New Brunswick Update

Here we are the beginning of a new month and the promise of brighter days are starting to show signs of happening. We have just had a couple of lovely days which have encouraged the spring bulbs to come into flower. Daffodils, crocus, and tulips are all starting to flower in the gardens. Over the last few days I have even heard the sound of neighbour’s lawn mowers spluttering into action after their winter break!

We have also heard of the ‘road map’ out of Lockdown. Slowly and cautiously restrictions will start to ease. But at the moment returning to Sunday worship still seems very much in the future. So as in previous months there is no list of ‘Preachers’ for the coming month. But let’s hope that the April edition of the Recorder may once again see this listing.

We are pleased to hear that Ivy has settled well into her ‘new’ home. We understand that she is enjoying her meals and is taking part in activities. We send her our best wishes and assure her, again, that when we are able we will be going to visit her.

It is good to hear that Carol is doing well after surgery and now awaits further appointments for continued treatment. John, too, is still receiving treatment which seems to be going well. May both Carol and John know that we continue to pray for them and assure them of our love and support.

Another of our friends who would appreciate our prayers is Brenda Munden. Brenda has come and shared with us on many occasions, and was due to be with us during March. However, she has been diagnosed with Cancer which requires surgery followed by treatment. So for the foreseeable future will be (as she put it) out of action for a while. She has promised to keep in touch and report on her progress. We will of course uphold her to God in prayers asking Him to give her His Peace at this time and in the weeks to come.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Tuesday April 6th at 7.30pm will be the next joint churches prayer meeting. Friday April 9th at 2.30pm will be our next church meeting.

March finds Gill celebrating her birthday. We wish her a happy day. There may be others who will also be celebrating birthdays or special occasions during this month. We hope everyone has a happy day and pray that you will all know God’s Richest Blessings not only on the day but during the coming year.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

Dear friends,

The end of this month will take us into Holy Week. Incredibly it will be a year this month since we first went into lockdown. Last year we had to celebrate Holy Week and Easter online. This year we shall still have to celebrate Holy Week and Easter online. Who would have thought it only a year ago? I have greatly missed you over the past year, even though I have been able to see various you on-line. Hopefully by May the opportunity to gather physically will be with us once again. And not too long after that the ability to sing hymns and songs of praise.

I suppose that all underlines how much value we place on the incarnation aspect to life and fellowship. Incarnational theology is all about the Word made Flesh. That is something that we connect with especially at Christmas when we think about the Christ-child in the manger. But it really is every bit as relevant when it comes to the events of Holy Week. With the events of those crucial days there is something about life being lived in the raw. The tables are overturned by Jesus in the Temple. There is the kiss of betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane. There is the cross itself.

In the world of Covid part of us might actually wince about Judas’s kiss (!), but we might also recognise it as so very much part of what it means to be human. It must involve intimacy and close proximity. The cross would not be the cross unless it meant God being in the physicality of the suffering. There was an early Church heresy called Docetism that sought to downplay the idea that God actually suffered. It suggested that God only seemed to suffer. But that was rejected not least because it would make a mockery of our human experience and how God comes into all of that.

So, this Holy Week as we are all gradually vaccinated, with new life and safety being injected into our arms, we might reflect how some two thousand years ago that the first Christians sought to affirm that very particular and wonderful God-blessed physicality which, they believed, transformed the world. It is what we call the atonement: how we are made at one with God and with others.

For them what happened in the cross and resurrection enabled new forms of community in which all were valued and blessed, made special, in the sight of God. It was all part of a gentle revolution that rolled out across the ancient world, and then to the farthest corners of the earth.

The vaccination campaign will release the world back so that we can be together once again.

With that sense of blessing that we also know as Christians, let’s make something of it. I look forward to actually seeing you in the flesh (as it were) soon!

Dougie
Creator God, we confess our foolishness—our thoughtless actions are like a rising flood. We bring catastrophes upon one another and our world and you must see our antics with despair.

Righteous God, help us, like Noah, to discern your will, to obey your commands, and to care for all living things.

God, who champions all who suffer, we pray for those who provide arks, for people overwhelmed by flood and storm, for refugees and asylum seekers, for all who are abused or caught up in violence or war.

Covenant God, when we see the rainbow, may it remind us of your pledge to Noah.

