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# The Recorder

March '18

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



[www.redlandparkurc.org](http://www.redlandparkurc.org)

# New Brunswick | Mar Diary

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## Preachers for March 11am services

4th John Waines  
11th Angus Gregson (Mother Sunday.  
Service will include Communion)  
18th To Be Advised  
25th Barb and Rick Kirby (Palm Sunday  
and Gift Day)

## Preachers for April 11am services

1st Angus Gregson (Easter Sunday)

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday March 8th at 7:30pm will be our next Church meeting.

Sunday 25th March is our Gift Day when we will bring our 'Tins' and 'Blessing Boxes' for opening.

Maundy Thursday (29th March) details are yet to be finalised.

Good Friday (30th March) we have been invited to join with friends at the Pentecostal Holiness Church at 10am for a service. This will be followed by the churches in Southmead joining together for an 'Open Air Witness' service at Arnside opposite the 'Paragon Hairdressers'.

*Please await to hear of confirmation of these arrangements.*

During the week commencing 2nd April the churches in Southmead are involved in 'HOPE 2018' this will replace the annual 'NOISE' event which is usually held in May. There will be many events going on in the area, for all ages. One of these will be a 'Cream Tea' which will be held on Thursday 5th April and New Brunswick URC. Listen out for details of the time of this event. Also for other information of on things happening during the week.

Sunday March 4th at 6:30 pm there will be a joint churches Celebration Service. This time we will be meeting at St Stephens church.

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There are still folk who need our prayers at this time. We continue to uphold Pat in our prayers. Asking for God's' comforting arms to surround her.

It is good to hear that Mary Piggott is now back at home after her surgery. She seems to be making steady progress. We continue to send her our best wishes and assurance of our prayers.

We remember, too, David Fudge, assuring him of our thoughts and prayers.

There are many who are not mentioned here by name but are in need of our support and prayers. We pray that God will give to each His Love, Guidance, Comfort and Support as each one needs.

# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

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Dear friends,

A recent visitor into Redland Park after a Sunday service proudly handed to me a 1911 edition of the Redland Park Recorder. It was a 50th anniversary edition for the opening of the church in 1861 and carried a whole range of articles which celebrated the story of Redland Park as it was then. Apart from the surprising aspect that it carried advertising from a whole range of shops up and down Whiteladies Road (including a dry-cleaners.... in 1911?!!) there was also reference to Highbury Chapel (which planted Redland Park in 1860) also establishing a school on Anglesea Place.

Clearly that is what we know now as St. John's School. The school was established in the earlier part of the 19th century as the Highbury British School with the express intention of reaching out to the "neglected condition of the poor people and their children living on the edge of Durdham Down." To think of those living on the edge of the Downs as poor may well strike us as rather curious these days. But what an intriguing bit of history that the paths of Redland Park Church and the school should come together again, as they have in more recent years. What this 1911 church magazine reveals is a real passion for the mission and outreach of the Church.

I suppose that it also points out that there is never anything that is new under the sun. Even in the time of Urijah Rees Thomas, the first minister at this church, there were great concerns for those who were never in church but chose instead to attend concerts in their many thousands on the Downs. However, while there is never anything new under the sun, it is the case that we always have to discover what mission and outreach means in our own generation.

In recent years we have seen the development of what is known as the Emerging Church movement, and also Fresh Expressions of Church. Both of these recognise that if people will no longer simply come to us, then we must find a means of going out and connecting with them. Understanding what that means is more of an art than a science. It needs to be lived rather than just explained. But there are real connections that can be made and there is still a real need for the gospel of Jesus Christ. In May there will be a large conference within the URC to which all ministers have been invited. We are running out of ministers rather quickly. This we have in common with most of the denominations. We face some challenging times, but there is always an answer. We simply need people to be on the pilgrimage of faith. To this end please take note on the URCs new Walking the Way initiative which will help us all explore what it means to be a disciple in the 21st century. We shall be using various of these materials in the months to come. It can all seem rather frustrating, yet when we engage remarkable things can happen. The outreach activity begun in this part of Bristol away back in the 1830s bore much fruit through faith. There is no intrinsic reason why such history should not repeat itself.

When John Ellis, Moderator of General Assembly, was with us two years ago, he related how with his travels he was often asked whether he was an optimist or a pessimist for the future of the Church. In giving his response John quoted another source who had often been asked the same question. "I am neither an optimist or a pessimist. But I believe that Christ is Risen." I think that I will go with that as well.

*Dougie*



We send our condolences to the family of **Teri Pethwick** who died on Sunday 11 February; Teri has been a loyal member of Redland Park for many years, along with her husband Bill, who died a few years ago. She has had ill health for a while, but died suddenly after a fall. The funeral is in early March.

