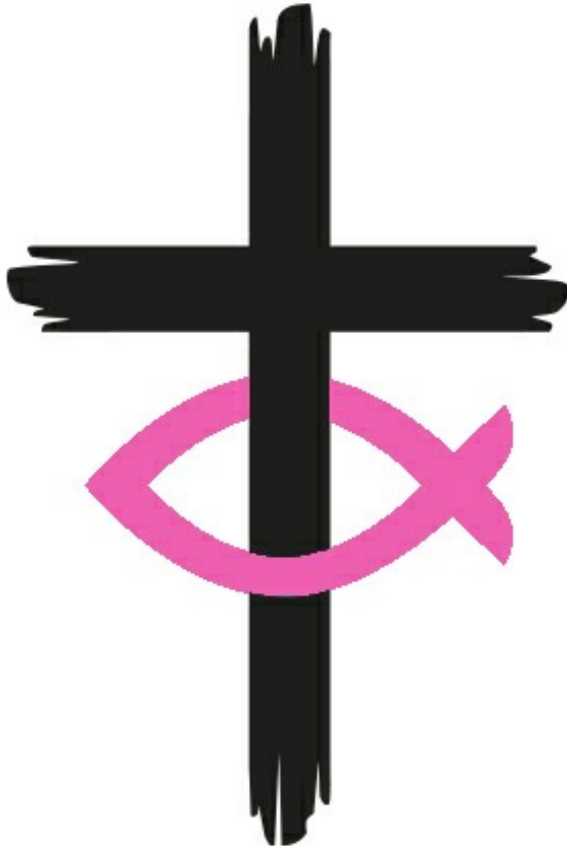


ESTD 1901

The Recorder

March '24

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



Vestry Vibes by Dougie Burnett

Dear friends,

And it is Lent!!

How did that happen already?

Out of all the seasons of the Christian year Lent is perhaps the season that would attract the least votes if there were a popularity contest. Even so it still looms large in the awareness of the population in general. It runs over a six week's period and at the very least people do know that they should give something up for Lent. I sometimes wonder if some see it as a slightly religious version of Weight Watchers, but even in a very secular society.



I think that we might take that as a result. It is very much a God-centred time of the year. All the seasons of the Christian year are obviously that. But maybe Lent has an emphasis on our humanity in a way that those other seasons do not. Lent always starts with Ash Wednesday. We don't make a big thing of Ash Wednesday services in our non-conformist tradition, but for Anglicans and Catholics it is much more obviously a feature. There is always the application of ash to the foreheads of those who attend those services in the shape of the cross. With that there are always the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Hardly joyful words, eh? But then again those words are real. It is a reminder of our humanity, but it is a humanity set within the context of God. That is what makes all the difference in the world. Lent takes us all the way to Easter. It is all very transformative.

Just in case you would like to make your Lent even more Lenty, don't forget:

- The World Day of Prayer at Victoria Methodist Church, on Friday March 1st 10.30 a.m.
- The Gethsemane Garments reflection at Redland Park on Sunday March 3rd, 3 p.m. An amazing set of actual garments created by an artist and theologian for Holy Week. Helena will lead this. Tea and cake afterwards.
- The Lent Conversations. Publicity for this has already been sent out. This year it is all on an eco theme.

Finally I leave you this image which the Archbishop of Canterbury posted for this Ash Wednesday. It is an Ash background, but a golden cross (in the shape of an ash cross).



What does that say to you?

Dougie

Worship details

... at Redland Park

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

March 3rd Rev Dougie Burnett (includes communion)
10th Rev Sam Hackett, Free Church chaplain at Bristol Uni.
17th Rev Dougie Burnett
24th Rev Dougie Burnett
31st Easter Day, Rev Dougie Burnett, shared with BKC
Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

Sunday evening worship at 7 p.m. via Zoom

March 10th and 24th
Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

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

Sunday morning worship at 11.00 a.m.

