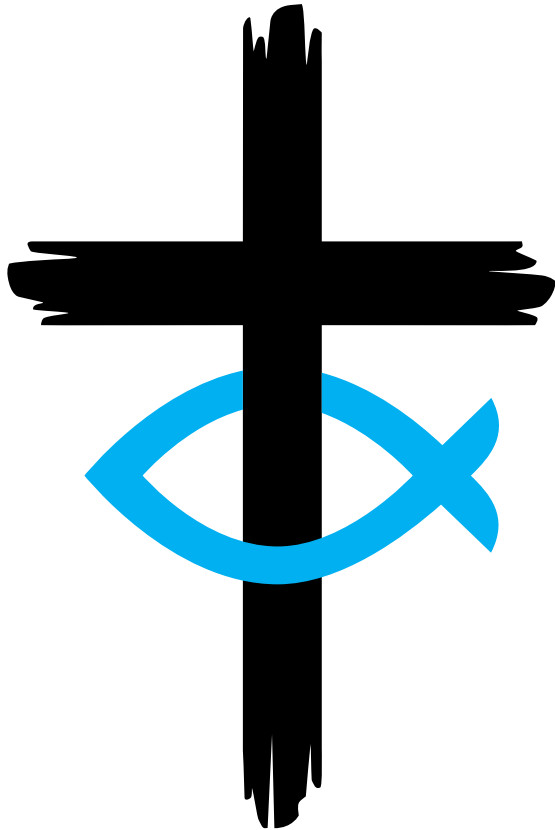


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# The Recorder

February '21

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



# New Brunswick Update

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As this is the first issue of the Recorder for 2021 I am going to start by sending you all every good wishes for the coming year. There seems to be light at the end of the tunnel! I am sure, by the time you read this, many of you will have received at least one vaccination and are feeling more positive about things.

At the time of writing this we are still in Lockdown and although we are allowed to open for worship the Elders took the decision to remain closed at this time. The situation will be reviewed at our next Church meeting.

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Over the Christmas period we heard from many of our friends who sent greetings via Christmas cards. These included Tina, **Phil and Luke, Rev Pat, Paul and Pamela and Ian and Irene.**

During the Christmas period we received some very kind donations for the work of the church and we thank those folk for their kindness.

We have had New Year greetings from Trevor who thanks us for our continued support of the work he does with the 'Synergy Trust'.

News of **Ivy** has been received in the last few weeks. She has now moved into a nursing home in Stoke Bishop. We hope she will soon settle. She has been assured that when we are allowed to visit we will be going to see her! We uphold Ivy in our prayers that she will soon feel 'at home' in her new address.

Following tests in November, **John** is now receiving treatment for Cancer. May he be assured of our prayers at this difficult time. We also include the family in our prayers as they all come to terms with this news.

**Carol** would appreciate our prayers at this time as she too is receiving treatment for Cancer. Again we also include **David** and the family in our prayers as they support Carol during the coming months of treatment.

We also uphold **Dave F** in prayer as he has found the last few months a bit of a trial. He has not enjoyed very good health but hopefully has now turned the corner. He sends thanks for the Christmas Gift he received from us all.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Because of the current situation with Covid there are very few dates booked. But here are just a couple

Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30pm on Zoom is our monthly Southmead Joint Churches Prayer meeting. If you would like to join us please contact Brenda for further details.

Friday 19th February at 2.30pm on Zoom will be our next Church meeting.

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During February some of our folk will be celebrating a Birthday. So we send Birthday greetings to **Lisa, Jo and Becky.** Becky will be celebrating a 'special '0' birthday'!! We hope all these folk will enjoy their special day. Praying that God will bless them in the coming year.

# Vestry Vibes

by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

So, how is it going for you? I am so aware that almost for the past 12 months we have been in much the same place. Lockdown. It does seem a bit like Groundhog Day, doesn't it? I am aware that I find myself drawn back to the issue on the pandemic time and time again. The point would be that we are all trying to make sense of it all. It will be an issue for many a school syllabus in the years to come. But in the meantime we try to make sense of it all while we are still living through it. That is where hope comes in. But, for the time being, we are waiting.

