

ESTD 1901

# The Recorder

December '23 & January '24

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



# Vestry Vibes by Dougie Burnett

Dear friends,

The continuing violence around Gaza will give everyone cause for concern and prayer over the Christmas period. There has often been violence in evidence over Christmas over many years. At Christmas of 2022 we were very much concerned with the war in Ukraine. Thinking of our own church, Redland Park, the current violence has led me to reflect on what it must have been like on Whiteladies Road in December 1940. It had been at the start of that month when a bombing run that went down Whiteladies Road and destroyed the 1860s Redland Park church building.



Tyndale Baptist was also bombed. St. Anselm's Church of England, that stood off Whatley Road, was bombed and destroyed. It is in my mind to find out from old copies of the Recorder what the immediate response to that bombing was. Especially when just a couple of weeks later they were celebrating Christmas. I want to find that out, though at the same time I suspect that I know. The response would have been to read out and celebrate those traditional texts that we always read at Christmas. There may well have been Isaiah 40, "Comfort, comfort my people." There may well have been Jeremiah 31.31-34, which celebrates that sense of a new covenant being "written on their hearts." There would have been Luke's stories about the shepherds and angels. From Matthew there would have been the Wise Men travelling from afar. From John's gospel there would have been celebration of the Word made Flesh. Quite rightly so. It is not just a Christmas tradition that we like to repeat. It is all about the rhythms and patterns of God that we believe to be fundamental to everything that there is. That was the case when these words and stories were written. It defied some very human realities all around. Isaiah 40 had been written in the context of exile in Babylon after Jerusalem had been invaded and destroyed. But something

persisted, and we celebrate that hope continued. No doubt this Christmas we will feel a real measure of concern and anxiety for those in Gaza, even as we celebrate with our own families. We will pray that God, as the prime mover in all things, will also work in the hearts and minds of all those caught up in that terrible violence. We will pray for God's shalom to each and to all. We will sing the very same carols that they were singing on Whiteladies Road in 1940 as they looked at the bombed out ruins of their churches. And we will hope in just the same way of faithful people have always done.

Dougie

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### **Lifestyle Choices**

I chose this bit of pavement  
As opposed to the fists of my dad

I chose this freezing night  
Instead of the rapist in my house

I chose this metal park bench  
Because my tenancy ran out

I chose to live off begging  
As I couldn't afford the rent

I chose to be beaten in the night  
As my parents didn't approve of my life

If this is what you really believe  
Then spend a night time in my shoes

I'll spend Christmas at yours  
And you can have my tent

Si Zec

*reprinted with permission*

## **Worship details**

### **... at Redland Park**

**Sunday morning worship** at 10.30 a.m. (at Redland Park and on Zoom)

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> Rev Michael Docker (will include Communion)  
10<sup>th</sup> Junior Church led worship  
17<sup>th</sup> Congregation led worship  
and at 4 p.m. Lessons and Carols  
24<sup>th</sup> Rev Dougie Burnett.  
and at 4 p.m. Crib Service  
25<sup>th</sup> Worship with Tyndale Baptist church **at Redland Park**  
31<sup>st</sup> Led by Victoria Methodist members **at Redland Park**  
January 7<sup>th</sup> Rev Douglas Burnett (will include Communion)  
14<sup>th</sup> Rev Douglas Burnett  
21<sup>st</sup> Rev Douglas Burnett  
28<sup>th</sup> Angus Gregson

Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

**Sunday evening worship** at 7 p.m. via Zoom

December 10<sup>th</sup> A just war?

January 14<sup>th</sup> *tba*

28<sup>th</sup> Abortion

Zoom log in: 815 4053 7777 passcode 087103

**Cell groups** – both via Zoom

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Zoom log in: 831 5113 5751 passcode 508239

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Zoom log in: 312 983 3387 passcode 795550

## ... and at New Brunswick

December	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev Dougie Burnett
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Barb & Rick Kirby
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Angus Gregson (will include Communion)
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Carol service led by Brenda
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day worship - <i>to be confirmed</i> , but if there is a service it will be at 10 a.m.
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Brenda Drake
January	7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>tba</i>
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Angus Gregson (will include Communion)
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Sue Thorne
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Dougie Burnett

## Other key dates

### Redland Park

**Elders' meetings:** 6<sup>th</sup> December and 10<sup>th</sup> January 7.30 p.m. at church

**Church meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 11.50 a.m. at church

### New Brunswick

**Dec** 5<sup>th</sup> Joint churches prayer meeting at 7.30 p.m. hosted by Pentecostal Holiness Church

7<sup>th</sup> church meeting at 7.30 p.m.

