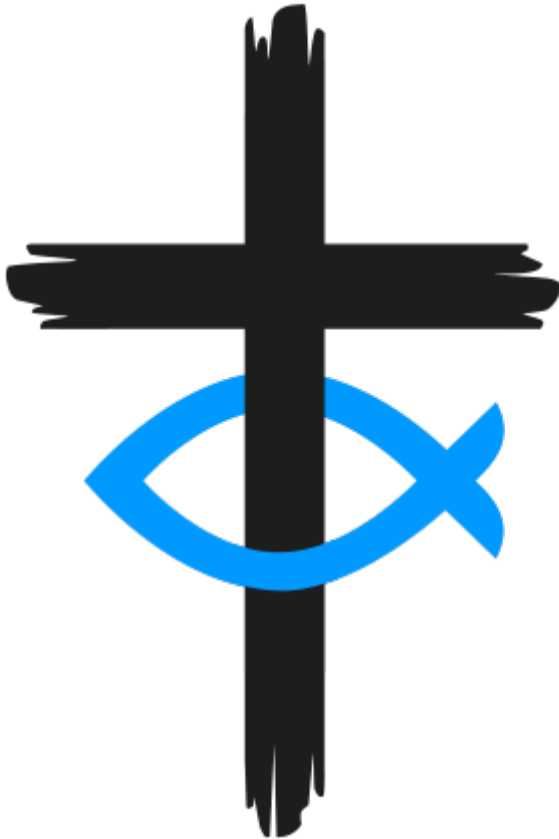


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The Recorder

September '24

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



Vestry Vibes by Dougie Burnett

Dear friends,

I very much hope that the summer was good to you, giving you some respite and time for recreation. From the summer being very much about recreation, we move into the autumn as being time when we reflect on creation. It is Harvest time. In more recent years within the church it has also become known as Creation time. I find it helpful to be reminded that Harvest does have that wider context. This time of year comes with the notion of thankfulness and celebration, but also with investing for the future. All of this is, of course, something that has been done for many centuries and within many cultures. It is quite fundamentally a human thing to do. The thing is that as people of faith we take it all just a little bit deeper. We root the whole thing in God. If you look at Psalm 104, that is the most remarkable celebration of God's creation in song. This is a song that they would have been singing some 3000 years ago in Jerusalem. Wow!!:



¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, ¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. ¹² By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

¹³ From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, ¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. ¹⁶ The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

For our celebration of Harvest year, there will be various things. First of all don't forget to have a go at the **carbon calculator** which has been previously printed in the pages of The Recorder. That can be very helpful and revealing for all of us.

We hope to be running a kimchi making workshop with our friends from the BKC. Kimchi is the "in" food at the moment and great for your gut

health. We have also got plans for a bread making workshop. The Harvest Service will be at the end of September (the 28th). For this it will be joint with the Bristol Korean Church and also our friends from the Zimbabwean Reformed Church group. Further details will be forthcoming but be sure to have your diaries ready. The other thing is, don't just come yourself. What about bringing someone with you? Celebrate God's generosity, celebrate that generosity with others, and see all of this as within God's creation which we have been called to care for.

Dougie

Pause for thought

As I type this (20th August) the death toll in Gaza from Israeli strikes since 7th October is 40 099 which is just over 1.9 % of the population. This includes an estimated more than 16 500 children.

The equivalent percentage, if this had happened in the UK, is a death toll of almost **1.30 million** including 534 000 children. What would we do if something caused this loss of life in the UK?

Prayer of the Peacemaker

from Commitment for Life

God of Justice and Peace, make us peacemakers.

Give us courage to bear witness to uncomfortable truths, help us when our eyes want to look away from destruction and death.

Give us courage to speak where there is silence, to name complicity, injustice, and poverty. Keep us curious to listen and understand.

Make us dissatisfied by shrugging off the 'complicated'.

Help us hold together Palestinians and Israelis, as we stand in solidarity against oppression.

Plant in us persistence in seeking a just peace, let us not grow weary in our petition and our prayer.

Give strength and wisdom to all who strive for peace, on both sides of checkpoints and blockade.

God of Justice and Peace, make us peacemakers. Amen.