After several weeks in hospital, **Myra Jenkins** is now in a nursing home and being cared for there; we hope she settles well and that Bryan is able to continue visiting her there.

Several of our members and friends are suffering ill health and some undergoing hospital treatment at present. We pray for God's healing hands to support them.

We pray for all our members and friends who are unable to attend church as much as they would like, and all who need our prayers at this time.

## A message from Mary...

It has been a very busy and extremely hot month and I now have a few days free to catch up with domestic chores!

Travelling around the island by scooter is wonderful as the breeze keeps me cool and the scenery is spectacular. Last week I went up to Udugama for a workshop, by bus one day and scooter, the next. The road has been recently carpeted and the going was smooth. Just as well as the hair pin bends, following the course of an old river bed were frequent and ascending and the tea plantations, deep green and terraced, a joy to behold.

Travelling by bus is a different experience as they are almost always overcrowded and men of any age seem to take priority over women. Loaded with 100 CD's and 100 of our phonic alphabet packs, we were able to dump these behind the driver, before hanging on for dear life as the bus takes off at enormous speed. These vehicles are the supreme leaders on the roads, so with hooters blasting they career along, overtaking anything in their path. As

passengers, packed in like sardines, personal space unheard of, you swing from side to side, and hope that those hanging outside the bus, have a firm grip!

Seated you might have a child placed on your lap or an elderly person squeezed in as an extra. Almost certainly you will have one or two heavy handbags or a crate of tomatoes or a bag of fish dumped on you. Even as I was struggling to make room for another heavy satchel yesterday, with a scary view straight out by the driver, it was interesting to note that the conductor amidst all this mayhem, found time to scramble for a bottle of spring water, collected earlier on the way down, amidst others nestling in a bucket of same and administer it to someone crushed in further back who was probably dying of thirst. He then produced a small water spray and gave the petals at the foot of the Buddha statue by the steering wheel, a light shower.

Amazing hey! Much love Mary

## Prayer page:

God of the heights and depths, we bring to you those driven into the desert, those struggling with difficult decisions.

May they choose life.

God of the light and darkness, we bring to you those lost in the midst of drugs or drink, those dazzled by the use of power.

May they choose life.

God of the wild beast and the ministering angel, we bring to you those savaged by others' greed, those exhausted by caring for others.

May they feel your healing touch.

Christ tempted and triumphant, we bring ourselves to you, tired of difficult choices, anxious about the future, drained by the loss of a loved one.

May we feel your healing touch.

May we feel your healing touch, know God's presence in all things and receive the crown of life, through the Holy Spirit of compassion.

Amen.

### Please pray for:

Sian Morris after the death of her mother.

Luiza and Jonathan.

Kate awaiting surgery for cancer.

The family and friends of Tere Pethick. Give thanks for her long life.

Viv Hayden. We pray that she will soon be well enough to worship with us again.

The homeless and the lonely.

Those who need to use foodbanks to feed their families.

All who suffer from mental illness.

The Lent conversations.

**May God's love surround and heal them. Amen.**



On Friday they hammered in the nails!  
 On Friday they hammered in the nails!  
 When the hour of nine was nigh  
 They raised His cross up high  
 That Friday they hammered in the nails!

That Friday they hammered in the nails!  
 That Friday they hammered in the nails!  
 With a sign above His head,  
 "See the King of Jews!" it said,  
 That Friday they hammered in the nails!

But after they'd hammered in the nails,  
 Yes, after they'd hammered in the nails,  
 He forgave the men below,  
 What they'd done they did not know,  
 That Friday they hammered in the nails!

Six hours after hammering in the nails,  
 Six hours after hammering in the nails,  
 Crown of thorns upon His head  
 The Son of God was dead,  
 They killed Him by hammering in the nails!

Our sins are that hammer and those nails!  
 Our sins are that hammer and those nails!  
 Every time that we give in  
 He is crucified again  
 Our sins are that hammer and those nails,  
 Yes, our sins are that hammer and those nails!

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**March**

Tues 6th	7.00pm	Lent Conversation at Christ Church, Clifton
Wed 7th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 18th	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Mon 19th	7.00pm	Lent Conversation at Clifton Cathedral
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Helena McKinnon
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Mon 26th	7.00pm	Lent Conversation at Redland Park URC
Tue 27th	7.30pm	Holy Week devotion at St. Paul's C of E
Wed 28th	7.30pm	Holy Week devotion at University Chaplaincy
Thu 29th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday devotion at Redland Park URC
Fri 30th	10.00am	Good Friday devotion at Victoria Methodist Church

**April**

Sun 1st	10.30am	Easter Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

## Spring is on the horizon.

Perhaps some of you are itching to start sowing seeds or wanting to divide up some of your perennial plants. Please would you bear the Christian Aid Fair on May 5th in mind.