16<sup>th</sup> 12 - 3 p.m. Craft and Preloved Fair at the Greenway Centre - a chance to buy your last minute Christmas Gifts.

18<sup>th</sup> Bible study, prayer (and cake) **Parables** - everyday things: salt, lamps, yeast, bread

### January 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Joint churches' prayer meeting at 7.30 venue *tbc*.

15<sup>th</sup> Bible study, prayer (and cake) **Parables** - all about buildings

26<sup>th</sup> Southmead Quiz - New Brunswick at 7 p.m.

## People news

### ... from Redland Park

We send our best wishes for a good recovery to **Myra Jones**, who fell and hurt her back; she is still in pain so we hope that medication and rest will help it to feel easier.

Welcome back to **Martyn Steel**, our organist, who has spent a month in Venice, on holiday, but also playing the organ in several churches around the city.

We wish for better health for **John Turner**, who has been having sight problems and other health issues; we hope that treatment will be effective.

We send our best wishes to the **Milligans (Verna, Tony, Alicia and Zoe)** who will be spending a month including Christmas in Australia. Bon voyage.

We look forward to welcoming **Truida Mutare** back at Christmas after a long time spent in Zimbabwe, and we hope all is well there.

Our thoughts and prayers need to go to **Ali**, who has been worshipping with us for a year or so; he has gone back to Iran to see his family, but his departure was delayed by his visa, which meant he missed his flight and had to pay for a second one. We hope his return is less problematic. His younger brother, **Jai**, who arrived in September for a Masters at Bristol University found it wasn't what he thought or wanted so he returned home.

**Sheila Smart** is always very pleased to have visitors and asks to send her best wishes to everyone at Redland Park.

### PRAY FOR THE HOLY LAND WITH THE CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST:

Give thanks that the church in the Middle East is being salt and light in this devastating conflict.

Give thanks that charities are using their platforms to amplify the voice of the Middle Eastern Church in these critical days.

Pray for encouragement and strength for believers in the region, and that they will find comfort in knowing that they are part of the body of Christ throughout the world.

Pray for God's perfect peace, mercy, justice and love to reign in the Holy Land.

Pray for a de-escalation of violence in the Holy Land and beyond as the conflict threatens to spread to other countries.

Pray for comfort for the grieving, healing for the injured, and for urgent aid to reach those in need.

Pray for wisdom, compassion and courage for church leaders in the region and all those in a position to make an impact.

### **...from New Brunswick**

We are sorry to hear that **Mary** is in hospital after suffering a stroke. We remember her in our prayers and send her our best wishes.

**Jen S** is still very much in our thoughts and prayers. She is now able to move around the hospital with the aid of a wheelchair. It is hoped that she may be home in time for Christmas.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with **Pete and Julie**. Pete had a spell in Southmead but is now back home. He has good and bad days but is well supported by Julie and the wider family. May God give them strength and patience. We send them our best wishes and may they be assured of our love and support.

We remember both **Ruth and Peter** in our prayers. Ruth seems to have settled well in her new surroundings although seemed quite tearful when visited by two of our members.

**Liz** has been a bit disappointed that her arranged knee operation has had to be postponed due to other health issues. She is hoping this will soon be resolved and the op can go ahead.

**Anita, Roger and the family** remain in our thoughts and prayers. It was good to hear that Paul is now in assisted living accommodation and pray that any issues with this may soon be resolved.

We continue to uphold **Dave F** in our prayers. May he be assured that he is often in our thoughts and prayers.