We praise you for the cycle of seasons, heat and cold, seedtime and harvest. May farmers and industrialists, researchers and scientists, work with you so that the secrets of your creation may be used yet not abused.

In the name of him who inaugurated a new covenant of sacrificial love, even Jesus Christ.

Amen

Please pray for:
Mal and Janet Owen
Margaret Donadel
Chris
Leslie
Bennett
Glyn and Margaret
Vanessa
Mary and her family
Leanne and her family
Dougie and Helena, Andrew, John and the Elders
Sheila Radford

Father God, stretch out your healing hands to these suffering ones, surround them with your love and give them comfort.

Amen

We continue to pray for Debbie and Eleanor recovering from their operations, for Bennett who has undergone yet one more operation, and for Rachel, Chris and Leslie who are about to have surgery. Please also pray for Glyn Spiller, whose wife runs the Tyndale Circle. We pray for them all and their families in these difficult times, as well as everyone suffering from Covid-19. We pray for healing and peace of mind for them all.

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 an ensuite room, 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 also grateful.

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 think of the children of Yemen, as well as everyone living in a war zone; please pray for peace.

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, the DRC, Afghanistan and the Yemen.

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.

We send love and congratulations to Meera and Allan Lafferty on the birth of baby Alexander Vikram, born on 3 March, a brother for Aditi. Best wishes from us all.

Please pray for an old friend we haven’t seen for a while, Margaret Donadel, who has been caring for a friend for a long time. She has been living with cancer for many years, and is still undergoing treatment; we pray for healing.

We remember our old friends Mal and Janet Owen, who moved into Westbury Fields last year but who are both now suffering from health problems. Their family is very supportive and we pray for recovery for them both.

We remember the Revd John Salsbury who died last month, and we pray for his family, especially Marjorie his wife. Marjorie and John came to Redland Park several times after his ministry at Trinity-Henleaze URC, and John regularly preached here.

It’s good that Lewis Manyika is able to join in with our services again, and we continue to pray for Malcolm and Christine Johnson.

We continue to pray for Debbie and Eleanor recovering from their operations, for Bennett who has undergone yet one more operation, and for Rachel, Chris and Leslie who are about to have surgery. Please also pray for Glyn Spiller, whose wife runs the Tyndale Circle. We pray for them all and their families in these difficult times, as well as everyone suffering from Covid-19. We pray for healing and peace of mind for them all.

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Amen

Prayer page:

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Amen
Redland Park Church Calendar

All events continue to be solely on Zoom until further notice.

Dates for March 2021

Sun 14th  10.40am  Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett  
            7.00pm  Evening Worship led by members

Wed 17th  7.30pm  Church Meeting  

Sun 21st  10.40am  Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett  
            7.00pm  Evening Worship led by members

Sun 28th  10.40am  Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett  
            7.00pm  Evening Worship led by members

April 2021

Sun 4th  10.40am  Easter Morning Worship with Virtual Communion  
                   Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett

Christian Aid - not just one week a year

Christian Aid commemorates 75 years this year, and unfortunately is still as needed as ever.

Last year Christian Aid lost its main fund-raising efforts when the lockdown meant that the house-to-house collection had to be cancelled. Although this was a great method for getting their message out to many households, not many people will miss delivering envelopes and then going back for them. However it did mean that CA had to curtail much of their aid and support around the developing world.

Redland Park was always a great fund-raiser for Christian Aid with both the CA Fair and the house-to-house collections that many of us carried out, raising about two thousand pounds each year.

This year, we hope that a delivery-only envelope collection in May will try to raise some funds for CA, as this will get the message out without breaking any lockdown restrictions, and without the difficulties of having to go back for the envelope. These special envelopes will encourage people to donate by text (a method used very successfully by Comic Relief, Red Nose Day etc) or to leave at Redland Park.

If you would be willing to deliver envelopes in your street, block of flats, or anywhere else, please see me and I can let you have envelopes, a badge showing you are an official collector, and ID.

Many thanks,

Carol Fry
Singing our faith

On Easter Day 2015, I played the organ for the Cambridge German Lutheran Church’s Easter Day Service. The Cambridge German Lutheran Church was established in the 1930s with refugees from Hitler’s Germany. They hold their services in German. One of the hymns chosen was “Erstanden is der Heilig Christ” (Now Christ is risen from the dead).

