

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

March '25

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



Vestry Vibes

by Dougie Burnett

Dear friends,

The headlines of the past few weeks have been very much dominated by the executive orders and policies decisions that have emanated from President Donald Trump following on from his inauguration at the beginning of January. Many of us have been left reeling by much of what we have been seeing and hearing. We all wonder about the consequences of what we have already heard. We all wonder about what may come next. While



there are those, especially in the States, who might celebrate what his term as president might bring, I think that it fair to say that there is a greater degree of concern and apprehension.

One of the events that always follows any presidential inauguration is a service at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. While not many of us may have been too aware of that service in previous times, this year the service hit the world headlines. Bishop Mariane Buddy preached the sermon. The whole text can be found online. It is a very worthwhile sermon to read. But in the final paragraph she chose, very courageously, to address President Trump himself.

This is what she said: “Let me make one final plea, Mr. President. Millions have put their trust in you and, as you told the nation yesterday, you have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now.” She then listed various marginal and vulnerable groups in American society.



Finally, she said this: "Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger for we were all once strangers in this land. May God grant us the strength and courage to honour the dignity of every human being, to speak the truth to one another in love and walk humbly with each other and our God for the good of all people. The good of all people in this nation and the world. Amen."

It is one of those sermons that will never be forgotten. Many heard the Gospel in what she said. In recognition of this the Redland Park elders have decided to send Bishop Marianne a card of greeting, support and love. The front of the card represents our "Christ in glory" stained-glass window. Bishop Mariann has received much abuse and even death threats for what she said. I hope very much that we in our pastorate can support her in prayer. And over the next few years we will do our part in making sure that it is love, not hate, that is seen and heard.

Dougie



Worship details

... at Redland Park

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

- 2nd Rev Dougie Burnett, including Holy Communion
 - 9th Rev Dougie Burnett
 - 16th Rev Dougie Burnett
 - 23rd Service in aid of Church Action on Poverty
 - 30th Rev Dougie Burnett
- Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

7 p.m. worship via Zoom, exploring “Questions God asks”

- 9th Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?
 - 16th What are you doing here?
- Zoom log in; 8154 053 7777 passcode 087103

Cell Group Meetings - Monday at 8 p.m., Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.

Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

... at New Brunswick

Sunday morning worship at 11.00. a.m.

- 2nd Rev Helena McKinnon
- 9th Angus Gregson, including Holy Communion
- 16th Trevor Ranger
- 23rd Rev Dougie Burnett (Gift Day)
- 30th Les Fry and Rev Jooin Kim

Other dates

... at New Brunswick

Sun 2nd Joint Southmead Churches Service at Pentecostal Holiness Church at 6.30 p.m., followed by refreshments and a social time.

Tue 4th Monthly Churches Prayer meeting at Pentecostal Holiness Church at 7.30 p.m.

Thu 6th Church meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Mon 17th Monthly Bible Study at at 7.30 p.m. Lent reflections from Tear Fund. And cake.

Fri 4th Southmead Quiz night 7 p.m. (please note: there's NO quiz at the end of March)

... at Redland Park

Sun 2nd Church in Society invites everyone to bring and share their lunch after the morning service. Enjoy a relaxed lunch and a leisurely chat in Conference Room after worship.

Weds 5th Elders Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Tue 18th Finance and Property Meeting at 4.30 p.m.

Wed 26th Junior Church Meeting at 8p.m.

Outreach

Fri 7th World Day of Prayer, Alma Church, 10 a.m. for 10.30 service.

Wednesdays: midday to 2 p.m. Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter.
3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Student doughnuts.

Thursdays: 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Warmshare

Lent conversations

The Clifton, Cotham & Redland group of churches Lent Conversations, this year are on the theme, "Facets of violence – paths to peace." Details of the dates, speakers and topics are later in the *Recorder*.

Organ performances

Tue 4th and 11th at 1.15 p.m. Paul Walton plays Louis Vierne's Organ Symphonies.

Sat 22nd Organ Treat. Peter Clements at 10.30 a.m.

PEOPLE PAGES

... at Redland Park

During this long grey winter, we have a few of our friends needing our prayers at the moment. **Peter Ambrose** is now home from hospital and we hope he continues his recovery there, along with Anna; they are being supported by family. We pray for both of them.