Worship details

... at Redland Park

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

September 1st Rev Dougie Burnett, including communion

8th Rev Dougie Burnett

15th Rev Dougie Burnett

22nd Rev Sam Hackett, University Chaplain

29th Harvest - Rev Dougie Burnett

Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

Sunday evening worship at 7 p.m. via Zoom

We're using a Bible Society study entitled

"Calling people of goodwill - the Bible and the Common Good".

September 8th You are God's people

22nd An eternal gospel

Zoom log in: 815 4053 7777 passcode 087103

Cell groups – both via Zoom

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

For both, the Zoom log in is: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

... and at New Brunswick

September 1st Sue Thorne

8th Brenda Drake

15th Les Fry and Jooin, including communion

22nd Harvest Thanksgiving, led by Rev Dougie Burnett

29th Rev Stephen Newell

Other dates...

... at New Brunswick

September	Tue	3 rd	Joint churches' prayer time, hosted by New Brunswick, 7.30 p.m.
	Thu	3 rd	Church meeting at 7.30 p.m.
	Fri	20 th	First Southmead Quiz of the new season, 7 p.m.
	Sat	28 th	Preloved Fair at the Greenway Centre, 12 - 3 p.m.
	Mon	30 th	Praise, Prayer and Bible Study at 7.30 p.m. More about Ephesians, 4:1-16, plus tea and cake.

Advance notice:

October Sat 5th Cream tea, 3 - 6 p.m.

... at Redland Park

September	Wed	4 th	Organ group meeting, 10 a.m.
	Wed	4 th	Elders' meeting, 7.30 p.m.
	Sun	8 th	Church meeting, 12 p.m.
	Tue	10 th	Finance & property meeting, 4.30 p.m.
	Wed	11 th	Junior church meeting, 8 p.m.

People news

from New Brunswick...

from Brenda Drake

Jen S is still in BRI. Since the last news Jen has undergone another major operation firstly to have her gallbladder removed and a previous operation reversed to enable her to lead a more normal life. Jen still enjoys visits from the hospital chaplain with whom she appreciates sharing communion. Jen wishes to be remembered to everyone and thanks us all for our prayers.

We have not seen Angie sharing with us in the last few weeks. At the moment her hearing is giving her problems and is awaiting an appointment. She would value our continued prayers.

Lou H (Carol's daughter-in-law) has had a spell in Southmead which gave cause for concern and although now back home there is still much need for prayer.

Carol has really had a time of worry, You may have heard about a police woman being injured in an incident at a factory in Filton. The police officer

was attacked with a sledge hammer. Of course she was hospitalised because of her injuries. Although she is back at home, mobility is difficult and there could be more internal injuries than first diagnosed. This Police Officer was a member of Carol's extended family. So again prayers would be appreciated for this whole situation. For Carol and Dave, too, who are supporting both of these situations.

Despite us still being in the Summer Season several of our folk have not been as well as they would like. We think of those who have had a second or third attack of Covid over the last weeks - **Becky** and **Brenda** to name but two. **Liz** would appreciate prayer as she has felt 'out of sorts' for several weeks. **Elaine** has had some difficult weeks for one reason or another. For these and others we pray to our God asking Him to minister to each as they have need. Their wants are known to Him.

CELEBRATIONS!

There are those who will be celebrating special dates during September.

20th **Carol and David** will celebrate their wedding anniversary.

27th **Angie** will celebrate her birthday.

from Redland Park...

from Carol Fry

Well done to **Emily Hirsch** who spent two weeks of July in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland in Southern Africa) with her friend Mimi and a large group, helping to build a school. See p12-13 for Emily's report.

Please remember **Peter** and **Anna Ambrose** in your prayers; Anna has spent some time in hospital recently needing blood transfusions, and Peter has been suffering with bronchitis and back pain. Their family are supporting them and we send them our love and best wishes.

We think of members of our church family who are unable to get to church at present; **Audrey Bryant** in Westbury Gardens who has not been well for some time but seems to have improved lately so we send her our best wishes. **Sheila Smart** is in Avenue House in Cotham and always wishes to be remembered to everyone to knows her; **Terry King** is at home in Westbury on Trym and we send him our best wishes.

Margaret Prigg has reached the grand old age of 100, on 13th August, and several of you signed a card for her which was delivered to her in Avenue House. Please remember all these friends in your prayers.