An American writer and minister that I know of expresses the idea of waiting in this way:

*"A lot of life that is about waiting. Waiting until you're old enough to drive, or go off to college, or marry the love of your life, or.... You get the picture. The life of faith is something like that, too. Theologians are fond of saying we live in the "in-between" time of Christ's first coming and Christ's return. Much, we pray, will be made right when Christ comes again. But that doesn't mean we don't have anything to do "in the meantime." Whatever end awaits us, in the meantime we can care for those around us, have courage, share hope, love those around us, strive for what is best, and a whole host of other things.*

*But that can be hard. As W.H. Auden once wrote, the time being can be "the hardest time of all."*

That reminds me of one of the great Christian books that revolves around this theme. It is "The Stature of Waiting" by W.H. Vanstone. Published in 1982 it explored the way in which we set great store by activity and busy-ness. We want to be 'in control'. We value what we 'do' more than who we are. So, when we become ill, or

retire from work, or suffer an enforced period of inactivity, our self-esteem is threatened. We evade, repudiate, or resent experiences of passivity, of waiting. This classic of spiritual writing transforms our understanding of the experiences of illness, or of being out of work, or feeling inactive and powerless. W. H. Vanstone shows us the unquestioned and impressive majesty of Jesus as he 'waits' before those who accuse him, waits before those who taunt him and, finally, waits before even those who crucify him. It is in his passivity and 'passion', when we have things done to us instead of doing things, the times when we simply wait, are as important as the times of action and taking charge.

It struck me that maybe this aspect of our faith is something to reflect on at this time, as we all wait for the vaccine to be rolled out, and for ourselves to be "let" out of our homes and immediate localities. What is it that truly gives us value? There are some truly profound questions arising out of the experience of the past few years. Our faith tradition can help answer those questions.

By the way, it is now Lent. Lent is all about journeying in the wilderness and dealing with profound questions. The Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland Lent Conversations will deal with some of those. They will all be on-line this year. Be sure to join us!

Yours,

*Dougie*



We send congratulations to **Beth and Rob Penrose (Jane and David's daughter)** who have just had a baby boy named Malachi Melaleuca Penrose. (Melaleuca is a Tasmanian tree and place name) Beth and Rob were married in Redland Park in December 2016 before taking up posts at Hobart University in Tasmania. God's blessing to them all and we hope it's not long before they can all meet!

We pray for the continued recovery of **Malcolm Johnson** and **Lewis Manyika**, for **Brian and Wendy Day's daughter Alison**, and all those known to us in poor health or recovering from treatment and surgery. We also pray for **Truida Mutari's niece, Millicent**, after a recent experience in Zimbabwe.

We also pray for **Jane Beazer's daughter Suzi** with recent health issues, and grandson **Flyn** after an eye operation; we pray for healing and recovery.

We pray for the **Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter** which is housing several homeless people in a Bed and Breakfast Hotel in Bedminster for three months. They are very grateful for a room with bathroom, and three meals per day, as well as support and companionship if wanted. Four

guests have already been found more permanent accommodation for which we are all grateful. Many members of Redland Park have been very generous with cakes, biscuits, warm clothes, etc, for which we are very grateful.

We continue to pray for **Debbie** in intensive care, **Eleanor** after her operation, for the family of **Barbara** who has died after several years suffering from cancer, and for **Harriet** who has received a terminal diagnosis. We pray for them all and their families for healing in these difficult time.

We pray for everyone to become good stewards of the earth and help to avoid disastrous climate change. This affects the developing world more, despite the Western world causing more of the problems.

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, especially in Eritrea, Hong Kong, Cameroon

Please pray for all our of members and friends, and those known to us, who need our prayers at this time, whether through mental or physical health issues, financial problems, conflict, or family matters.

## Prayer page:

### Epiphany of the Lord.

Lord Jesus, you are the bright morning star. You offer the promise of a new day.

Into the perplexity of the nations seeking peace and finding war, You come as the Prince of Peace.

Into the everyday working lives of us all, Your guiding light shines.

In your sign, entering the world in a mother's arms, wrapped in vulnerability,

we sense the dawn of a new day.

You make our hearts glad and our faces shine, because you are our treasure,

Our hope,

Our life,

In this new day.

Amen.