Suzie Atkins has had time in hospital recently and is currently at home but awaiting further treatment. We send our prayers for her and hope that future treatment will prove effective.

David and Viv Hayden are both living with health issues at the moment and we pray for better health for them both. They continue to work for the church but we miss their presence in the pews.

Dougie's mother died recently at the age of 99½ so he will be taking part in her funeral service on Monday 24 February; we pray she will rest in peace and we send our condolences to all the family.

Terry King, as we mentioned last month was our go-to man for anything practical, technical and mechanical for so many years and was appreciated for everything he did for the church. The funeral was on Friday 14 February and the church was full of family, members of the church, friends and acquaintances, and was a good send off for such a faithful friend of Redland Park. We send our condolences for Sally, Sarah, Flo and all the family.

Vimbai Fedrick sent her apologies for the February Elders' Meeting, and we weren't sure whether to accept her excuse or not – she was at Buckingham Palace to meet HRH King Charles... See later for more.

Martyn Steel will be away for three Sundays when he goes to Italy on holiday and playing various organs there; we wish him a good holiday and look forward to welcoming him back in March. We have a series of visiting organists.

There are other members and friends with health issues at present and we pray for them all, and for those of our friends in nursing homes or care homes and unable to come to church; we are blessed with technically-able people who host our services on Zoom.

A thank you

Thank you all for your messages of support since Terry died in January. You have been such a support since Terry was diagnosed with Dementia with Lewy Bodies at the beginning of November 2022.

For 7 weeks he was in Southmead Hospital, 6 of those in Elgar House where the care was amazing. We were lucky to transfer him to 'The Westbury' on 28th December; again the care was unbelievable.

Thank you again Redland Park Family.

Sally Sarah and Flo

... at New Brunswick

We are sorry to hear that **Angie** is having a spell in hospital. We send her our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Unfortunately **Elaine** has not been able to worship with us for several weeks because of her health condition. We hope that as the warmer weather starts to arrive this will make things easier for her. Jen S. has now moved to a different hotel. We pray for a more permanent solution to her housing situation.

Liz is having continued health problems and we ask for God's healing.

Several of our fellowship have succumbed to the winter bugs that have been around. We pray for their return to full health very soon.

Our prayers are also with those who have any sort of problems at this time which they have not shared. These folk and their problems are known to our all knowing God and we ask for His help, healing, guidance and comfort to all these dear people

Those who have something to celebrate during March...

11th Paul G, 12th Gill W.

At the end of the month Gill will be retiring from work and we wish her a long and happy retirement!

Others too may have anniversaries or family celebrations during this month. May all of these folk have happy times and God's richest blessings.

My Visit to Buckingham Palace to Meet the King *by Vimbai Fedrik*

Throughout my career as a female engineer and ethnic minority, I have faced numerous challenges. Recently, I was honoured with an invitation from the CEO's office to meet the King at Buckingham Palace, where His Majesty was hosting a reception recognising UK Civil Servants.

Receiving the royal-stamped invitation was surreal, especially for my excited children who wished they could accompany me. As the day approached, the reality of stepping into Buckingham Palace to meet the King set in. The event was filled with anticipation and excitement, with attendees dressed elegantly.

The palace, adorned with portraits of past monarchs, looked stunning. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed with drinks and canapés.

When King Charles entered, the excitement grew. Eventually, I had the chance to introduce myself and discuss my role as a female engineer and STEM ambassador. The King expressed interest in my work and shared his experience touring a submarine in Scotland last year, likely at Faslane. He appreciated our efforts to keep everyone safe.



Even after the King departed, the excitement persisted. It was a memorable honour that we will proudly share with future generations. This experience reaffirmed my pride as a civil servant and my decision to pursue a career in engineering. The King's reception was a testament to our achievements and contributions as civil servants.

Summary of the RP Church Meeting 19th January 2025 *from Les Fry*

26 Redland Park members joined our first Church Meeting of 2025, all celebrating a joyful series of festive events which brought the birth of Jesus to life for those who attended. We also collectively mourned the death of Terry King whose practical skills have contributed enormously to the quality of our church premises over many years.

We now look forward to the World Day of Prayer on 7th March and the Lent Conversations on the theme of Peace and Reconciliation.

Committee reports confirmed that our 2025 Church Charity is “Changing Tunes”, that the Climate Justice is targetting the Eco Church A Rocha Gold Award, and that summer organ repairs have been agreed, paid from the Organ Fund. The on-going success of the Organ Treats continues into this new year, further supplemented by the midweek performances of the six Vierne Symphonies by Paul Walton.