May all these mentioned above and those who may not have shared their concerns with others know God's Love and presence near. He will minister to each as he sees is required.

## CELEBRATIONS!

Firstly belated Congratulations to Zac who celebrated his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of November. We hope he had a great day.

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Margaret, 22<sup>nd</sup> Frank W, 23<sup>rd</sup> Jenny P. Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> Lisa W and Becky E

We wish all these folk a very Happy Birthday. There may be others with other things to celebrate whatever they may be, may they have a day to remember.

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## THE SMALLER BEATITUDES

*submitted by Carol Fry*

*from Glory at Ground Level, URC Prayer Handbook 2005/6*

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who know how to be quiet and listen; they will learn a lot of new things.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously; they will be valued by those around them.

Happy are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious things calmly; you will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown; you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitude of others; you may be taken for a fool, but this is the price of charity.

Happy are you if you know when to hold your tongue and smile; the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Blessed are they who think before acting and pray before thinking; they avoid many blunders.

Above all, blessed are those who recognise the Lord is in all whom they meet; the light of truth shines in their lives; they have found true wisdom.



# What's (been) happening at Redland Park?

## FRIENDS OF BRISTOL HAEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY



Suzy Sims hosted a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale in aid of this charity in memory of Andrew. After two years of lockdowns and many months where she and Andrew were having to shield, it was a happy occasion to invite family and friends, including from church, into her home. An amazing amount of £870 was raised, which included £70 that Emily raised for her trip to Eswatini. Well done to them both.

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Did you know that the **organ** in Redland Park Church is one of the most interesting and versatile Pipe Organs in Bristol?



*Photo courtesy of Martyn Steel*

A group of us are planning a series of short concerts on various Saturdays.

Coffee and cake will be available at 10:30 a.m. followed by organ music at 11 a.m. for approximately 45 minutes. Look out for more details as they become available.

For admission we will be asking for a donation of £5 for adults, under 18s free.

### Initial Dates:

2024	January	20 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Johnson
	February	17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>to be announced</i>
	March	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>to be announced</i>
	April	13 <sup>th</sup>	Eric Tyson

These concerts promise to be enjoyable, and we hope that Redland Park members and friends will help us by distributing the publicity we are preparing so that the concerts become well known. Of course, come yourselves and enjoy the music!

## THE NEW BRISTOL KOREAN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Bristol Korean Church has been in existence for many years, but it first started at Redland Park on Sunday afternoons led by the Revd Dong Hwan Kim as an International Church, with several people from different countries. It gradually morphed into a Korean Church, and Pastor Kim eventually moved to New Malden as minister there.

Revd Kioh Shim led the church for a few years, then it was changed into a Special Category Ministry under the auspices of the URC, with financial support for five years, then another five. The Revd Bohyun Kim led this church for seven years before he was elected as General Secretary of the whole Presbyterian Church of Korea in 2022. The church has since been led by a Korean minister for a few months commuting from Birmingham, as well as Revd Joojin Kim of the BKC, before Revd Yohan Song was called.



He came with his wife Puleep and son Andy in the summer and his Induction was on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October. URC Inductions are normally in the afternoon, followed by tea and cake, but this was held at 11.00 a.m. as it was live streamed to Korea, where it was 7.00 p.m.! But it was followed by an extensive buffet.

We send Yohan all God's blessings on his ministry here, as well as the new Korean URC!



## **7 p.m. Service at Redland Park**

This is an act of worship which was started very many years ago, when it was known as the 'Third Service', back in the days when we used to hold a morning service, a 6 p.m. evening service, and then a third service, twice a month. It has undergone many changes in addition to its name, however the overall structure and purpose remains the same.

We sing worship songs, pray together and discuss Bible passages, exploring how they relate to us personally and to the wider world.

Currently there is a small number of us who meet on Zoom on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We meet on Zoom largely because we are joined by Pamela Gray from Ballyclare in Northern Ireland. Many of you will remember Pamela, who was a member of Redland Park for very many years, serving as an Elder and, most notably, as a music leader in Redland Park. Members of New Brunswick also join us in worship.