### Please pray for:

- Beth and Rob as they welcome their new baby boy, Malachi
- Eleanor, recovering from surgery
- Marnie facing major surgery at a young age
- Suzy and her family.
- Josh, Ellie and Simon, after Barbara's death
- Glyn and Margaret
- All health care workers, exhausted by the relentless pressures of Covid
- All who are scared to leave their homes
- Those suffering from physical and mental health problems.
- The work of St. Mungo's and all agencies helping the homeless.
- People who cannot get home because of travel restrictions.
- Teachers pupils and parents trying to maintain learning in difficult circumstances
- President Joe Biden as he begins his term in office
- Our prime minister, cabinet and M.Ps

Loving God, your people are suffering. Hold them close in your everlasting arms.

Amen

# Toilet Twinning - Our overseas charity

Thank you to Redland Park Church for your donation of £611.97p. Your donation will enable families to continue building toilets where restrictions allow, and continue to provide vital hygiene education as part of those toilet programmes, so please display your certificate with pride, knowing that your donation is making a difference in some of the most vulnerable communities on the planet.

Your delivery details are below and your certificate should be with you soon. Please do stay in touch on social media - and it'd be great if you could share a photo of you with your Toilet Twinning certificate to help encourage others to make a donation.

Thank you again.

Lorraine Kingsley

Toilet Twinning CEO

## About the charity - why toilets matter

- 2 billion people don't have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet. (WHO/Unicef)
- The lack of a loo makes women and girls a target for sexual attack going to the toilet in the open, late at night.
- Almost 1,000 children die every day from preventable diseases linked to dirty water and unsafe toilets. (UN)
- 663 million people live without safe water. (Unicef)
- Children worldwide miss 443 million school days each year because of dirty water and poor sanitation. (UN)
- Every year, women and girls spend 97 billion hours finding a place to go. (World Bank)
- Nine hundred children die every day from disease linked to dirty washing and poor sanitation.
- In 47 countries less than half the population have a proper toilet.

**We all know how important it is to have proper toilets and clean water but here are some reasons you may not have thought about:**

- People are likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases. Illness means they cannot work or farm their land, so they earn less or grow less food
- Girls often drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms
- Parents have to pay for medicines or food, so they may fall into debt
- Women and girls risk being attacked or bitten by snakes as they go to the toilet in the open, especially if the culture dictates that they have to go out at night

Dignity is restored when the whole family can use a private, hygienic toilet at their home and no longer have to squat in the bush.

The Charity works with local communities showing them the need for improved sanitation and help them make that change themselves. Water and sanitation projects enable families to build a toilet, have access to clean water, and to learn about hand washing and other hygiene principles.

They bring villagers together in workshops and encourage them to join action groups focused on issues that concern the community, such as farming. Slowly, sensitively, the partners encourage men to allow women to have a say in household decisions, often for the first time. Women carry the heavier burden in terms of collecting water and caring for the family, yet often have no voice.

Local people are involved in deciding on the design and materials to be used in latrine building. This means latrines are both appropriate and affordable.

People generally build their own latrine, and this means they are much more likely to continue to use it, and maintain it – ensuring the project is sustainable. It also encourages dignity and self-respect.

Overall, the average cost per household for a water and sanitation programme is about **£60**. Toilet Twinning funds the work of Tearfund who work with these communities.

When our Church decided to fundraise for this charity it was hoped we would raise enough to twin with each toilet on our premises, of which there were 8[?]. Mathematicians amongst you will have calculated that that comes to **£480**.

We have, in fact, so far raised **£611.97**. So well done all. The fundraising will go on, so please support any quizzes or other activities we may be able to do in the coming months.

-Myra Jones

**Reform**  
NEWS COMMENT INSPIRATION DEBATE the national URC church magazine

Several of our members take Reform each month and there are many interesting articles in side, from 'One Question, Four Answers' to items by Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Mukwashi and Milton Jones, comedian and Christian.

For some time, Truida Mutare has taken responsibility for distributing the magazines and passing on our subscriptions each year. Distribution has proved difficult when the church is not meeting and she has not always been able to drive. It is being recommended that we all take responsibility for our own magazine subscription and, from February 2021, you can renew yours for £29.50 pa at:

<https://urcshop.co.uk/reform-magazine?search=Reform>

or telephone **01371 851886** to request a subscription,  
or subscribe to a digital magazine on the same website @ £18.00 pa.