The hymn comes from the Moravian Church. The words are dated to the 16th century and the tune to the 14th century. The hymn sets the story of the Resurrection morning as told in Mark Ch 16, with verses for the Evangelist, for the Women and for the Angel. The Pastor and I met and he told me the hymns he had chosen. My heart sank when I first saw this one because it has 17 verses and the Pastor very quickly said, “Don’t worry, we’ll only sing 14”. In the event, the tune bowled along beautifully and the congregation, divided for the appropriate verses were obviously enjoying themselves, singing exuberantly. So much so that when they arrived at verse 14, they carried on.

I was so taken with the nature of the setting, I asked Stephen Orchard, who many of you will know, if he would consider making a translation from the German. He did so and produced what seems to me to be a brilliant translation of the simple German text. I’d love to see this song, through Stephen’s translation used more widely. It tells the Easter story simply and the very singable tune carries the text well. It The congregation take part in the telling of the story and there are many “Hallelujahs”.

What was so exciting about this hymn and tune in Easter 2015? Here was a congregation proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ, singing confidently the Gospel story. Singing from their great and long tradition, singing together and enjoying singing together.

John Turner

If anyone would like to see Stephen’s translation and a copy of the tune, please ask me.

Easter 2021

Unfortunately we will still be restricted to numbers attending Church on Easter Sunday so we thought of a way something everyone could take part in and show if you are on ZOOM.

The Junior Church members are going to make Easter Gardens. As illustrated, perhaps you could do a small arrangement. Only a very few flowers, or greenery, or both are necessary. As you see you can use any sort of container from jam jars to vases you forgot you had at the back of the cupboard. I hope you will be able to take part. Let’s hope we will all soon be able to get back to a service altogether.

Keep safe

Sally
The Recorder | March 21

Minutes of the Church Meeting

Present

The Minister and 27 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 3 members.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

All matters were covered by agenda items.

Church in Society

Carol Fry announced that a quiz would be held online via Zoom at 7:30pm on Friday 29th January.

She also reported that the Christmas collections had raised £917 for the Bristol Night Shelter. Fund raising for our church charities had raised £580 for Caring in Bristol and £620 for Toilet Twinning.

John Neugebauer advertised the Lent Conversations which would be held via Zoom on four dates starting 22nd February. Pre-registration was necessary, using details provided in a poster that was on the church’s website. With very little running costs, any donations should be made to the North Bristol Food Bank.

He also advertised the World Day of Prayer, also on Zoom, on Friday 5th March. Again, pre-registration was necessary, with details available from the same poster. With no other income, donation were sought to support the running of the event.

Les and Carol Fry, Les Brentley and Alison Hooper were all helping at the Bristol Night Shelter, which was running well.

Finance and Property

John Neugebauer reported that we lost approx. £20,000 lettings income in 2020, and he expected a similar figure in 2021. Despite this, he expected the accounts for 2020 to show a small surplus thanks to tight management of expenditure, increased regular giving by members and a legacy of £10,000 left by Ernest Gudgeon. As a result, he was not expecting to use the voluntary loans that had been offered.

A recent Supreme Court ruling found in favour of small businesses claiming against their business interruption insurance for Covid-19-related losses, and Redland Park URC is covered by this ruling. Investments were recovering well after falling dramatically at the start of the first lockdown.

Ministerial Matters

Dougie thanked David and Viv Hayden for their work on the day-to-day running of the church books, and Terry and Sally King for keeping the buildings up together.

A.O.B.

Holy Week services would, most likely, be held online, although no firm plans had yet been made. David Hayden expressed a hope that any online services would be live, rather than pre-recorded, as had been the case for the joint service on 27th December.

Walking the Way

The writing of Mark’s gospel had been written out in English by Redland Park members and in Korean by members of the BKC. A display for the church would be compiled in due course.

Secretarial Matters

Andrew Hayden confirmed that the church would be closed for worship until further notice, and all lettings had ceased. This decision had been reached by the Elders in light of the rapid increase in the number of Covid-19 cases locally and nationally, even though we were still permitted to open under the nationwide lockdown restrictions. The decision would be reviewed regularly by the Elders.