Congratulations to our friend, **Ali Talebi**, who is now buying his own home in St Anne's, needing quite a bit of work on house and garden, but he has set to with a will. Best wishes to him.

Congratulations to **Myra and Derek Jones** who are about to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. [*Ed: 50 years and ne'er a cross word.*]

We send best wishes in their new home to **Wendy and Roger James**, moving shortly, and we hope they will be very happy once they settle in!

We remember **Pep Sessions** – the Rev Patrice Sessions – who died on 7th June. She was a member of Redland Park along with her family, before training for the ministry and serving at Clevedon & Nailsea 1986-93, and Shelley Road, Worthing 1993-95. We understand a memorial service is planned for next year – details will be circulated when they are known. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Summer (when was that?) is the time when people often go on holiday, so we hope that everyone returns refreshed and ready for a new school year, or work, or retirement, volunteering and hobbies.

DOES THE SUN SHINE ON THE RIGHTEOUS?

The Church in Society Group organised a garden party to raise funds for church charities in July, in the beautiful garden of Jane and Richard Pedlar. Thanks to them for hosting and to all in the group for providing a wonderful array of food and drink. It was a great occasion to have a leisurely lunch in lovely surroundings with time to chat and relax. £210 was raised for church charities, so thank you to everyone.

REDLAND PARK CHURCH CHARITIES

The two church charities that we currently support (North Bristol and South Gloucester Food Bank and The Vine Trust) will be coming to their two year conclusion and we will be asking for nominations for the next two years fund-raising soon.

CHRISTIAN AID FINAL FUNDS RAISED:

Thanks to the efforts of everyone in Redland Park we have sent a total of £580.52 to Christian Aid in June. This is made up of £41 from Big Brekkie, £121 from envelopes and £418.52 from the Christian Aid Fair and some left in the church bank account from last year.

Tony Coates

We were saddened to hear of the death on July 12th of Rev Tony Coates who was our minister at Redland Park from 1985-89. Many people have memories of Tony stretching over several decades. Here are a few.

from Jane Beazer:

In May 1965 I started my nurse training in London. Having attended a Congregational Church in Oxford for many years it was suggested I would like the fellowship at the City Temple Church. The Minister at City Temple was Rev. Leonard Griffiths and the assistant Minister was the Rev. Tony Coates.

My memory of Tony at that time were of a slight, quiet, very kind man. A man of God. After the evening service we had YPU, 'Young People Unlimited'. Tony was quite involved in this and Rev Leslie Weatherhead always seemed to enjoy joining in when he was preaching. Tony was very involved with young people but was also well liked by all ages. I always felt he was quite an academic with great knowledge, but he was very approachable. What an amazing church to start your career in.



from Richard Pedlar:

I first encountered Tony Coates at City Temple when I attended as a student in 1966.

Tony became our minister at Redland Park in 1985. He was an outstanding minister sitting firmly within the nonconformist/congregational tradition. His intellect and brilliant mind gave him a profound and deep understanding of Christian theology which he was able to pass on to us in his wonderfully crafted and accessible sermons.

Our moderator, Michael Hubbard, proposed Tony as a possible minister for Redland Park as his contract with the World Council of Churches as a translator was coming to an end, and his return to the UK was anticipated.

Redland Park was excited by the prospect of his ministry and welcomed Tony and his wife Anthea with open arms. With his background and global perspective from the World Council of Churches, we were privileged indeed to have him as our minister at Redland Park, but the congregation was shocked when Tony announced that he has accepted a

post as Secretary for World Church and Mission in the URC based in Tavistock Place, London just a few years later.

Tony's pastoral care for my family was memorable. At the end of her life Jane's mother enjoyed his visits and he later conducted her funeral with great sensitivity. Having renewed our contact with Tony and Anthea we made several visits with my father to their lovely home in Westward Ho! with dramatic views of the rocks and the Atlantic surf. Tony kindly conducted by father's funeral and thanksgiving service in Ilfracombe with his typical care and attention to detail.

I was delighted when he accepted an invitation to join the South West Regional URC Listed Buildings Advisory Committee. As always his preparation, his insights and his interest in both the liturgical layouts and the architecture were highly valued and appreciated. During the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Summer conference in Exeter in 2012, I invited Tony to preach at our Sunday worship at Southernhay URC. This was a memorable occasion, and his sermon was subsequently published in full in our EASA journal.