Most of us have attended this service since its inception and for me it is a vital part of the way in which I worship God. We share leadership and trust one another enough to voice our thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment. This is really important for me, as I learn from being open and honest, and from being challenged where appropriate. I know that my faith has been strengthened and deepened over the years by sharing with and learning from dear Christian friends.

We are exploring, over the next couple of months, what the Bible says about various topics and how we, as Christians should respond. Topics include, for example, homosexuality, how we glorify God, abortion, Just Wars, the role of women in the church.

This is definitely not a closed group and anybody is welcome to come along, maybe just to see whether or not it suits them. I personally like to worship God in a variety of ways, and feel very blessed that I have that opportunity to do so at Redland Park.

Lesley Brentley

Come and join us in celebrating

# UKRAINE'S SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE



An engaging show featuring **Vyshyvanka**:  
Ukrainian vintage, contemporary and designer  
embroidered fashion, with art, music and singing.





Come and join us in celebrating

# UKRAINE'S SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE

How did Ukrainian Vyshyvanka, embroidery and design come to embody Ukraine's spirit of resistance?

How do the stories told by Ukraine's national dress define the nation's identity, humour and love of beauty so strongly?

Discover how the Vyshyvanka's traditions continue to evolve from folk to contemporary and designer motifs, from rural and ethnic garments to Vogue and Hollywood fashion items.

This event celebrates the art of Vyshyvanka with a catwalk show of designs, narrated throughout, against a background of Ukrainian paintings accompanied by haunting Ukrainian music and traditional folk singing by the Kozachky ensemble.

**When** Sunday 28th January 2024, 2.30pm (doors open 2pm).

**Where** Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS6 6SA.

**FREE ENTRY** Cash donations welcome supporting Come Back Alive and Hospitallers Charities. We can process cards, but cash would be quicker.

**Tea, cakes and cookies in the interval**

**CharITIES** Come Back Alive, Hospitallers, Spirit of Resistance providing winter clothing for family members serving on the Front.

Grateful thanks to the URC for hosting this event.

## Calling all walkers:

### Redland Park Pilgrimage Wells to Glastonbury Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Last year I walked the Syren Way from Wells to Glastonbury Tor and I thought this would be a perfect pilgrimage walk for those able to walk 8-9 miles. It is relatively flat, the only climb is Glastonbury Tor at the end of the walk. The walk starts at Wells Cathedral and en route we pass nine Syrens, or Sound Stones. These are large limestone waymarkers with bronze bells inset. Each Syren has a different motif carved on it and the inset bells all play a different note (though some weren't working last year). It is up to you to interpret the motif, but they can be seen as symbols for local landmarks.



Everyone is invited to come along. You will need walking shoes, although much of the walk is on the National Cycle Route 3, so shouldn't be too muddy. The plan is to travel there and back by public transport. The 376 bus, Bristol Bus Station to Wells then back from Glastonbury, run a frequent service every 30 mins. We will take a leisurely pace, about 2 mph, so the walk should last about 5 hours including stops.

Church in Society is supporting the walk, and we would like people to raise some money from their efforts, either as sponsorship or a donation, in support of The Vine Trust, our overseas church charity. Further details will be forthcoming nearer the date.

In the meantime get training and **SAVE THE DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Alison Hooper (Organiser and contact)

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## Prayer

### Junior Church prayers for the Middle East 5<sup>th</sup> November

Dear God, please recycle weapons into useful tools,

Please recycle revenge into shared security.

We pray that you will release hostages and stop oppression for the Israeli and Palestinian civilians. Amen.

At our school we sing "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Amen

Dear God we pray for people everywhere and love and harmony, for swords to be changed into ploughshares., for nuclear weapons to be changed into energy sources and for bullets to be transformed into roofing to give extra people a safe and dry place to sleep. Amen.

Dear God, the violence and hatred in the war in the Middle East fills me with fear and upset.

We pray for your mercy for all of the victims of the conflict and for your guidance for all the World Leaders who are trying to bring peace. Amen.

Dear God, allow there to be peace. Let people be secure not vulnerable, to be free and safe where ever they are.

Let love and kindness prevail over everything else. Amen.