March 3rd Angus Gregson
10th Rev Dougie Burnett (includes communion)
This will be our Gift Service when we will bring along our
'tins' and Gift Day Envelopes for the work of the church
17th Les Fry and friends
24th Rev Helena McKinnon (Palm Sunday)
29th Good Friday at 10 a.m. followed by Hot Cross Buns. There
will then be a walk of witness at Arnside at 11.30pm.
A service will be held at St Stephens from 2-3 p.m.
31st Easter Day, Angus Gregson (will include Communion)

Other key dates in March

... at Redland Park

- Fri 1st World Day of Prayer Service 2024 at Victoria Methodist church
10.00 a.m. for refreshments and 10.30 a.m. for the service,
prepared this year by the women of Palestine
- Sun 3rd Gethsemane garments, 3 p.m.
- Tue 5th Lent conversations: “Now my eyes have seen you” - *seeing God in creation* Rev Dave Gregory
Tyndale Baptist church 7 p.m. for refreshments, 7.30 p.m. start.
- Weds 6th Elders’ meeting: at 7.30 p.m.
- Mon 11th Lent conversations: “Ensoiled spirituality” - *living out an earthed faith* Rev Al Barratt
Cotham Parish church 7 p.m. for refreshments, 7.30 p.m. start.
- Sun 17th Church meeting at 11.50 a.m., after morning worship
- Sat 23rd Organ recital Ashley Marshfield Coffee and cake at 10.30 a.m.
followed by organ music at 11 a.m. for 45 minutes.
- Mon 25th - Fri 29th Holy Week services - mostly at 7.30 p.m.
Mon 25th Cotham Parish church
Tue 26th University Chaplaincy
Wed 27th Tyndale Baptist church
Thu 28th Redland Park URC
- Good Friday 29th Victoria Methodist church **at 10 a.m.**
- Sat 30th Family day at Barton Camp, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

...and advance warning for April: Sat 20th Pilgrimage Walk
There will be more details in next month’s *Recorder* (or see Dec23 edition)
but if you’re interested, please let Alison Hooper know by **31st March** at
alison.hooper@live.co.uk

Other key dates in March

... at New Brunswick

- Sun 3rd Joint Southmead Churches Celebration Service hosted by Pentecostal Holiness Church at 6.30 p.m. followed by refreshments and social time.
- Tue 5th Southmead Joint Churches Prayer Meeting hosted by Kingsholm Church at 7.30 p.m.
- Sat 9th Church 'Christmas' party, 3 - 6 p.m.
- Mon 11th Monthly Bible Study meeting at 7.30 p.m. A time of Praise, Prayer and Bible Study, followed by tea and cake. The last in our series on parables: "Weddings, banquets & other bits."
- Fri 22nd Monthly Southmead Quiz at 7 p.m. at NB. £3 per person which includes tea, coffee and nibbles. All proceeds donated to local Southmead charities.
- Sat 23rd Church Spring Clean from 10 a.m.
- Sat 30th Monthly Craft and Preloved Fair at The Greenway Centre from 12-3 p.m.
-

Pause for thought

As I type this (20th February) the death toll in Gaza from Israeli strikes since 7th October is 29 170, which is about 1.39% of the population. This includes an estimated more than 12 300 children.

The equivalent percentage, **if this had happened in the UK,**
is a death toll of 902 880, including 381 000 children.

What would we do if something caused this loss of life in the UK?

The head of the World Health Organisation says that the Nasser hospital in Khan Younis is "not functional anymore" after an Israeli Defence Force raid. Video at www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-68330579

Coming soon... **BARTON CAMP DAY 2024**



SATURDAY 30th MARCH, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Fabric Workshop

Water Colour Painting

Bread making

Crooks Peak hill-top walk

Adventure Playground

Heated Outdoor Swimming Pool



People news

...from New Brunswick

Several of our folk have been suffering from all sorts of nasty 'bugs' that seem to be doing the rounds at the moment. So we wish them all better health in the coming days.

Reece (Liz's grandson) has achieved his orange belt in Mixed Martial Arts. We send him many congratulations.