We are extremely grateful for Tony's friendship and generosity in the various encounters during his long ministry and we shall all miss him.

from Suzy Sims:

I found a letter Andrew (Church Secretary at the time) had written to him expressing Redland Park's pleasure that he had accepted the call to come and be our new Minister. He was glad we had managed to get him before the ski season, knowing his enthusiasm for that sport! He'd heard how in a bad snowy winter a skier had been known to ski from Whiteladies Road, down Park Street, and all the way to the Centre, so there was scope here for his preferred activity!!

He an inspirational speaker and Anthea a wonderful asset to the young people made them a memorable couple to all my family.

from Angus Gregson:

I first met Tony & Anthea in the 70s at the Council for World Mission (CWM) conferences, held for a week each summer at Swanwick. In discussions, in preaching, Tony's wisdom shone through, always put over so gently and clearly, and he was always willing to listen patiently and to encourage (even, on reflection now, when he was hearing what must have seemed to him like drivel). A real Barnabus (Acts 1:22-24)



from Paula, who was a student here in the 70s:

When we moved to Barnstaple, we transferred our URC membership to Christ Church (URC-Methodist) in 2019 and that's how we got to know Tony and Anthea. Disgruntled by an extremely lacklustre service led by a lay preacher, I commented that I thought I could do better but, without accreditation, I did not fit the Methodist requirements, so it was clear that my offer would not be picked up. However Tony overheard me and took me to one side; he suggested that I should attend Muddiford and Lavington URCs with him and lead the prayers of intercession. If the churches liked the look of me they could then invite me to preach. That was, for me, the start of a really happy journey into lay preaching in North Devon. Tony encouraged me and always gave a friendly word of advice but only if I asked for it. His quiet support and guidance literally changed my life and I owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. Thank you Tony.

from Don, Tony & Anthea's minister in Barnstaple until recently:

I had the pleasure of getting to know Tony best in his retirement to North Devon when he was a much loved and respected member of Christ Church (Methodist/URC) in Barnstaple. With a loving and gracious heart and passionate commitment to ecumenism Tony preached regularly not only at Christ Church but throughout the local Methodist Circuit. With the arrival of lockdown Tony offered to become one of a trinity of us producing recorded worship - "Worship at home" - sent out to around two hundred people each week. I am personally hugely grateful to Tony for his support of my ministry at Christ Church as well as his pastoral care of others, and his friendship and conversations enjoyed on every subject under the sun. Lastly, it is impossible to write of Tony without remembering and giving thanks for the shared ministry so generously lived out by Tony and dear Anthea, together.

Obviously this has been about Tony, but Anthea was a vital part of who Tony was. She has given him such supportive care, especially latterly. We pray that she will feel the power of God's comfort and love.

What's been happening?

"Organ Treats" at Redland Park URC

from John Turner

Organ Treats was a new initiative for Redland Park in 2024. We hoped to provide good, enjoyable music played by talented soloists using the resources of the Redland Park Organ. Cakes with tea or coffee before the concert were important and provided by RP members.

January	20 th	Richard Johnson
February	17 th	John Davenport
March	23 rd	Ashley Marshfield
April	13 th	Eric Tyson
June	22 nd	Claire Hobbs

We have been very fortunate with our first five soloists and thank them wholeheartedly for their willingness to take part in this project. All used the organ well and in their own distinct way, demonstrating its versatility.

The church was comfortably full for these first five concerts, with 70 – 90 in the audience. An important part of their success has been the cakes and tea or coffee, provided by Redland Park members. It was good to see the audience members before the concerts chatting to each other and enjoying their refreshments. Our thanks go to the RP members who made the cakes and then served the tea and coffee at the concerts.

The idea for a project featuring the Redland Park organ came from Richard Pedlar. The group he put together includes Les Fry, Sally King, Peter Lunt, Jane Pedlar, Martyn Steele, and Joan and John Turner.