This year we will not have Mr Cole who has supplied us with plants for many years as he has retired. If anyone knows of another nursery that would help us and supply us with plants on a sale or return basis please let me know.

Thank you, Myra Jones



### CALLING ALL GARDENERS AND BOOK LOVERS!

At the Christian Aid Fair, the plants and book stall are extremely popular. As mentioned above, Mr Coles, who provided us with all the plants on a sale or return basis, has now retired, and we have been unable to find someone else willing to do this. When you are potting up your plants or splitting others, please keep some for 5 May and we can run a small plant stall with home-grown plants!

If you are Spring-cleaning or de-cluttering, with books or bric a brac, we would be very grateful for any you are getting rid of. Those left from last year were donated to the charity book shop as they were causing a fire hazard in the vestibule and undercroft, so we need more!

## Persecuted Christians: Iraq

Iraq is number 7 on Open Doors World Watch List. Iraq was once home to one of the largest Christian communities in the Middle East. Today the Church is in danger of disappearing.

Tens of thousands of Christians remain displaced following the IS insurgency in 2014. In addition, Islamic leaders, clan leaders, extended family and 'normal citizens' all put pressure on Christians from a Muslim background to recant, sometimes using torture or physical attack. Converts risk harassment or discrimination at check-points, universities, work places and government buildings; they may also lose jobs, inheritance rights, or the ability to marry.

### Please pray that

- Give thanks that some displaced believers are able to go home; pray for wisdom and faith for those who can't
- For Jesus to be evident in the lives of church leaders and that they will be good shepherds to new believers
- For Open Doors partners helping to rebuild homes and create jobs for displaced believers.
- For provision for Christians who are returning to the Nineveh Plain and rebuilding their lives from scratch
- That the UK government will act to bring about lasting change for our persecuted church family

### Open Doors supports the church in Iraq through:

- Providing trauma training and biblical training for church leaders and Muslim-background believers
- Crisis relief – eg supporting displaced believers with relief aid and helping them rebuild their homes
- Development projects such as microloans for displaced people
- Distributing Bibles and Christian literature and supporting Kurdish translations
- Structural aid such as funding church repairs/equipment.

Open Doors has launched a global, seven-year campaign to mobilise Christians to bring hope to the Middle East.

The cry of the Hope for the Middle East petition, backed by 808,172 people from 143 countries worldwide, is for Christians in Iraq and Syria to have the right to equal citizenship, dignified living conditions and a prominent role in reconciling and rebuilding society. For more information [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)

# Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 21/1/18

## PRESENT

The Minister and 30 members. Apologies for absence were received from 11 members.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

## MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising from the previous meeting were covered in other items on the agenda.

## CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Carol Fry advertised "Count Your Blessings", a booklet published by Christian Aid featuring daily activities to be followed during Lent. She also hoped to mount a Christian Aid exhibition, entitled "Uprooted", highlighting the plight of 40 million people worldwide who had been forced from their homes, although no date had been set.

The opening of the church for two hours each Wednesday lunchtime seemed to be going well, having attracted a number of visitors on each occasion.

Training had been provided to the volunteers for the Night Shelter at Tyndale Baptist, which was running during January, February and March.

Myra Jones reported that we had attained the bronze award under the EcoChurch scheme. To advance to the silver or gold award, members would need to address their lifestyles and the church premises would need to be improved.

Around £300 had been raised at the African evening in November, bringing the total raised so far for the Verenga-Mukoku Church in Zimbabwe to £1,300.

Around £1,140 had been raised for CLIC Sargent by the Christmas Fair.

The next Church in Society meeting would be held on 24th January when plans would be considered for forthcoming events.

## MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Sally King outlined details of the organisations that had hired Redland Park's premises during December 2017, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, St. John's School, Lilliput Concerts and five different choirs. She estimated that around 2000 people had passed through our doors. With the Junior Church expanding, she wondered if they may need more space. Linda Croft thanked Sally on behalf of the meeting for her excellent work with the lettings.

Dougie reported that Richard Sharples was the new minister at Victoria Methodist Church.

He also reported that the "five churches" had met to discuss the subject of nurturing older people. One idea to come from the meeting was a holiday club providing day trips and activity days. It was agreed that Redland Park should support the ongoing discussions and whatever actions they should yield.