We pray for this war of hatred to be over, for peace to be spread over all the world and for everybody to feel safe. Amen.

We pray for an end to war, shelter your children and protect us all from harm so that we can build a world of love and live our lives in peace. Amen

**The Bible Society** have teams working in the Bible Lands. They have some prayers at [www.biblesociety.org.uk/landing/thank-you-for-sharing-gods-love-in-the-bible-lands/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/landing/thank-you-for-sharing-gods-love-in-the-bible-lands/)

I found the prayer using Psalm 77 particularly moving.

**Tear Fund** has also offered some ideas for praying for Israel and Gaza. They are at [www.tearfund.org/stories/2023/10/how-to-pray-for-gaza-and-israel](http://www.tearfund.org/stories/2023/10/how-to-pray-for-gaza-and-israel)

## Praying through the year

Myra will be ordering URCPayer Handbooks for those who would like one.

To order one, ask Myra. They cost £5.99.



## KNOW YOUR ELDER

*A column where we get to know a little more about our Elders.*

**Jenny Pike** at New Brunswick

### **Where did you grow up?**

I was born in Suffolk, but then came to Bristol

### **A memory from my youth**

I remember moving to Southmead and getting involved in church life.

### **What brought me to Bristol?**

My Mum missed Bristol and her family.

### **Who/what led me to faith in Christ?**

It was my Mum, and it was a gradual process.

### **Why did I start worshipping at New Brunswick?**

It was the nearest church to us.

### **Something good about living in Bristol**

There is so much history to explore [I'm a member of the history group in Southmead], and people are very friendly.

### **Something I really value about New Brunswick?**

I value the feeling of belonging.

### **Anything else you'd like to add?**

I joined the Girls Brigade at New Brunswick when I was about seven years old. I was in the Youth Club too. When I was young, the church was my social life.





## **A name from the past.**

*Here's a letter Les Fry received recently.*

Dear Mr Fry,

I am writing to let you know that my cousin **Brian Mahle** passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> October aged 93.

The Mahle family was very active in your church as was the Blackmore family until the 1950s. Brian was christened at Redland Park (as was I by Basil Sims). He sung in the choir and his father may have been the church secretary.

It is unlikely that any of your members will remember him. His funeral is on the 21<sup>st</sup> November and I can let anyone have details.

Your church will receive a substantial distribution from his estate but the estate is complex and probate these days takes many months. I am his sole executor.

Best wishes,

Mark Blackmor

*Does anyone at RP remember Brain Mahle?*

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## **Minutes of RP Church Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

In attendance; Rev Dougie Burnett and 28 members.

Apologies for absence; Les Brentley, Linda Croft, Angus Gregson, Joan Turner, John Turner, Audrey Bryant, Ron Lyle, Viv Hayden, Teame Mebrahtu, Myra Jones.

Minutes of last meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were agreed to be accurate and signed by Dougie.

Matters Arising:

- a. Offertory reinstated by Elders.
- b. Covenant Service to take place on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2024.

News of Members: Details of five individual members were shared.

## Ministerial Matters (Dougie):

### 1. Celebration of the induction of Yohan Song.

Group of 20 visitors from Korea expected after Easter 2024.

### 2. Christmas schedule:

25<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: Scouts' Christmas Tree sale.

26<sup>th</sup> Nov: First Christmas Choir practice with Martyn, plus materials for Christmas decorations on the theme of "Light" will be available from Sally.

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec Junior Church prepare decorations for the church.

10<sup>th</sup> Dec Junior Church-led celebration.

16<sup>th</sup> Dec Junior Church to the Everyman Cinema to see "The Grinch."

17<sup>th</sup> Dec a.m. Congregation-led worship on the theme of "Do not be afraid". (Les)

4 p.m. Lessons and Carols

24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10.30 Service, 4pm Crib Service

25<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10 a.m. Worship with Tyndale Baptist Church at Redland Park.

31<sup>st</sup> Dec at 10.30 a.m., service led by Rev David Deekes of Victoria Methodist Church and members at Redland Park.