Now for the future:

"Organ Treats" start again in the autumn on the following dates:

September	21 st	Alison Howell
October	19 th	Andrew Kirk, Alison Howell (Organ Duets) and the Henbury Singers
November	23 rd	Trevor Fowler
December	14 th	Andrew Kirk

We have some exciting music arranged for the Autumn. Please make a note of these dates and give the project your support. As before, Tea Coffee and cakes will be available from 10.30 a.m. The music starts at 11 a.m. for about 45 minutes.

Emily Warne

from Hannah Hirsch

Emily was so impressive in her school's end of year commemoration service. She was chosen as one of only a few pupils to take part in lighting a candle and saying a line of the prayers.

Emily was one of the youngest taking part and the only one to memorise her lines, and she read with such clarity and sensitivity. She was amazing.



Eswatini - thank you

from Emily Hirsch



I went to Eswatini for 15 days in July this year and I had the most amazing time.

For the first part of the trip we worked in an orphanage with children aged 2 - 12 years old. These children were all affected by the HIV Aids Crisis in Eswatini, and many had no parents at all, or were part of a family who had taken in other orphans, which in turn made the families vulnerable themselves (with still more mouths to feed on an already stretched resource).

We stayed in tents on the Orphanage's site. We cooked our own food on open fires. Every morning we made porridge with water - not the most delicious breakfast but most definitely



adequate and welcome. One day we had some left over which we offered to some of the children. They devoured it in seconds and it was eye opening to see how grateful they were for our very basic food.

Whilst there we worked on maintenance jobs on the buildings and classrooms. We filled in cracks in the walls, and then painted them. In between this maintenance work we played with the children, and we learned lots of their games!



The children seemed to be grateful for any attention we were able to give them, and it was fun to be able to play with them in between our work on their buildings.

The facilities were very basic, but everyone was so welcoming, and helped us in any way they could. This meant that this was my favourite part of the trip.



The strength of their Christian faith was amazing to experience, given how little they had in so many ways.

I felt an instant connection with them through our shared Christian belief.

I would love to return one day and see how the children I met this Summer have grown and developed. I hope to be able to help them in whatever way they need if I am fortunate enough to visit them again. I will never forget them.

Thank you to my Redland Park family for all your support in enabling me to go. Your support for my fundraisers, your interest in the trip and your kind well-wishing cards were all so appreciated.

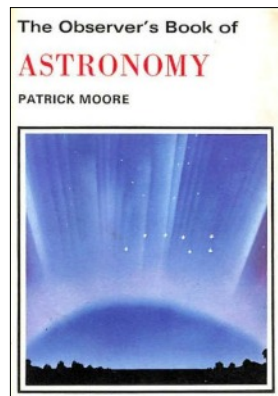
I feel lucky to have experienced such a special community in Eswatini.

The Spacious Firmament on High...

from Martyn Steele

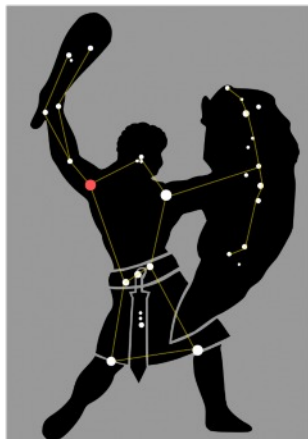
Do you remember the Observer's Guide Books? I'm sure many of us of a certain age will be quite familiar with them! They were small books intended generally for outdoor use and very informative. There was an extensive series; Birds, Butterflies, Paintings, Planes, Dogs, Plants etc. You name it and there was/is probably an Observer's book to guide you. To my knowledge, they are no longer produced but abound profusely in second hand bookshops, and available online at Amazon and ebay.

Well, I owned two. I still have the Geology and Astronomy books. The first was a recommendation by a teacher after I signed up for his 'O' level Geology course, aged fifteen. The second was a prize. It was to be the only prize that came my way during my years at school! It was the Music award given in 1969. When asked what book I would like with the allotted financial amount; instead of something music related (expected), I chose the *Observer's Book of Astronomy*.



As a child, I lived fairly out-of-town and would often go into the garden on a starry evening with my Observer's book in hand, hunting out the constellations. Under the magical star-lit canopy (usually freezing cold evenings) fabulous Greek mythological stories were brought to life. Literally, a wonderful, natural teaching aid! This little volume had kindled a fascinating interest which ever remains. Having been a city dweller all my adult life, those childhood opportunities have been lessened due to the intense light pollution encountered in our built-up areas.

