

Deadline for contributions for the November *Recorder* is **15th November**.

Please send your contributions to the editor, Angus Gregson
email: angus.gregson@btinternet.com
or by post to the *Recorder* at the Church address at the bottom of this page.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition and have *already* contributed to the next.

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The *Recorder* is the monthly magazine of
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The Recorder

November '24

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



Vestry Vibes by Dougie Burnett

Dear friends,

It is Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day this month on Sunday 10th and Monday 11th. There will be a Remembrance Sunday service at Redland Park on the 10th and a Remembrance Day service across the road at the war memorial on the 11th itself. That will be ecumenical and shall also include the local schools. We hope that you might join us for either or for both.



One of the stories that I grew up with about the war, I learned from my Mum. In August 1940 she, her mum and her two younger brothers had been evacuated out of Britain, taking them to the safety of Canada. They were travelling between Liverpool and Nova Scotia as part of a convoy. A few days out, and then their Royal Navy escorts had gone, they were subject to a torpedo attack. Some other ships went down. Their ship was hit, but thankfully the torpedo was a dud and did not go off. Though Mum does remember all the passengers being by the lifeboats and with their lifejackets just in case.

That was the Friday. On the Sunday they decided to have a service of worship in the ship's lounge. The service was led that day by a certain Eric Liddell, of *Chariots of Fire* fame. He had been on the ship as he was returning to his missionary work in China, accompanied by his family.

The way Mum tells the story there was a curious mixture of faith and emotions present in that service that day. They had seen other ships go down, and the grieved and mourned that loss of life. It had been traumatic. They were thankful that they had survived. They were hopeful that now they would reach Halifax in Nova Scotia and thus safety. But they were still on that journey across the Atlantic.

Maybe that curious mix of emotions is also somewhat there in every service or day of Remembrance. In the 80s when I was an ordinand, some of us wondered whether the whole Remembrance Day observance might

Keeping up with the vicar, part 149

Here are the lectionary readings for November. November sees us finish our focus on Mark's gospel (until Advent 2027). Jesus is in Jerusalem and there's some important teaching in the Temple courts. The last couple of weeks in the month suggest it won't be an easy ride but the hope we find in the Hebrews' readings should give us confidence to hold fast in our faith.

As we end our year of particularly focusing on Mark's gospel, Jesus' authority is brought into sharp focus as he shows what a life devoted to God and serving others really looks like, compared with the example from the powers in the Temple who really should know better, and the readings from Hebrews are a similar critique of the Temple. And a brief, 2 week résumé of the story of Ruth shows us love in action - Ruth's for Naomi, Boaz's for Ruth.

The 24th is the last Sunday before Advent, often labelled as "Christ the King" Sunday. And we do have images of Kingship, but starkly contrasting ones. We have a passage from the prophet Daniel – his vision of the Son of Man coming. A very different image appears in John's gospel as Pilate quizzes Jesus, shortly before having him beaten and sent for crucifixion. And in Revelation we have a picture of Jesus as the eternal king. Which picture does Psalm 93 most tie in with? Certainly none of them picture an 'ickle baby in a warmly glowing crib. Maybe it's worth holding all these images in our minds in the run up to Christmas. How does each of them help us to prepare for Christ's coming to Earth?

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
Nov 3 rd	Ruth 1:1-18	146	Mk 12:28-34	Hebrews 9:11-14
10 th	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	127	Mk 12:38-44	Hebrews 9:24-28
17 th	1Sam 1:4-20	1Sam 2:1-105	Mk 13:1-8	Heb 10:11-14, 19-25
24 th	Daniel 7:9-10,13-14	93	John 18:33-37	Revelation 1:4b-8

Update from Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is RP's Cfl focus country.

Political instability is an ongoing concern in Zimbabwe. Most Zimbabweans face socio-economic crises and every year. Millions rely on food aid. Drought, floods and erratic rainfall patterns are costly. Ruined infrastructure and a broken economy means many cannot grow enough food.



Church partners focus on food security, nutrition, HIV, health and gender equality.

Zimbabwe continues to battle a climate crisis, with drought causing emergency food insecurity for thousands of citizens this year.

The Christian Aid team has worked with communities to build capacity and enhance resilience methods for planting to ensure a good crop yield.

There has been an emphasis on advocating for debt relief as Zimbabwe faces international financial pressure. Additionally, efforts to promote gender inclusion and advocate for good governance have continued, with a focus on empowering faith leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue and advocate for their rights.