## Committee Updates

### 1. Church in Society (Carol)

Bring & Share lunch 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

2024 World Day of Prayer (Anne): 1<sup>st</sup> March, written by the women of Palestine. 10.00 for 10.30 a.m. at Victoria Methodist Church.

Church Day out at Barton Camp 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Sponsored Walk 20<sup>th</sup> April from Wells to Glastonbury (Alison)

Christian Aid Week 11<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May including Fair (18<sup>th</sup>) & Big Brekkie (19<sup>th</sup>)

Warmshare (Derek) - offering a warm, welcoming environment for people impacted by the cost of living will begin on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December with similar food, drink and activity arrangements to 2022, on a similar model as before. Each Thursday from 10.30 a.m. To 2 p.m - need for additional volunteers please.

## 2. Climate Justice (Alison)

Climate Justice group and Finance & Property group to decide which solar battery quote to accept while Dougie explores the possibility of a Synod ECO grant.

## 3. Finance & Property (Andrew)

Hurle Road work completed and a meeting with the Scouts due; fixed-line Internet to church in place from 24<sup>th</sup> November.

## 4. The Organ Initiative (Richard)

History of Father Willis Organ since 1949 - determination to increase the usage and promote music through Redland Park.

(i) partnership with Bristol Beacon who are developing an inclusive Primary School Organ curriculum and offer Organ Lessons and Scholarships in 2024 for young people aged 13–15 - the Bristol Beacon organ is out of use until 2025.

(ii) series of monthly Saturday morning concerts - “Organ Treats” with refreshments beginning on 20<sup>th</sup> January. These are being organised in partnership with the Bristol Organists Association, coinciding with the Farmers Market. Volunteers needed please.

## 5. Front vestibule. (Helena)

Helena celebrated a great fellowship afternoon with 21 young people creating artefacts that will be exhibited in the front vestibule. The afternoon, led by Yanna and Helena was seen as a great success. (*More on this in the next Reform.*)

Next Meeting; Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2024.

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## A Rocha's “Easy Eco Tips for DECEMBER and JANUARY

**DECEMBER:** Recycle right this Christmas (and beyond!) Since more waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, it's a great time of year to review and improve your own recycling set up at home. You can find out exactly what you can recycle at home by entering your postcode here: [recyclenow.com/recycling-locator](https://recyclenow.com/recycling-locator)

**JANUARY:** Make ‘enjoying nature’ your priority. From bird watching, to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or veg or visiting an area of outstanding natural beauty.

## CAN YOU HELP?

The city's response to supporting homeless people during severe weather conditions is called **SWEP**. Each year St Mungo's Street Outreach team, Bristol City Council, and a number of partner agencies devise a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) to find accommodation for people sleeping rough in periods of particularly cold weather or where the weather is a risk to life. The principle aim of SWEP is to prevent loss of life. The secondary aim is to take the opportunity to engage with people who have been rough sleeping for a long time who are normally resistant to coming indoors. The trigger for SWEP is the Met Office predicting three consecutive nights (or more) of:

- A minimum temperature of zero degrees centigrade or below
- Amber warnings of rain and winds

Other factors are also taken into account, such as wind chill, daytime temperatures, storms and where there is a risk of loss of life for people sleeping out in the prevailing weather conditions.

When SWEP is triggered, the St. Mungo's outreach team coordinate the emergency response, operating a rolling rota from 7am – 12am finding people who are rough sleeping and moving them off the streets into temporary SWEP placements.

The guests will then be hosted at these temporary SWEP placements overnight and out of the extreme weather conditions. In order to do this effectively, **we are looking for volunteers** to support at different venues when SWEP is activated. This will most likely be during the evening (7:30pm - 9:30pm) before night staff arrive or in the morning (7am - 9am) before the guests have to leave. As weather conditions can't be predicted, it will often be at short notice without much warning. Our hope is to gather a list of volunteers who are happy to be contacted if SWEP is activated. At the point of activation, volunteers can decide if they are able to help or not.

### How to get involved?

If you are interested in finding out more about this then please click on the link below to express your interest and we will be back in touch.