Details were shared about the Youth Group.

The recent progress in the sale of the Broad Plain premises in Knowle West and in the transfer of the Riverside lease to Young Bristol was celebrated, along with the Charity Commission’s recent acceptance of our Highbury Trust’s new objects directed at supporting young people in their development as independent and responsible citizens in Bristol. Updates on the negotiations between the church and the 77th Scouts about the Hurlle Road premises also indicate optimistic progress.

There were calls for more volunteers for the Tech team, the Junior Church team and the coffee rota. We closed with a shared blessing.

A Rocha UK’s Easy Eco Tips for March

Delve deeper into the Bible to see how we are not apart from creation but a part of it. There are lots of excellent resources to support you, including The Whole Easter Story: Why the cross is good news for all creation at arocha.org.uk/the-whole-easter-story

This new resource for Lent 2025 invites us to explore the broader impact of the Easter story for all of creation through Bible readings, reflections, and stories from A Rocha’s global conservation efforts.

Coming up...

World Day of Prayer, Friday 7th March

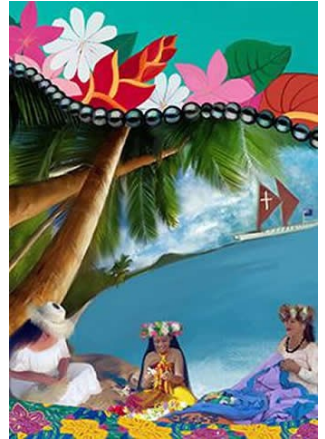
A women led, global, ecumenical movement

We'll be worshipping together at

Alma Church, St Johns Road, Clifton, BS8 2ES.

There are refreshments from 10 a.m., then the service begins at 10.30 a.m. for about an hour.

We'll be joining thousands all over the globe in a service written by the women of the Cook Islands. This is a group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean which has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature.



Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme

“I made you wonderful”.

It's good not just to be able to worship with our neighbouring Christians in this part of Bristol – there are 7 services across the city – but to know we are worshipping with Christians around the world in the 37 hours it takes for 7th March to happen worldwide.

Whether you can join us at the service at Alma Church or not, you can share in the worship by joining us in this prayer.

Precious Lord, thanks for creating us, all in our own different but unique way. We are all so different in our minds and attitudes, yet when we come together, we come as one spiritually knowing that you are at the helm.

Lord, it's so uplifting to know we are so wonderfully made. Thank you, Lord, for moulding us in such a beautiful way. Lord, we acknowledge we have weaknesses and flaws, but when we come before you, we come as one seeking your forgiveness, guidance and protection.

Dear Lord, the harvest is ripe and ready to be plucked. We ask you to equip us with the armour of wisdom and courage, ready for the reaping. Surround us, Lord, with your mighty presence and encircle us with your impenetrable shield.

Lord, we thank you for hearing our prayers, as we walk in the confidence of your presence, knowing that you are interceding on our behalf with your continuous protection.

In your mighty name we pray.
Amen.

by Audrey Eccleston
from *Together in Prayer*, 2025

RP Climate Justice Group: Gardening Team

from Alison Hooper

Calling all church members to become part of the RP Gardening Team

The Climate Justice Group comprises Myra Jones, Angus Gregson, Les Brentley, Dougie Burnett, Andy Grand and Alison Hooper. We have run various initiatives since forming in April 2021 and successfully applied the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award back in 2022, and then the Silver Award in 2024. Our aim to apply for the Gold Award this year or next. Not that awards matter when compared to the huge problem that we face with respect to climate change and the goal of carbon net zero. I confess that initially I was sceptical of the whole A Rocha Eco Church Awards scheme. I have to admit, however, that the scheme keeps the focus on what we can do so that we do not become overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the task.

A Rocha has introduced a new survey for churches for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The survey is based on five distinct areas:

1. Worship and Teaching
2. Buildings and Energy

3. Land and Nature
4. Community and Global Engagement
5. Lifestyle

We have to complete each section to gold standard to achieve our Gold Award.