We have been pleased to hear news of **Mary** who is making good progress and is hoping to be back worshipping with us very soon. We send her love and blessings.

Elizabeth, too, is looking forward to being able to worship with us very soon. Her health has improved; we thank God for His healing power.

We uphold **Ruth and Peter** to God in prayer; both have needs in different ways. Peter has given up driving and will now have to rely on lifts to visit Ruth who is in a home on the Downs.

We remember our other friends who are not able to get to worship for whatever reason. Thinking especially of **Robin W, David F, Wenda and Susan, Margaret, Gareth and Eugene, Terry H, Joyce B.**

Our thoughts and prayers are also still with **Julie** and the family as they continue to come to terms with the loss of dear Pete.

We assure these folk and others not mentioned here of our good wishes and prayers. Praying God's blessing, comfort, love and peace as each has need.

CELEBRATIONS!

Those celebrating birthdays during March...

Paul G 11th ,

Gill 12th ,

Hazel 18th

We wish them all a happy day, one full of Gods' richest blessings.

Other folk may have other celebrations in the coming days. May God bless all these folk whatever the occasion, with His love.

... from Redland Park

We pray for all our friends and members who are enduring illness over these winter months, and hope that Spring and good health will return soon. We think of **Peter** and **Anna Ambrose**, as well as **Terry King**, **Viv Hayden** and **John Turner** and pray for better health for them.

Jane Pedlar has had an ongoing infection which we pray will get better with medication, and we send her our best wishes.

We pray for **Audrey Bryant** whose ongoing back problems led to a short hospital stay but she was discharged before a large family celebration for her birthday. Congratulations for that. She is now going to have some respite care at Trymview Hall (Southmead Road).

And we pray for **Dougie**, whose mother is causing concern in the family, and we hope for a peaceful conclusion for them.

One of Janet Lockyer's carers, **Abraham**, hasn't been to Redland Park for a while as he is currently in Sierra Leone helping to build a church there. He keeps in touch with Les.

We pray for all those currently in the Bristol Churches Night Shelter, which ends on 27 March, that they find more permanent accommodation; Redland Park has been very supportive this year, as usual.

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 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.

Thanks...

from Gary and the Julian Trust

Dear members of the Redland Park URC,

My name is Gary and I attended your service just before Christmas to speak about the Julian Trust. The Trust was founded in 1987 and has provided temporary accommodation for rough sleepers.

We accommodate twelve guests for four nights a week, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It is our ambition to open on a Thursday. In order to do that we need additional volunteers. Hence my visit and this short article.



If you are looking for volunteering opportunities, then please consider the Julian Trust. You could not find a nicer bunch of people, that give so much to the rough sleeping community, and everyone who works for the Julian Trust is a volunteer.

If you cannot volunteer yourself, then maybe you would consider donating – money, clothes, food – see the website for more information:

www.JulianTrust.org.uk

Thank you and God Bless.

Gary

from the Tyndale Circle

Dear Redland Park,

Thank you so much for your letter with a cheque for £184.59 for the Tyndale Circle. This is such an encouragement and greatly appreciated. What a blessing the partnership with Redland Park has always been to the Circle. How thankful we are.

With love and thanks,

Edward Duffield, Tyndale Circle.

***from* Caring in Bristol**

Dear Redland Park,

I would like to send a personal thank you for the members of Redland Park Church for your very kind donation of £184.58 that has been gratefully received here at Caring in Bristol. We really appreciate your continued support, and we cannot thank you enough.

Your support really does mean the world to those experiencing homelessness. You are helping to provide care, support and safety to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Our work is only possible because of incredible people like you. Your amazing donation could enable a young person to receive the emotional and practical support they need to thrive independently. Thanks to you, we can provide care, compassion and support, as well as vital services such as advocacy, tenancy advice and wellbeing guidance. Your kind gift can help one of our young clients at risk of homelessness feel confident, safe and supported.