<https://forms.gle/k7WqELSW9NZGAm8b7>



**Less waste, more joy.**

# DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

**Donate between 28th November - 5th December  
and your donation will be matched!**

**This winter, 1 in 4 local families are going hungry, whilst  
millions of tonnes of food are wasted. It doesn't make sense.**

**During Big Give Week a gift of £32  
could save enough food to sustain a  
local community hub for 2 weeks.**



**FoodStock**



**Scan the QR code to make a  
food gift for this Christmas.**



## Keeping up with the vicar, part 140

Here are the Lectionary readings for December, January and the first Sunday in February - a ten Sunday epic. By the time the next *Recorder* comes out it'll nearly be Lent.

The Isaiah passage on December 10<sup>th</sup> famously (thank you, Handel) begins "Comfort ye my people says your God". That's not "be comforted", but rather "go out and comfort the people". A very timely challenge for us both in this country and abroad at the moment. And also the answer to the problem of what do you give someone for Christmas. Let them know of the gift of God's comfort for them. (Or buy them something from the fairly traded stall, obviously.)

Mark's gospel is the focus for the next year, but as Mark doesn't have anything about the nativity we get a patchwork of other gospel passages in December. Bit like an Advent calendar, piecing together little bits that together tell the whole story. John's gospel doesn't have a dedicated lectionary year but as Mark is fairly short (the gospel, not the man) you'll get quite a bit of John slotted in, especially between Easter and Pentecost and next August.

And here's a bit I've more or less copied from the Recorder three years ago. Hearing (or reading) a little bit each week means we might miss the bigger picture. Over the last few months we've systematically read through Matthew 21-25 where Jesus has taught about real kingdom values, challenged the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, and spoken in parables about how we should be preparing ourselves for the return of the King. And recently we've read through the letters to the churches at Philippi and Thessalonica, encouraging the early churches to focus on their ultimate citizenship of the kingdom of heaven. Just reading short passages each week seems to me a bit like my knowledge of London. I know the streets in several *bits* of London but not really how they fit together relative to each other.

As Mark's gospel is so short, why not make the time to read it in one go? Get caught up in the pace of the narrative and see if it helps answer the key question, "Who is this man?" [Spoiler alert: the answer comes in Mark 15:39 but it looks like you'll have to wait till Palm Sunday 2025 for

that!] And if we treat Advent as a time of preparation, why not go back and read Philippians and 1 Thessalonians too - a bit of revision - and certainly a couple of letters that can to bring a big dose of christian cheer to start a new lectionary year.

	OT	Angus Psalm	Gospel	NT
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec <i>Advent 1</i>	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7,17-19	Mark 13:24-37	1 Cor 1:3-9
10 <sup>th</sup> <i>Advent 2</i>	Isaiah 40:1-11	85:1-2,8-13	Mark 1:1-8	2 Peter 3:8-15a
17 <sup>th</sup> <i>Advent 3</i>	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11	126	John 1:6-8, 19-28	1 Thess 5:16-24
24 <sup>th</sup> <i>Advent 4</i>	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16	89:1-4,19-26	Luke 1:26-38	Rom 16:25-27
31 <sup>st</sup>	Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3	148	Luke 2:22-40	Galatians 4:4-7
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	Gen 1:1-5	29	Mark 1:4-11	Acts 19:1-7
14 <sup>th</sup>	1 Sam 3:1-10	139:1-6,13-18	John 1:43-51	1 Cor 6:12-20
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62:5-12	Mark 1: 14-20	1 Cor 7:29-31
28 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 18:15-20	111	Mark 1: 21-28	1 Cori 8:1-13
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-11,20c	Mark 1:29-39	1 Cor9:16-23

## Point to ponder

As I type this (21<sup>st</sup> November) the death toll in Gaza from Israeli strikes since 7<sup>th</sup> October is 13 000, which is just over 6% of the population. This includes 5 500 children.

The equivalent percentage, if this had happened in the UK, is a death toll of 414 000, including 175 000 children.

Deadline for contributions for the  
February *Recorder* is **15<sup>th</sup> January.**

Please send your contributions  
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