Throughout the year, you will be hearing from us with respect to initiatives on each of the above areas. This note is to address point 3: Land and Nature and in particular Land and Nature, point 15 :

15. Our church actively encourages church members and volunteers to nurture and protect our land by: Choose all that apply:

- *caring for it, for example by gardening*
- *identifying the wildlife that is there and submitting records to, for example, apps like iRecord or iNaturalist*

We aren't yet involving people in looking after our land or monitoring its wildlife.

At present, we have a small but very beautiful wild flower garden on the south side of the church. It is enjoyed by many members of the church and wider community. The garden was planted a few years ago by some church members (in the pouring rain as I recall), following advice from Sustainable Redland . Since then it has flourished in places. But even wild flower gardens need tending otherwise grass and bully weeds can take over. To date, the garden is sporadically tended, mainly by Myra and on occasion by others in the Climate Justice group. We need an action plan for the garden and a RP Gardening Group to regularly tend and carry out an agreed action plan for the garden. The Action plan will look at ways to promote biodiversity in our garden. In particular, we will look at ways to promote butterflies, moths, bees, and in so doing we will be able to address other points in the survey.

If you would like to be part of the RP Gardening Group, please speak to Myra or to any other member of the RP Climate Justice Group. We hope to form the Gardening Group by March 2025, in good time to be effective for the oncoming year.



LENT CONVERSATIONS 2025

FACETS OF VIOLENCE—PATHS TO PEACE

All meetings are at 7pm with refreshments for 7.30pm

Tuesday 11th March Cotham Parish Church, BS6 6DR
Revd Dr Helen Paynter, Bristol Baptist College

*Desire and shame: how our disordered hearts lean towards violence,
and what God is doing about it*

Wednesday 19th March Tyndale Baptist Church, BS8 2QG
Bekah Legg from Restored

*Speaking Up for the Woman With No Name:
exploring the violence against women in Judges 19*
Exhibition 17th to 22nd March #SheToo - also at Tyndale
- Silenced women of the Bible

Tuesday 25th March Tyndale Baptist Church, BS8 2QG
David Wiles, former CEO of the Frontier Youth Trust

Stories from the edge: faith is spelt RISK!

Thursday 3rd April Redland Park United Reformed Church, BS6 6SA
Revd Karen Sethuraman Soul Space, N Ireland

Who is my Neighbour?

Thursday 10th April at Victoria Methodist Church, BS8 1NU
John Cooper, Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

The fierce urgency of Peace

#SheToo

'Silenced Women of the Bible'

Art Exhibition by Jen Ford



17th – 22nd March
Open 10am - 4pm

Tyndale Baptist Church
Whiteladies Road



#shetoo – Silenced Women of the Bible



Keeping up with the vicar, part *whatever-it-is*

Here are the lectionary readings for March. We finally arrive at Lent, and traditionally have that epiphany moment, the Transfiguration, the week before – something to hold on to for the next six weeks. The disciples want to freeze the moment, to build shelters there on the mountain top, but after that affirmation from his Father, Jesus heads back down into the mess of everyday life and the passion ahead.

It's a month with big promises – look at what God says to Abram in our reading on the 16th. And Jesus is challenged time and time again: by Satan at the start of his ministry, about why bad things happen, about the company he keeps, and he responds with stories of second chances and forgiveness being offered even to those who have gone very astray. And the breadth of that grace that can challenge our human sense of what's fair. Are we sometimes like the elder brother of the prodigal son?

Many preachers use the lectionary readings as a basis for their preaching. Why not read them ahead of the service as preparation? It may help you get a little more from the sermon.

	<i>OT</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
2 nd	Exodus 34.29-35	99	Luke 9.28-43	2Cor 3.12-4.2
9 th	Deut 26.1-11	91.1-2,9-16	Luke 4.1-13	Rom 10.8b-13
Lent1				
16 th	Gen 15.1-12,17-18	27	Luke 13.31-35	Phil 3.17-4
Lent2				
23 rd	Isaiah 55.1-9	63.1-8	Luke 13.1-9	1 Cor 10.1-13
Lent3				
30 th	Joshua 5.9-12	32	Luke 15.1-3,11b-32	2 Cor 5.16-21
Lent4				

Deadline for contributions for the
April Recorder is 15th March.

Please send your contributions
to the editor, Angus Gregson
email: angus.gregson@btinternet.com
or by post to the *Recorder* at the Church
address at the bottom of this page.

Many thanks to everyone who
has contributed to this edition.

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