Recently, I went out into the countryside for a family meal. On leaving the restaurant, I was struck by a night sky I hadn't seen in ages. It was a black canvas covered in bright pin pricks of light. Gazing into the starry firmament there was a sense of awe and wonder which never tires. And there, in the centre of this canvas was a good friend, someone I first met as a child, Orion, the mighty hunter. His story can be found on Wikipedia. The stars in this constellation are so bright that I can usually nod a hello to him every year when he comes to visit from October till May. On that night he was a particularly bold, spectacular sight.



He's quite an easy one to spot with his three-star belt. Below that there is a fuzzy, cloudy bit. With binoculars or even a small telescope you can see a nebula; the residue of a star which remains static due to there being no wind in space. With a good telescope the nebula takes the form of a horse's head and so naturally called the 'horse head nebula'.

Among the stars that make up the constellation is a red supergiant named Betelgeuse. It's red because its end is nigh. Well, nigh in astronomical

terms. It is reckoned to have just 100,000 years left before there is a supernova explosion which will apparently be highly visible from earth (sadly not to any of us). I read that Betelgeuse is 548 light years from earth. So, what does that mean? If you travelled at 186,000 miles per second (speed of light) non-stop for 548 years you could reach that star.

Isn't that a matter for sheer awe and wonderment? Star gazing is one of those times when we try feebly to put our lives into some kind of perspective – a grain of sand in the Sahara Desert comes into my mind. Christians think and turn to some of those Psalms and texts which exalt the wonder of God's creation. Times when we too, can feel and sense exactly what the Psalmist David experienced some 3,000 years ago. 'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.' Psalm 19 v1.

There are a host of references to the celestial creation throughout the bible. Even Orion gets a mention: 'He who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns midnight into dawn and darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land - the Lord is his name'. Amos 5 v8.

After all that about Orion, he's still only visible in the southern hemisphere at the moment but will be back any day now - just before dawn at first. Something to look forward to if you are interested.

As the hymnist, Joseph Addison wrote in the 18th century, 'The spacious firmament on high, the work of an almighty hand'. Surely, much to think about.

THE FRONT VESTIBULE

from Les Fry

*“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”*

Romans 10 v14

In concluding the July Church Meeting, I highlighted the scope that Redland Park is now offered through the re-modelling of the Front Vestibule. In particular, I promote the model of that space as a bridge between the secular Whiteladies Road and our spiritual sanctuary. I suggested five examples of my own about its use, and I am gratified by the extensions that members of our congregation have shared with me - the more suggestions, the greater participation and I believe the greater blessings from God.

1. Outreach into the University student footfall past our front door is the first one that we can explore. Freshers Week begins on **September 8th**, and I hope that we can offer refreshments in the Front Vestibule to students on one afternoon for each of the first three weeks - sharing our gifts and offering a welcome.

I would also like to offer a Freshers' Church Tea on **Sunday 15th** and hopefully a weekly evening Students Cell Group (in the front vestibule). Below I am attaching details of outreach that we can offer at BISC (Bristol International Students Centre).

2. Warmshare will begin by November with Derek Jones opening the front doors to encourage people who are struggling with heating or food bills to come inside and join with us. As a prelude to that, let's have a weekly coffee morning when we can share the same fellowship that is evident after each Sunday morning worship from 10.30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

3. Our young people are offered many exciting Sunday morning alternatives to "Junior Church". I have circulated a message to all of the families of the older group, inviting them to share a midweek early evening session together, probably working towards church membership.

Please forgive me if I have omitted your suggestion in this list, BUT please volunteer to support any of the above initiatives in any way that you feel able, and please pray for our outreach.

Let's reach out for Jesus from our sanctuary, through the Front Vestibule and into Whiteladies Road.

Thank you,
Les lesjfry@hotmail.com 07769 253279

Welcome Meal Volunteer Sign Up 2024

As part of our programme to welcome new international students to Bristol, we will be hosting a series of **welcome meals** at the BISC Centre (45 Woodland Road). They will be held on the following evenings in **September**:

Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th,
Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th, Friday 20th

Meals will be led by a kitchen-trained chef and we are seeking **volunteers** to support us with food preparation, leafleting, setting up and hosting meal times, as we welcome these new students each evening.