News of members

News of member was shared.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th March at 7.30pm (via Zoom)
Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter 2021

Each year BCWNS reaches out to the homeless of our city across the deepest, bleakest winter months. Traditionally this has been through the moveable provision of Bed, Breakfast and Evening meal in a different church hall each night, offering opportunities for interaction and security and warmth. Covid 19 forced a change of model in 2021 and God provided a Bedminster Guest House for three months, a secure base for individuals identified by St Mungo’s to live securely, to engage with Christian volunteers and to consider new opportunities for the future. Four members of Redland Park participated in this outreach- here are some reflections.

Alison;
Its 6.00am on a cold January Wednesday morning and I don’t want to get up. Why did I volunteer for the BCWNS morning shift I ask myself. After driving down Coronation Road and peering in the dark for number 106, (and getting a bit disorientated on the way) I make it through the code security locks to start my first shift at 6.45am with fellow volunteer, Phil. Amanda, the BCWNS Lead makes us aware all of the anti Covid precautions.

It has been a huge achievement to get to this stage – funding acquired, a B&B location found willing to take in seven homeless residents under COVID restrictions and a whole new protocol put together for both the volunteers and guests.

After the first shift I knew why I had volunteered. The guests who came down to breakfast were so pleased to be there. Sometimes they only came down to have a chat. We, the volunteers, didn’t have a lot to do but we were made to feel that what we did was really worthwhile.

Carol;
Having been involved in the night shelter since the first year, 2021 seems to be much easier than being on the night shift, sleeping in a chair or on a mattress on a church sanctuary floor! We have provided Tuesday lunches for six weeks and now six weeks of Thursday lunches, delivering the previous evening for those who take a packed lunch to work. We were asked to take sandwiches, crisps, drink sachets, snack bars and fruit, but told that cake was appreciated. I put out a call to Redland Park members and, of course, they came up trumps with nine different people providing cakes and biscuits, sometimes twice, and also warm clothes.

All of the guests have life stories to tell; two young Hungarian brothers came over for work, unfortunately had to self-isolate after being traced, and lost their jobs. (St Mungo’s was able to fund them to return home). Another guest is a former soldier who left the army to try to save his marriage, but failed, and has been on the street for a long time. Another is an Algerian Frenchman, brought up in an orphanage, who has lived in this country for several years and is very independent, but grateful for three months’ accommodation in the bitterly cold winter we have been having.

Having their own rooms and bathrooms, and three meals per day, guests have opportunities to save money to put down a deposit on a room, keep on working, secure benefits, or find a job, as well as staying healthy - tremendous gifts from local church communities.

Les Brentley;
It is only yesterday that I completed my last breakfast shift at the Night Shelter and I know already that I’m going to miss it! In fact, I did enquire about half way through phase 1, whether there were any spaces available in phase 2, but sadly they were all filled. Unfortunate for me, but a great tribute to all those people, in churches across Bristol, who have felt inspired to show God’s love amongst the homeless of Bristol.

Incredibly well-organised, and Covid-safe, the project has meant a great deal to the guests, who have felt very much cared for and valued.

The few guests I met throughout the 6 weeks (not all that many got up for breakfast!) were absolutely lovely. Some were shy, some very chatty, and it was a real privilege to get to know them over the weeks and to gain some insight into their lives on the streets. Very humbling that they wanted to share some of their story with us.

I have opted in to the befriending/mentor scheme, which will follow on from this year’s project, and I look forward to continuing the relationship with one of the guests.

The pandemic has demanded new organisation and we pay tribute to Amanda and Joseph, who have made it happen, and have coordinated it so well! A smaller target group and the opportunity of follow-up mentoring have added depth to this year’s Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter.

Our prayers need to focus on the social, psychological and physical needs of the 2021 guests and of those many homeless individuals still surviving on the streets, as well as the support model planning for Christian outreach in 2022.

Les Fry.
This time of the year (late February to early March) is always Fairtrade Fortnight and we usually try to encourage people into buying fair trade goods from small farmers and producers from the developing world, either from the Traidcraft stall in church or from your local supermarket, to try to balance out the unfair trade practices from large producers and rich countries.

Although the Traidcraft stall at church has been closed, like the church, since March 2020, a few stalwarts have been buying goods from the trolley (including Christmas cards and Easter Eggs!) and if you would like to do this, please see their website https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/ and I will order items for you free post and delivery. I also have a catalogue if you are not online.