Thank you again for choosing to support our life-changing work, it is really appreciated. Together we can end homelessness in Bristol – for everyone and for good.

Yours sincerely,

Chrissi Button, Fundraising Assistant.

***from* North Bristol and South Gloucester Foodbank**

To all those at Redland Park,

We just wanted to say a massive thank you for your recent donation from your services throughout December. This will really help us to support those most in need in our area.

Thank you for thinking of us.

Kind regards,

NBSG Foodbank

What's been happening at Redland Park?

Ukraine's "Spirit of Resistance" show 28th January 2024
from **Olya and Mihailo Rnic**

What is the "Spirit of Resistance"?

When the war started, we felt compelled to make a positive difference by doing something both uplifting and purposeful, ultimately contributing to Ukraine's victory. We decided to create an event which would involve Ukrainian refugees and showcase to the British public an iconic aspect of Ukrainian culture; the art of the embroidered shirt, the Vyshyvanka. The monies raised from donations would go to help Ukrainian charities.

Our first step was to purchase several vintage and designer Vyshyvankas. This way we could both showcase these and support the embattled Ukrainian economy. The Vyshyvanka in the form of a catwalk display of cherished embroidery and traditional Ukrainian singing was born.



Why shouldn't Ukraine give up?

Suing for "peace" will not stop the bloodshed and will only lead to the genocide of Ukrainians. History has taught Ukrainians that agreements with Russia are not worth the paper they are written on. (Budapest memorandum of 1994 is just one example). Millions of Ukrainians have been killed through invasions, starvation, repressions, exploitation and imprisonment by Russia, whether in its imperial, colonial or Soviet form. Negotiations for peace with Hitler's Germany were not an option, only its defeat. The same is true of Putin's Russia. This reality may be hard for some people to believe or accept but it is exactly what Ukraine is facing. The mass graves in liberated areas are testament to Russia's real goals, summarised by Harvard Professor Timothy Snyder:

<https://snyder.substack.com/p/russias-genocide-handbook>

Why are we doing this?

One of the main aims was to empower Ukrainian refugees in the UK, to give them a sense of purpose and enable them to contribute in a meaningful way.

We are honouring Ukraine's cultural heritage in the form of the Vyshyvanka. We also mourn and pay tribute to our heroes, but do not want to pity ourselves as a nation. Mental resilience teaches us that in a genocidal war, where we are denied our existence as 3 nation, when our very identity is being attacked, with the aggressor looting museums and stealing treasures, promoting the Vyshyvanka is one way of asserting our identity and fighting back.



Vyshyvankas were a potent symbol of Ukrainian identity in Tsarist times as well as a symbol of resistance in the Soviet regime. This, together with the recent invasion, ultimately led us to name our event the 'Spirit of Resistance'.

The event has kindled such interest amongst the

Ukrainians that have taken part that they have now brought over their precious Vyshyvanka heirlooms of their great grandparents. These unique garments have unearthed harrowing personal stories of how Vyshyvankas saved the lives of Ukrainians during Stalin's artificial famine of the 1930s.

As the Vyshyvanka evolves, so does this project!

Inspiring a Love of Art and Nature *by Lucy Pedlar*

In my job, it is my joy and privilege to connect people to art and the natural world.

In 2019, along with my husband, Nik Pollard, and my friend, Hannah Athayde, I co-founded Trymwood Studios, a small gallery and artist studio in Westbury-on-Trym. We curate exhibitions and run a programme of art-making workshops for different age groups. At the core of the work we do is a love of art and nature, a desire to enrich peoples' lives and encourage care for the natural world; building connections and community.



On the gallery walls we curate exhibitions that often explore themes, the next being *Woodland*, from March 8th (details below). Our beautiful 18th century space will house drawings, paintings, sculptures and original prints; handmade pieces, often made outside or developed in the studio after a period of drawing outside. The individual focus and expression of the artist is evident in each artwork; each mark made offers the viewer a connection to the integrity of the artist, their personal response to the natural world as well as an exploration of the materials, be it clay, oil-paint or printing-ink.