# Redland Park Church Calendar

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## Dates for February 2021

Sun 14th	10.40am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 21st	10.40am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30am	Korean Worship
Sun 28th	10.40am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

## March 2021

Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 7th	10.40am	Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30pm	Korean Worship

# Junior church Nativity

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The Christmas play on Zoom Was outstanding. As it was partly set in modern times, everything seemed so real and really made us think of Christ's birth in a new way.

The children performed each tableau so well. (I loved Angel Gabriel knocking on Mary's front door to tell her the good news.) The variety of musical instruments played to such a high standard, by all the children showed the commitment, of the children and their tireless teachers.

I have seen many Christmas plays, but this was a very special experience I shall never forget.

-Carole Atter

# Thank you!

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Thank you to everyone who has been very generous over this past year and especially at Christmas. £917 was raised over the Christmas period and this had been allocated to Caring at Christmas and the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter.

Our two church charities are Caring in Bristol and Toilet Twinning, and despite not being able to get together for the last year, we have raised £580 for Caring in Bristol. £612 has been raised and sent to Toilet Twinning, which will cover the cost of at least ten toilets in the developing world. This exceeds our target, which was to provide for as many toilet as we have at Redland Park Church!

Thank you to everyone.

-Carol Fry

Here are the Lectionary readings for February and the first Sunday in March. I don't know – barely out of Christmas and we're into Lent. But, as I type, sunset is over half an hour later than its earliest, and by the time you read this it'll be even later. The days are certainly LENgThening.

I went back to the bit I wrote 3 years ago to save having to type out all the readings again - the Lectionary readings follow a three year cycle. And I noticed that back in 2018 I offered a challenge with a prize if anyone could spot the one verb that features significantly in all three readings from Corinthians and in Peter's letter that are listed below.

Three years on I haven't had a single entry. Was it too hard a challenge? Or could no-one be fuffed to do it? Is anyone still reading by this point? I couldn't remember the answer myself so I've just looked at the readings again. Actually the answer is pretty obvious. Redland Park's church meeting was (again, as I type) an hour ago, and this key verb speaks powerfully to an issue Dougie raised there. What is it? More importantly, each of us needs to think "What am I doing about that?" What are we, what is our church doing about it? Lent is, after all, a time of preparation.

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.

Feb	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
7th	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-11, 20	Mark 1:29-39	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
14th	2 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	Mark 9:2-9	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
21st Lent 1	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-10	Mark 1:9-15	1 Peter 3:18-22
28th Lent 2	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	22:23-31	Mark 8:31-38	Romans 4:13-25
<b>March</b>				
7th Lent 3	Exodus 20:1-17	19	John 2:13-22	1 Corinthians 1:18-25

## On-Line Events for 2021

### Lent Conversations 22 February to 19 March

Date	Speaker	Theme
22 Feb 7.30-8.30pm	<b>Professor Gavin G D'Costa</b> Professor in Catholic Theology, Department of Religion and Theology Centre for Christianity and Culture, University of Bristol	Theology as Poetry
4 March 7.30-8.30pm	<b>The Right Reverend Doctor Alastair Redfern</b> Chair of the Clewer Initiative and former Bishop of Derby	Modern Slavery
10 March 7.30-8.30pm	<b>Mrs Josephine Carlsson</b> Church Ethics Lead, CCLA	Ethical Investment, a Christian perspective
19 March 7.30-8.30pm	<b>Reverend Professor Steve Sprinkle</b> Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry and Professor of Practical Theology, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Texas	Whatever Next? The Way Forward With The Grace of God

### Donations for Lent Conversations

Attendance at all these events is free of charge in 2021, but we would welcome donations directly to:

#### North Bristol Foodbank

<https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

### World Day of Prayer

5 March 2021 10.30 to 11.30

On-Line only. Separate pre-registration required for World Day of Prayer.  
Please e mail [wddp2020@gmail.com](mailto:wddp2020@gmail.com) for registration information

Hosted by The Reverend Simon Rotheram, of Alma Church, the theme this year been written by the women of Vanuatu

#### Donations

The World Day of Prayer relies on donations from these events to support their work.

Please donate directly to  
World Day of Prayer, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland  
<https://www.wddp.org.uk/>

**Deadline for contributions for the  
March Recorder is 26th February.**

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

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**or by post to The Recorder at the Church  
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