Building on "Christmas Through the Keyhole", "Open the Book" was a scheme run by the Bible Society and used in many schools in the UK. Dougie was hoping that Redland Park would be able to provide volunteers for a team of around people that would be needed to spread its use wider, starting in the Autumn. The meeting agreed in principle to support this scheme, and an open invitation was extended to anyone willing to be a volunteer for it.

"Walking the Way" was the URC's initiative to develop and better understand discipleship in its churches. It was due to be officially launched at the March meeting of

the South West Synod; anyone interested was welcome to attend at Bridgwater URC on Saturday 10th March.

## SECRETARIAL MATTERS

On behalf of Andrew Sims, Andrew Hayden asked all members who had previously signed a Gift Aid form to sign an updated version. Andrew Sims would be in touch with each person concerned.

Following his death in December, Roger Adams' funeral would be held at St. Mary's Church, Stoke Bishop, on 24th January at 11:45am. All are welcome to attend.

Andrew advertised the Lent Conversations which would start at Redland Parish Church on Tuesday 27th February. Tea and coffee would be served from 7pm with the Conversations starting at 7:30pm.

Finally, Andrew asked that if anyone was approached regarding the possible use of the church rooms, the enquirer should be directed to Sally King in all instances, no matter how impromptu, to ensure that there was no clash with paid bookings.

## FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Andrew read a brief written report submitted by John Neugebauer, in which he hoped that the church accounts for 2017 would be ready to be presented in the early summer. The report also advised that our investment returns for 2017 had added £20,153 to our funds.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of members was shared.

## AOB

None.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

**Next meeting: Sunday 18th March 2018, following the morning service**

## Redland Park Printer

At the moment the printer is not working as it normally does.

If you want any printing please e mail it to me by FRIDAYS. I will then print when printing the order of service or recorder.

If you are desperate for a few printed copies e.g.12, e mail me and I will do them on my printer.

[terrisking@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:terrisking@blueyonder.co.uk)

## SCANNER

I have a working scanner which I no longer have any use for. If anyone would like it please see me. The cost will be a donation to our CLIC charity.

Terry

# What's On?



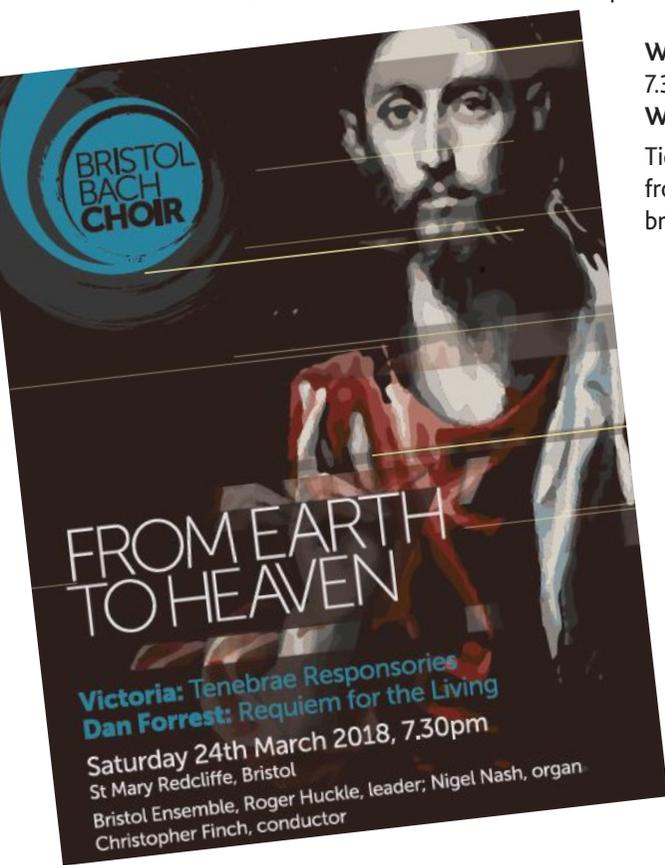
Bristol Bach Choir

**Victoria** Tenebrae Responsories

**Dan Forrest** Requiem for the Living

Spanish Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria's Tenebrae Responsories, sung traditionally on the three nights preceding Easter, are among the most powerful and profound sacred works of the Renaissance. Written for the dowager Empress of Spain, they were performed annually in her private chapel, with Victoria himself singing tenor.

Partnering the arresting power of these dark and mysterious works, will be Dan Forrest's exquisitely beautiful Requiem for the Living. This wonderful, luminous work, composed in 2013, projects a wide range of profound expression; from a harsh commentary on the vanity and pain of existence, to a plea for forgiveness and reconciliation, and the comfort of a vision of the peaceful afterlife.