We celebrate *observation, joy, care and expression*, hoping to build connections through our work. In a similar way to reading poetry or listening to live music, when spending time with original artwork, especially drawing, I experience something greater than myself; a timeless, universal truth; a spirituality.

Our workshops often respond to what is on the walls of the gallery as well as the seasonal changes we notice in the garden and local green spaces.



At *Fledglings*, our group for pre-school children and their grownups, we explore seasonal changes in the natural world through story-telling, song, poetry and art activities. We go outside to hunt for natural-treasure whenever possible. This week we might be looking for an emerging queen bumblebee visiting a primrose or listening to the

song-thrush singing. We pack each session with early years science, maths and literacy.

Having taken our own children to groups we make sure there is plenty of interest for the adults too and ideas for extending sessions at home. By building interest and knowledge in nature we hope to encourage the care and nurture of our precious world.

In our drawing workshops with adults we observe the natural-world and experiment with different art materials. We are often inspired by what is on the walls of the gallery. The workshops tend to be sociable, yet studious, fun and challenging.

It's exciting to sell artworks from exhibitions and satisfying when collectors return to tell us how much they enjoy the work on their own walls. Our biggest feelings of achievement come when visitors to exhibitions share our joy in the artwork; when workshop-participants grow in confidence and take pride in the work they have made; when both begin to notice and care more about the natural world around them. We often see a chain reaction: through looking and caring more about art and nature, a self care and a care for others grows alongside.



Lucy Pedlar

Co-founder Trymwood Studios

www.trymwoodstudios.co.uk

Art Exhibition

Trymwood Studios *Inspiring a love of art and nature*



Woodland

Paintings, Drawings,
Sculptures & Original Prints

8th - 24th March 2024

Opening times

Thursday - Sunday
11am - 4pm

or by appointment

info@trymwoodstudios.co.uk
www.trymwoodstudios.co.uk

Trym Road BS9 3ET [T](#) [I](#) [I](#) [I](#)

Tear Fund's *Big Plastic Count* 11-17 March

On your marks, get set, COUNT!

For one week in March, thousands of people in schools, households, churches, community groups and businesses will be coming together to count their plastic waste. And we're inviting you to get involved in this year's *Big Plastic Count*.



Almost a quarter of a million people took part in *The Big Plastic Count* in 2022. Together, we revealed that almost **2 billion pieces of plastic packaging are being thrown away every week in the UK**. This year, you can help us to build even more evidence and use it to call for bold, global action at the UN plastics treaty talks. This is about counting our everyday usage. Plastic is all around us, impossible to avoid. That's why we need to count together – to show our leaders and big businesses that we care and we want alternatives to plastic.

We know that those living in poverty are suffering the worst impacts of plastic pollution. **Globally, up to 1 million people die each year because of diseases caused by mismanaged waste: that's one person every 30 seconds.** Understanding our waste problem and reliance on plastic products in the UK can help us push for change on a global scale with world leaders and big businesses.

How it works: Once you register, the team at *Big Plastic Count* will send you a free digital or postal pack with everything you need to take part. During the week (**11–17 March 2024**), use your tally sheet to count *almost* every single piece of plastic packaging that you throw away – that's plastic waste that you put in the bin or into recycling. (We *don't* count plastic items that are used for medical or sanitary reasons as these are vital for the people who need them - things like plasters, medication packets, period products, and more...) Try to count anything you throw away while out and about too. You'll be able to use the helpful digital 'plastic ID tool' to work out which category each item goes into.

Your evidence will build pressure behind the call for ambitious action at the global plastic treaty talks, and help make a future that's free of plastic waste.

This is a great opportunity to gather evidence that can be shown to world leaders at the next round of global plastics treaty negotiations in April. For an update of where the talks got to at their last meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, back in November, read our latest blog. If you're reading online you can just click on this link...

