of public church life in Libya. The tiny number of Libyan Christians from a Muslim background face violent and intense pressure from their family and the wider community to renounce their faith. They are also vulnerable to abduction, murder or sexual assault by Islamic militant groups and organised crime groups.

Sharing your faith publicly is illegal in Libya, and those who try to share their Christian faith with others risk violent opposition and arrest. Without a central government, the country is effectively in a state of lawless anarchy. There is little chance of legal justice when Christians are attacked or killed.

Christians migrating from sub-Saharan Africa are also vulnerable to being held in detention centres or handed over to persecutors by those trafficking them. Believers are often then forced into intense labour or prostitution.

In cooperation with local partners and churches, Open Doors supports the church in North Africa through training, literature distribution, socio-economic development and advocacy.

Lord, we ask for Your blessing on Libya and those who follow You there. Please give strength and perseverance to those who cannot publicly praise You or have any semblance of church life. Protect them from violence or kidnapping, and change the hearts of those who persecute Christians. Amen.

Church meeting 19.09.2021

Present

The Minister and 17 members were present in-person; 3 attended via Zoom. Apologies for absence had been received from 11 members.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

All matters were covered by agenda items.

Church in Society

Carol Fry reported that Christian Aid Fair had raised £471 and Big Brekkie had raised £101. She expressed her thanks to all who supported these events.

A church away day at Barton Camp was planned for Saturday 9th October with a wide range of activities for all ages. Anyone needing or offering a lift should contact Carol or Les Fry.

Dates:

Saturday 9th October – Trip to Barton Camp featuring activities for old and young
Friday 26th November – Tearfund quiz

Finance and Property

The new boiler had been installed and the following resolution was put before the meeting:

The members of Redland Park United Reformed Church at a duly constituted Church Meeting held on Sunday 19 September 2021 hereby AGREE as follows:-

1) to apply to the Synod Property Committee for permission to carry out the works detailed in Section 3 [Installation of boiler].

2) to seek Synod financial support and funds as detailed in Section 4 below, (Face Lift Grant of 50% to a maximum of £10,000)

The resolution was passed by 15 votes to two.

An interim payment of c. £14,000 had been received from our insurers for loss of lettings income.

Scaffolding had been erected to fix a leak in the roof of No. 1 Redland Park.

Help was needed to clear the books from the print room which were blocking Clifton Arts Club's access to their cupboard.

Carole Atter asked if any lets had left as a result of us closing due to Covid-19; none had.

Ministerial Matters

Dougie reported that Rev. Bohyun Kim had been appointed General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Korea and would, therefore, be leaving the Bristol Korean Church (BKC). SCM funding was still available so a replacement was being sought; a possible candidate had been identified in Swansea. With Bohyun in his new position, Dougie was hopeful that the Gale Project would go ahead. He was hoping to arrange a meeting with Rev. Dr. John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, and Bohyun in the near future to push forward the project. At the suggestion of Helena McKinnon, the

meeting formally thanked Bohyun for his excellent service to the BKC.

Walking the Way

Nothing to report.

Ministerial Deployment in Bristol

Andrew Hayden reported that two meetings had taken place recently. The first involved a handful of churches from the Bristol area who were unhappy with the Synod Pastoral Committee's (SPC) proposal to cut scoping and ministerial stipends. This had resolved to send a letter to Rev. Dr. John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, drawing his attention to the perceived injustice of the proposal.

The second meeting had been held on The Downs and was open to all URC's in the Bristol area. Having started in similar vein to the May meeting, it had turned into a useful, positive discussion of the SPC's proposal and had served to forge stronger links amongst the churches represented. It was generally felt that this meeting accomplished what should have been done at the May meeting.

Dougie observed that a resolution passed by this year's General Assembly rendered obsolete the current formula for calculating deployment quotas. He felt, therefore, the matter of ministerial deployment was "in limbo".