Vhaina is a single mother of six who has been trained as a sesame seed farmer by our partners, Sustainable Agriculture.

Technology (SAT). Zimbabwe has been facing a severe drought, and SAT has been working with over 3,800 farmers to develop weather-resilient crops and create infrastructure to support e-commerce, enabling financial freedom and improving livelihoods. Thanks to this support, Vhaina now has more opportunities and can better provide for her family.

Commitment
for Life

just fade away. Subsequent events and losses clearly indicate that it will always be part of what we should do. But for us all, that presence of God is the transformative element. For my Mum, my Gran and my two uncles in mid-Atlantic that day, their faith was that particular element that kept them hoping, even while they still feared what happened below the waves.

I'm never quite sure how many who attend the Apsley Road service actually have a faith. They may have none. But I think that they are content that the churches lead that act of worship. Maybe it still says something important.

Dougie

Pause for thought

As I type this (20th October) the death toll in Gaza from Israeli strikes since 7th October last year is 43 362 which is just over 2.0 % of the population. This includes an estimated more than 16 765 children.

The equivalent percentage, if this had happened in the UK, is a death toll of about 1.34 **million** including 540 000 children. What would we do if something caused this loss of life in the UK?

Pray for Climate Justice

Christian Aid have produced a brief pack to help guide our prayers for climate justice. It can be downloaded from:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-library>

Here's one of the prayers, a prayer for collective action.

Creator God, you created a world of community, richness, and love. But human greed has brought separation, destruction, and injustice. So, we pray for the opportunities and boldness to act together with others, to break down the barriers of our selfish desires.

We pray our collective actions will be driven by wisdom and love, so that we your church will be agents for justice, as we seek a world fruitful for all of creation. In Jesus' name, Amen



Worship details

... at Redland Park

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

November 3rd Rev Dougie Burnett, including Communion
10th Rev Dougie Burnett, Remembrance Sunday
17th Rev Dougie Burnett
24th Rev Helena McKinnon

Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

Sunday evening worship at 7 p.m. via Zoom

November 10th & 24th

Worship on 10th will be Taizé style worship in the church and hopefully on Zoom at the same time.

Zoom log in: 815 4053 7777 passcode 087103

Cell groups – both via Zoom

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

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

... and at New Brunswick

November 3rd Angus Gregson
10th Wendy Magee, Remembrance Sunday,
so worship will begin at **10.50 a.m.**
17th Brenda Isherwood
24th Rev Dougie Burnett - includes
the induction of Elders



- 200 doughnuts shared with passing Wednesday afternoon University students;
- The emergence of an after school church youth group;
- Three coffee mornings and a Bring and Share lunch;
- The opening of a welcoming and much refreshed front vestibule.

These activities are being mirrored in October, with further organ performances and wider input through our Highbury and Broad Plain projects, and further supportive work to the Scouts as well as additional outreach into St John's Primary School. Then in November, we will choose our 2025 Charity, open up the Warmshare provision and contribute each week to the Bristol Churches' Winter Night Shelter, as well as preparing for all the joys of our church Christmas.

The context is a hard one - the power of the secular world continues to grow, the impact of global warming threatens us all, the poverty of marginalised and displaced people challenges us and the violence of a war-torn world continues to shock us. God calls us to witness in this world, here and now.

Please review prayerfully our church life and work, and help us all to share God's love, both in word and in action and so ensure that Redland Park URC really does address the needs of the current generation.

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips for November

Green your home. Combat climate change and reduce heating costs by identifying and sealing drafts around your home. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, cracks around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards, etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials and online tutorials.

Additionally, place foil or radiator panels to reflect heat into your room. And pray for those who might be experiencing the cold this winter.

URC Church Life Review *from Les Fry*

At the RP November Church Meeting, we will be discussing the URC Church Life Review as expressed in a lively collection of articles in the September edition of *Reform*. To open the discussion, the following quote caught my imagination;

We can say all the right things, and throw money at the problem of dying churches, but if our hearts are more concerned with our own religious observances than the needs of the current generation, we will not change and our churches will not change, they will simply cease to exist.

Chrissie Chevasutt, *Reform* September 2024 p.31)

We would all love our Sunday morning congregations at Redland Park to be bigger, and yet our numbers are relatively static, despite some terrific new additions - will we cease to exist?