WHAT WILL VOLUNTEERS DO?

Baking team: We need a couple of volunteers each lunchtime to help us prepare desserts for the evening meals. 12.30 to 3 p.m.

Food prep and set up team: We need a small number of volunteers to help with food preparation, set up and some cleaning. (If you're willing, we may ask for help with leafleting at this time too) 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Hosting team: Hosting volunteers will be responsible for greeting guests, taking meal orders, serving, enjoying a meal with a table of students, clearing and washing up. *This is the ideal slot for small groups to join us as a ready-made team!* 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Let me (Les) know your availability and I'll sign us up!

Barton Camp

from Les Fry

The Archives of Bristol Children's Help Society have discovered Rev Urijah Thomas' schedule for an 1891 day at Barton camp.

The Reverend Eurijah Thomas, Founder of BCHS, would regularly assemble a group of needy Bristol children, fit them with a clean shirt, a pair of trousers and boots, and march them into Bristol Station. Special carriages would have already been attached to the 1.00 pm train on the Cheddar Valley line from Bristol to Winscombe. From there the children would walk the two miles, or so, to Barton. A detailed schedule from 1891 has miraculously survived as follows :-

- 6.00 am The Superintendent opens the window of the cubicle into the dormitory to ensure quietness and order is observed.
- 7.00 am Morning wash a dip of the head into a bucket of cold water !!
Drill, or play in the orchard.
Summons for prayers.
Grace is sung. Breakfast of porridge, and bread and butter with treacle or jam, tea or coffee.
Dress parade; Superintendent checks clothes to see if any need mending.
- 10.30 am Day, or morning excursion.
- 1.00 pm Lunch of bread and cheese. hard boiled eggs, and biscuits.
- 5.00 pm Children return to camp after their day excursion, singing "We are Militia Boys" very loudly, to announce their arrival back.
Evening meal of bacon. or corned beef. with vegetables and thick slices of currant pudding.
'Officers' take it in turns to eat their meal, have a 40 minute rest and supervise the children playing cricket, races, or tug of war.
- 8.30 pm Summons to evening prayers.
Supper for the children of biscuits, bread and cheese, or fruit.
Children are marshalled to bed by their Officer, and the same rules of silence come into force.

How times have changed!! We are hoping that Redland Park will again be able to enjoy a Barton Day in Spring 2025, although the routines will almost certainly be less rigorous!

Keeping up with the vicar, part 147

Here are the lectionary readings for September. After feeding on the bread in John, chapter 6, for the last 5 weeks, we're back to Mark again this month, the Lectionary's gospel of focus for this year.

I think Mark 8:29 is a sort of hinge verse. Up till then Jesus has called the twelve, taught and healed people, but often told them not to talk about it, leaving people to ask, "Who is this man?" Now Jesus puts Peter on the spot and Peter acknowledges Jesus is God's chosen one, the Messiah. From now on, although there will be more teaching and more healings, Jesus is heading towards Jerusalem for the last time, and trying to get the disciples to understand what messiahship really means.

And also in the New Testament, from the glory of the letter to the Ephesians we move on to James, one of the most practical letters. It's a shame the set readings miss the start of chapter 1, with James' encouragement to persevere with our faith, even when we're tested, to ask God for the wisdom we need and to ask in full confidence. Maybe you could read those 16 verses as homework. (Sorry - old habits die hard.)

James seems almost to assume your faith is secure - that's the crucial thing - but if that faith is real it's going to lead to action in our lives. "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" Paul writes (Phil 2:12); your salvation is assured but living out the consequences is of vital importance and should underpin everything else you do and say. That's what James' letter is all about.

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.

	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
Sep 1 st	Deut 4:1-2, 6-9	15	Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	James 1:17-27
8 th	Isaiah 35:4-7a	146	Mk 7: 24-37	James 2:1-10, 14-17
15 th	Isaiah 50:4-9a	116:1-9	Mk 8:27-38	James 3:1-12
22 nd	Jeremiah 11:18-20	54	Mk 9:30-37	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
29 th	Esther 7:1-6,9-1,9:20-22	124	Mk 9:38-50	James 5:13-20

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