David Hayden asked a Transition Minister had been appointed for the Bristol area, as had been planned by the SPC. Despite objection from a significant number of churches in the area, interviews had been held but no announcement of an appointment had yet been made.

Andrew Sims asked if the SPC had put forward any positive plans for the Bristol area, and also asked when the proposed cuts in stipend would take effect. No such plans

had been put forward, and the cuts to the stipends of Rev. James Jang and Rev. John Gray had been put back to January 2022 at the earliest. The proposed cut to Dougie's stipend was still scheduled to take effect from January 2023.

Sally King expressed the view that the SPC should consider qualitative matters, not just the number of members, when assessing a local church's ministerial scoping. Anyone wishing to contact the SPC on this matter was encouraged to do so.

Secretarial Matters

The Elders had resolved to maintain the Covid-19 restrictions currently in place, so the wearing of masks was still advised but not enforced, and the kitchen remained closed so no coffee would be served after morning services.

The meeting agreed that Sunday services would revert to their pre-Covid start time of 10:30am, and the next Church Meeting would, again, be in-person with live-streaming via Zoom.

News of members

News of member was shared.

A.O.B.

Myra Jones asked the meeting to approve the signing of a declaration to the Prime Minister asking him to take action on climate change now. This was agreed.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Sunday 21st November at 11:45am

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 119

Angus Gregson

November sees us finish our focus on Mark's gospel (until Advent 2024). Jesus is in Jerusalem and there's some important teaching in the Temple courts. The last couple of weeks in the month suggest it won't be an easy ride but the hope we find in the Hebrews' readings should give us confidence to hold fast in our faith.

As we enter Advent, a new church year, the gospel focus shifts to Luke. In the first four verses, Luke sets out the aim of his gospel (and the sequel, Acts). We know many of the passages well but every now and then a bit crops up that surprises us. As we go through Year C it might be worth thinking about how Luke sets out his account in his own distinctive way; how does he tell a story any differently from the other gospel writers? What can we learn particularly from Luke's account?

The apocalyptic signs in the Luke reading on November 28th (mirrored in Mark 13:24-33) end with an important clarion call for all listeners or readers: "Be on guard! Be alert! Be always on watch." There's a real sense of urgency in living out the gospel. Do we feel that same urgency? Shouldn't we?

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.

Nov	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
7th	1 Kings 17:8-16	146	Mark 12:38-44	Hebrews 9:24-28
14th	Daniel 12:1-3	16	Mark 13:1-8	Hebrews 10:11-25
21st	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	93	John 18:33-37	Revelation 1:4b-8
28th	Jeremiah 33:14-16	25:1-10	Luke 21:25-36	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Advent 1				
Dec				
5th	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Luke 3:1-6	Philippians 1:3-11
Advent 2				

Tribute to Ernest Gudgeon

"It's wonderful to be finally here at Redland Park today with family and friends and be able to say a few words in memory of my Father, Ernest Gudgeon. We've waited a long time to be able to do this, and still not everyone who would want to be here is able to be with us. I know they will be joining us as best they can.

Most of you will remember my Father who was a member of this Church from the mid 80s upto his death last year. He played an active part in Church life – I suspect that some may well have thought too active on occasions. He was involved in various aspects of the Church administration and also the choir. Singing gave him great pleasure and the choir was very important to him so it is lovely to see and hear it today.

Dad retired in 1988 so not many of you will remember him from his working days. He worked very hard to build a career with Midland Bank that allowed him to provide better and better for his family. It was this career that brought us to Bristol when he finally got the Manager's job in the prestigious Bristol Area office. No mean feat for a Bradford Grammar School boy who left school at 16 to work in the Surveyor's department at the council.