Carol Fry

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**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – without the Traidcraft stall!**

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Carol Fry

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**FAIR TRADE QUIZ**

1. When was the first Fairtrade banana sold?
2. Which town was first in the world to achieve Fairtrade status?
3. The first fair trade label was called Max Havelaar, after a character from a novel written in the 19th century. From English folklore, who was the character of Max Havelaar similar to?
4. Fairtrade (one word) and fair trade (two words) mean two different things. True or false?
5. How many countries across the world are fair trade products sold in?
   A. 57  B. 98  C. 120
6. In what year did Traidcraft co-found the Fairtrade Foundation?
7. What is the name of the world’s only fair trade, organic palm oil?
   A. FairPalm  B. FairPlay  C. Fair&Square
8. What is the minimum total Fairtrade ingredients content required to receive the Fairtrade Foundation’s Fairtrade Mark?
9. Which of these products can not be Fairtrade-certified?
   A. Rubber  B. Coffee  C. Fish
10. Which Traidcraft product was the first to go 100% transparent?

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**SO, HOW DID YOU DO?**

10 points - Wow, impressive. You’re a fully-fledged fair trade genius.
7 - 9 points - Get you! You certainly know your stuff when it comes to all things fair trade.
4 - 6 points - Good effort, with a little bit of work you could be top of the class!
1 - 3 points - It’s the taking part that counts, right?
0 points - That’s a fair trade fail from us!
Keeping up with the vicar Pt 112 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 focusing 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.

And someone has finally won the prize I offered again last month. I won’t embarrass Linda by telling you who it was, and hopefully I might be able to deliver it before too long. Here’s another to keep you going: what links Psalms 16, 106, 107, 118 (twice!) and 136? Two of them come up this month, which might help. The prize is for suggesting a suitable response.

Recently I’ve been trying to get my head round where the Old Testament prophets fit chronologically. Wouldn’t it be easier if they just came in date order? And then I wondered about the order of what’s written in the gospels. Are they a sort of diary, or are events put in some sort of order to tell a narrative? Have a look at the gospel readings for March 7th and then Mark 11:15-19? Same event?

But John puts it right at the start of Jesus’ ministry, and Mark has it almost at the end. And in John’s account, Jesus has a lot more to say about the true Temple of God. Is John giving us a context for understanding the rest of his gospel?

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

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

Christian Aid is 75 years old. The conference was held online this year.

The launch event was a speech from John Matua CEO of Anglican Development Provision Services in Kenya. Their work is to transform communities to enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods. He spoke of how Climate Change is creating arid and semi-arid land particularly in the north of Kenya. Rains are unreliable and erratic. This means Mother and children are having to walk up to 10kms to collect water. This organisation works with the local communities to design projects based on their needs. They help them build Sand and Earth dams, roof catchment systems and restore wells. Training is provided to establish Tree nurseries, in soil conservation, manure application, and biological pest control. Support is given to provide Solar energy and drought tolerant seeds. Of course the situation has been made worse by Covid19, with shortage of water for hand washing and a limited health service and recently there has been the Locust invasion.

It was good to hear how Christian Aid funding is supporting those who are suffering most from Climate Change and who have done the least to cause it.

Two of the sessions were about Faith and Activism.

So how do we stand with our sisters and brothers in the struggle against extreme poverty? One way is with prayer both private and public that can be an act of solidarity and change. This year is crucial in the struggle for climate justice. To rise to the challenge, we must underpin it in prayer. Christian Aid have a Prayer Chain that they are asking Churches to sign up to.

As the UK prepares to host the G7 this summer and the UN climate talks (COP26) in November, how can our church help in the push for ambitious outcomes that promote justice?

I would like to suggest that we sign up for a weekly slot on the Prayer Chain. Would you be prepared to join this?

Also I would hope that we could form a group to look into what other actions we can take as a Church.

If you are interested in one or both of these please email me myraejones@btinternet.com or phone

If you haven’t heard David Attenborough speech to the Security Council of the UN this last week I recommend listening to it on You Tube. He leaves those in power and US with no doubt that this is our last chance to try and prevent colossal damage to our civilization and the rest of the Natural world.

As Christians it is our DUTY to do our utmost to protect God’s Creation and our brothers and sisters.

Myra Jones
Deadline for contributions for the April recorder is 26th March.

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg
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or by post to The Recorder at the Church address at the bottom of this page

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