<https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2024/02/is-this-the-year-that-makes-or-breaks-the-plastics-treaty?>

Every blessing,

Adam Aucock, Tearfund Action

EVERYDAY PLASTIC:

from Carol Fry (with a few additions)

52 ways to reduce your plastic (one month at a time)

1. Tackle one room at a time. Attempting to reduce plastic throughout the whole house at once is overwhelming; address each room individually. The bathroom is a great place to start.
2. Plan your purchases. Plan your weekly meals to make a supermarket shop less wasteful. Knowing exactly what you're going to eat can prevent the need to throw out produce that's gone off.
3. Avoid buying fruit and veg swathed in plastic. Celery: ask Verna for tips on where to buy it, or try Lidl (customer pressure works!). And why on earth does cucumber come in a plastic sheath? Do shops not understand what the skin does?
4. Refillable water bottles. These are great to refill at home or on the go. It only takes a few refills before you begin saving money you might have spent on bottled water.
5. Remove stubborn smells. Spoon 3-4 tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda into the foot of an old pair of tights, tie a knot in the end and put into the shoe cupboard to remove all smells.
6. Don't buy cleaning cloths. Cut up old clothes or towels (or Preston NE shirts) that aren't good enough to pass on or donate, and turn them into cleaning cloths or rags.

More appeals...

Sponsor Mel and James Griffin

James and Mel are cycling from London to Amsterdam, leaving on our 20th wedding anniversary, 5th June 2024, to raise money for Bristol children's hospital.

We would be grateful for any sponsorship. Just giving link attached! Thank you !

https://www.justgiving.com/page/griffins-cycle-to-amsterdam?utm_medium=qrcode&utm_source=offline



Mel & James on a training ride to the ice cream van on the Downs

from Alison Kinnersley at Horfield URC

Our grandson Adam is running the London marathon this year in aid of young lives v cancer and we are trying to raise some money for the charity. We have 3 money-raising events you might be interested in.

We are having a disco on **March 9th** at Civil Service club in Filton Avenue. 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. tickets are £10 pounds. Come along and enjoy the fun.

I am going up to Tesco at Golden Hill on **March 23rd**, 10 a.m. onwards selling knitted chickens with Cadbury creme eggs. Chickens are £1.

There will be a quiz at New Brunswick URC on **May 18th**, 3-5 p.m. with tea and cakes. Tickets are £5.

Please get in touch if you want any tickets, can give any creme eggs, any raffle prizes or you'd like to find Adam's *Just Giving* page.

Alison Kinnersley 07798 614 592

dakin@btinternet.com

THE FRONT CHURCH DOORS ARE CLOSED, BUT...

Every Sunday, after the morning service, the front and side doors are closed and locked until the following Sunday.

But behind the doors the church building is still very much alive as we have some great people who love using the church and our rooms.

Choirs using the church during the evenings for rehearsals:

Monday Bristol Cabot Choir

Tuesday The Bristol Phoenix Choir

Wednesday Exultate Choir

Thursday Bristol Show Choir

Wednesday in the Upper Room the Bristol Chamber Choir rehearse.

The Horfield Chess Club meet every week through out the year.

Clifton Arts Club use the conference room a few times a month as does the Stamp Club. These 2 clubs have used our rooms for many years.

Perform, a Drama Group for various ages of children, meet after school on Mondays and Fridays. On Saturdays they meet during the mornings and early afternoons. This is great as parents come into the back of the church to deliver and collect their children.

St John's School use the church for various events during the school year as they do not have a hall large enough on their premises for the whole school to attend various events.

Three times a year we have Trinity music exams, The students warm up in the conference room and take their exams in the church.

As well as our regular lets, the church is used for music workshops and concerts .

A lady commented to me this week when she visited the church "How lovely to be having a concert in March in a lovely, bright, warm church" instead of a cold, dark, damp church !!

Sally King

KNOW YOUR ELDER

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

Carol Hawker at New Brunswick

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Southmead Hospital in 1947. I lived in Bristol until February 2020 when I moved to Bradley Stoke.