**When:** Saturday 24th March  
7.30pm

**Where:** St Mary Redcliffe

Tickets from Angus Gregson or  
from the choir's website [www.bristolbach.org.uk](http://www.bristolbach.org.uk)

# A lion called Hamish First Thursday

One of the many joys of being a member of Redland Park is being able to call on those of our number who are local, national and international authorities in their chosen field to talk to us at First Thursday. The latest of these was Professor Malcolm Johnson who visited us in February to give much interesting background information to the recent Channel 4 series "Old Peoples' Home for 4 year olds" and its Christmas sequel.

After many years of experience being associated with various television programmes about older people as an expert gerontologist Malcolm was, with some reluctance, persuaded to take part in this series which has captured the imagination of many and could well do for the lone elderly what "Kathy Come Home" did for the homeless. Malcolm calls this the addition of "Fairy Dust" which turns the prosaic into something of real value.

For those who did not see the series and its Christmas follow-up the programmes tracked the experiences of a group of elderly residents at St Monica Trust when a similar size group of 4 year olds joined them for several weeks. This was not just an entertainment series but also aimed to discover if their experience would replicate similar trials in the US. The residents were each asked a series of questions before, during and at the end to assess whether the experience had been beneficial. The results were quite remarkable – in every case the residents found that they were happier, less lonely and depressed and were able to do things which they had long thought impossible.

As to some of the programme details, some 150 hours of filming were condensed into 3 one hour programmes (including adverts) from up to 8 cameras secreted behind book cases and the like and a legion of back ground and support staff including those responsible for providing snow in November for the Christmas snow fights.

At the end of the series it was clear that all those residents involved had found a new purpose in life and greatly benefited from the innocence and exuberance of the children. They hope to continue the association and this is being facilitated by St Monica's. A further series is being considered but not in Bristol.

Malcolm invited us as members of Redland Park to consider whether we might also learn something from this experiment. Whilst we often talk of children as "the church of the future" and to an extent this is true, we should not lose sight of the fact that we have a ministry to the older generation, especially those who may wish to return to the church when their children have left home.

And what about Hamish the lion? For me the success of the series is summed up by Hamish, a crusty old retired Insurance Manager (that rings a bell) who started off seeing no point at all in the programmes but ended up on the floor with his young companion pretending to roar like lion and spoke eloquently at the concert they put on of the unexpected benefits of the series. He had almost forgotten to define himself as a lifelong one legged amputee.

Many thanks Malcolm for a memorable afternoon.

David Hayden

## Keeping up with the vicar Pt 82 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for March and the first Sunday in April – Easter Day! The lectionary is a three year cycle, each of them focussing on one of the synoptic gospels. We're in "Year B" which looks chiefly at Mark, 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 because Mark skips over that and gets straight into Jesus' ministry.

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 prophesies (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 4th passage comes at 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. Angus

March	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
4th Lent 3	Exodus 20:1-17	19	John 2:13-22	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
11th Lent 4	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3, 17-22	John 3:14-21	Ephesians 2:1-10
18th Lent 5	Jeremiah 31:31-34	119:9-16	John 12:20-33	Hebrews 5:5-10
25th Palm Sunday		118: 1-2, 19-29	Mark 11:1-11	
<b>April</b>				
1st Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	John 20:1-18	1 Corinthians 15:1-11

(Between Easter and Pentecost the Old Testament reading is usually replaced by one from Acts)

## Fairtrade Fortnight:

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 runs from 26 February to 11 March and this year we'd like you to join us in supporting the farmers and workers who grow our food. With Fairtrade we have the power to change the world every day. Fairtrade opens doors.



Fairtrade Fortnight aims to put a spotlight on trade. When trade is fair it has the potential to improve the lives of the farmers and workers who grow our food. When trade is fair, it can make the world a better place. Together we have that power.

It's a shocking fact that millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. It's time for this injustice to end.

Through Fairtrade, millions of poor farmers and workers are already coming together to demand a change. They are working hard to close the door on exploitation and transform their communities, supported by Fairtrade.

There are loads of ways that you can get involved in what we hope will be our biggest Fairtrade Fortnight yet. When you choose Fairtrade you are helping to ensure that the person who grew the banana you are eating, or the coffee beans used to make your drink, was paid fairly for their work.

There is a good selection of items on sale each week in Redland Park - just buy one item (or one extra) to help support Fairtrade and Traidcraft.

Carol

**Please support fair trade around the world by buying something from the Traidcraft Stall, which helps farmers and small traders in the developing world, or by buying something fairly traded from the larger supermarkets, which helps larger organisations in the developing world.**

Deadline for contributions for the March Recorder is 25th February.

Please send to the editor

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church  
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