It was this will to succeed and do better for himself, his family and others, that made him who he was. At everything he threw himself onto, work, his beloved gardens, church life, whatever, he always wanted to do his best and try to improve things. He was always very supportive of his family and wanted his children to succeed. All 3 of us children have had successful managerial or professional careers and it is largely down to his hard work that we had the opportunities to do so. He doted on his four grandchildren and it gave him great satisfaction to be able to see them all grow up into adulthood. Dad's last trip away was in 2019 when we went on an extended family trip back upto Yorkshire, he loved this family time together and in particular being with his great grand-daughter Isobel.

Dad was a proud Yorkshireman through and through. Whilst fit he was never happier than hiking in the Yorkshire Dales. Many a family holiday was spent walking over various Yorkshire moors and hills, Dad striding out in front, followed behind by the rest of us muttering 'Are we there yet?' Money was hard earned and, on occasion, even harder spent. He didn't suffer fools gladly and could sometimes appear quite stern. This last bit was largely an act. Dad first joined RPC with my mother Margaret and after he was widowed he married Jennie. Both marriages brought him great happiness and it was unfortunate that both his wives suffered from prolonged ill health towards the end of their lives. I'm sure we can all remember the unstinting, unconditional love and devotion with which he cared and looked after them. That was the real Ernest Gudgeon.

There is a favourite family story that shows his true, softer side. When we were growing up Dad was dogmatically 'no pets' – we learned that there was absolutely no point talking about it as the answer would always be an abrupt 'no'. Mum always wanted a cat but never openly pursued the issue. This went on until my Sister in Law Lesley joined the family. Being from no nonsense Somerset stock she was having none of this. So whilst my parents were at Church one Sunday morning a gorgeous little black and white kitten appeared at home. Mum was over the moon, Dad, speechless, turned on his heels and left the room. He reappeared 5 minutes later, if not quite all smiles then at least accepting with good grace that he'd lost – within hours he was more devoted to that cat than the rest of us.

To us as a family that sums him up – he always liked to at least think he was in charge but was a loving, caring and generous man who was always prepared to put others first. So God bless and God rest Dad, your memory will be with us always."

-Mike Gudgeon

Prayer walk by Redland Park URC

On Sunday 24 Oct, a small group of Redland Park members met at the church before the Sunday service and took part in a prayer walk instigated by Tear Fund in support of COP26 objectives. We walked down Whiteladies Road and stopped first at the Victoria Rooms, a public space. We prayed for all those affected by the climate crisis, particularly those in 3rd world countries. Next we stopped at a Bristol University building, representing a science centre. Here we prayed for our scientists who are working so hard to understand climate crisis. We pray they find solutions that will save our planet for future generations to enjoy. Finally we stopped at the BBC Broadcasting House and prayed for those in communications to be discerning and truthful.

Please hold those fighting for fair outcomes from COP26 in your prayers as the UN Climate Summit draws nearer. The world meets in Glasgow on 6 Nov and mobilisations in towns and cities across the UK are planned. A number of us are meeting at Redland Park URC at 11.30 Saturday 6 Nov. and walking down to College Green for the start of the Global Day of Action in Bristol at 12.00. Join us if you can.



Prayers for Cop26

We pray that as the summit moves into high gear, negotiators and diplomats will be united in their determination to resolve on-going issues and move forward towards an agreement. We pray for world leaders responsible for national policies: as they speak in plenary and meet with their counterparts from other countries, Lord, grant them vision and ambition.

Following in your footsteps – our next steps, whatever the COP result
Dear Lord, You called your disciples to follow in your way.
You are the Way, The Truth and the Life -
and so we come, seeking to follow in your footsteps.
Creator of the earth, as we journey, help us to walk lightly,
treasuring the world you have given us,
seeking justice, and cherishing each other.
And sustain us on this pilgrimage, we pray,
with the vision of our journey's goal, the coming of your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

These Prayers from Pray and Fast for the Climate.

**Deadline for contributions for the
December/January Recorder is 28th November.**

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 | Andrew Hayden

07984 146 318

andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk

The Recorder is the monthly magazine of

Redland Park United Reformed Church,

Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS6 6SA

redlandparkurc@gmail.com