A memory from my youth

When I was at senior school we were given the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. I wondered if I would be good enough to do it. I managed to achieve my bronze award. At Girls Brigade a bit later I decided to carry on with the scheme. After a couple of years I completed both my silver and gold awards and went to Buckingham Palace as a gold award participant and winner.



Who/what led me to faith in Christ?

I had been attending New Brunswick for several years and became more interested in what it was like to become a christian when our then minister, Rev Reed, started talking about how young people could become a junior member of their church.

Why did I start worshipping at New Brunswick?

I started going to NB with a cousin who was studying at Redland Teachers Training College. She played piano at NB.

Something good about living in Bristol

Although Bristol is a large city, there are plenty of open spaces you can visit to enjoy the countryside and nature.

Something I really value about New Brunswick?

The thing I most value is the friendship of the members and the congregation. They all have a willingness to help and support you when you need it.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I have been going to NB since the age of 5. I became a member of the Girls Brigade (Girls Brigade was called Girls Life Brigade when I started) and also belonged to the youth club. It was through the youth club that I was persuaded to go on a date with my now husband of 54 years.

[Ed: And not a cross word in all that time!]

Keeping up with the vicar, part 142

Here are the Lectionary readings for March and the first Sunday in April. Congratulations to Linda for winning last month's competition from a huge entry of 1.

This is the second year in the 3 year Lectionary cycle so it focuses on Mark's gospel. It's the shortest gospel. None of this Christmas faff - no shepherds, angels or wise men - but straight into Jesus' ministry, starting with his baptism. And the pace drives along. I've been reading the URC reflection each morning - direct to your computer or phone - and it's working through Mark at the moment too. The reading often begins with something like "Immediately..." or "After six days..." (after what?) so I have to go back to the previous day's passage to remind me what had just happened. (Have I ever mentioned the importance of reading around a passage????) But as it's the shortest gospel, we divert into John during Lent and Eastertide, just as we had bits of Luke at Christmas time.

John's gospel highlights the work of the Spirit, the Spirit which *inspires* (literally – check out the derivation of the word “inspire”), but also often returns to the subject of what God's love is really like, both through Jesus' teaching and some beautifully tender moments with Jesus and those around him.

Right at the start of his ministry in Nazareth (Lk 4:18-21) Jesus realises that he's come to complete Old Testament prophecies (see Isaiah 48:16 and 49:1-6), and the focus of the gospel readings this Lent is to record examples of how he lives out the teachings of his Jewish faith.

Sometimes John includes the same stories as the synoptic gospels but at a different stage in Jesus' life. For example the March 3rd passage comes

near the start of Jesus' ministry whereas we're used to thinking of it as the start of Holy Week, just after the Palm Sunday account. Why do you think John might have done that?

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
Mar 3 rd Lent 3	Exodus 20:1-17	19	John 2:13-22	1Cor1:18-25
10 th Lent 4	Num 21:4-9	107:1-3,17-22	John 3:14-21	Eph 2:1-10
17 th Lent 5	Jer 31:31-34	51:1-112	John 12:20-33	Heb 5:5-10
24 th Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2,19-29	Mark 11:1-11	Phil 2:5-11
31 st Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2,14-24	Mark 16:1-8	1Cor 15:1-11
Apr 7 th	Acts 4:32-35	133	John 20:19-31	1John 1:1-2:2

**From Easter to Pentecost the Old Testament reading is replaced by one from Acts as the early church begins to grow.*

A Rocha's "Easy Eco Tips" for MARCH

Celebrate Spring! Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers.

Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at

arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-overlent/

Redland Park contacts page

- a page to cut out and keep - it won't appear in each edition!

MINISTER: Rev Dougie Burnett

douglas@douglasburnett.co.uk

0117 330 9910

ELDERS: Les Brentley, Vimbai Fedrick, Carol Fry, Angus Gregson, Alison Hooper, Derek Jones, Myra Jones, Matt Sims,

TREASURER: Andrew Hayden andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk

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Deadline for contributions for the
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Please send your contributions
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