What are we doing to “be real” to the large Whiteladies Road footfall? In what ways are we witnessing with all our heart, soul, mind and strength to our God and loving our neighbour as ourself?

Based on our numbers alone, we have no grounds for complacency, BUT we are witnessing through formal and informal worship, we do care for each other within the congregation. The formality of Elders Meetings, Church Meetings and Finance and Property meetings provides a rigorous management system, that contributes to our church survival, but which does not attract others in; neither does an extensive lettings programme.

Let’s start by celebrating our current outreach, and then consider what we can do better or differently. September has been lively;

- A lively Christian Aid Saturday morning Book Sale, complete with live music;
- An international Harvest Festival reflecting our strong links with the Korean and Zimbabwean congregations, sharing an inspiring conservationist input;
- Another well-supported Organ Treat;
- Encouragement from our Climate Change Group to actively measure our carbon footprint;

Other dates...

... at Redland Park

- | | | | |
|----------|-----|------------------|---|
| November | Wed | 6 th | Organ meeting, 9.30 a.m. |
| | Wed | 6 th | Elders’ meeting, 7.30 p.m. |
| | Thu | 7 th | Junior Church meeting, 8 p.m. |
| | Fri | 15 th | Tear Fund Big Quiz - this will be on Zoom (so no need to come out in the fog and rain) using the usual RP log in details - see opposite under Sunday morning worship details. |
| | Sun | 17 th | Church meeting, 12 p.m. after morning worship |
| | Sat | 23 rd | Organ Treat with Trevor Fowler. Cake at 10.30 a.m. with organ playing at 11.00 for about 45 minutes. |

... at New Brunswick

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|----------|-----|------------------|--|
| November | Sun | 3 rd | Joint Churches Celebration Service at New Brunswick at 3 p.m. and will be followed by refreshments and social time. |
| | Tue | 12 th | Joint churches prayer meeting at St Stephens at 7.30 p.m. This is not the usual first Tuesday in the month as that would be Bonfire Night. |
| | Fri | 15 th | Tear Fund Big Quiz - this will be on Zoom (so no need to come out in the fog and rain) using the usual RP log in details - see opposite under RP Sunday morning worship details. |
| | Fri | 22 nd | Southmead Quiz at 7 p.m. |
| | Mon | 25 th | Praise, Prayer and Bible Study at 7.30 p.m. More about Ephesians, 5:1-20, plus tea and cake. |
| | Sat | 30 th | Craft and Pre-loved fair from 12 - 3 p.m. at the Greenway Centre. |

People news

from Redland Park...

from Carol Fry

Ron Lyle and **Martyn Steel** will be inducted to the Elders Board by transfer, at the November communion service, to support the Elders Board in all it does. We pray for their future service.

We think of all our members who have been suffering from poor health recently and we send them our best wishes. **Peter and Anna Ambrose** both need our prayers. **Audrey Bryant** and **Margaret Prigg** are cared for in Avenue House, **Terry King** is at home – and we remember them all.

Michael Kearley is finally home again after some toing and froing from hospital, and operations, but we hope he is now on the mend and we send him prayers and best wishes.

David and Viv Hayden both need our prayers especially as David had a bad fall recently but still manages to come to church!

Welcome back to **Myra and Derek Jones** after their travels around Europe, all by train.

Welcome to our new members, **Joojin and Jayu, Minjae and Mintae**, who all came into membership on Sunday 6 October; we look forward to their support and to supporting them with our prayers.

from New Brunswick...

from Brenda Drake

It has been good to see **Mary** back worshipping with us after so long. Always a joy to see her happy smiling face when she enters the church. Mary is only able to be with us because of the kindness of Kate who collects her each week. This is very much appreciated by Mary.

We continue to think of **Jen S** who still remains in BRI. During the past month she has had some distressing news regarding her accommodation and would very much appreciate our prayers. Praying that God will use this latest event to enable Jen to obtain a more suitable accommodation.

Many of our folk have received their Covid / Flu jabs most have had no adverse reaction. But unfortunately some did experience some reaction and have felt quite unwell. We pray that these reactions will soon pass and in the coming months they will feel the benefit of their injections.

Know Your Elder

Andrew Hayden at Redland Park

Where did you grow up?

Bristol – born and bred!

A memory from your youth?

Connect '87 was held in Derbyshire, a gathering of young people from URC's around the country. It was held over a weekend and I loved it – such energy and vibrancy, all from people of roughly my own age but a multitude of backgrounds, worshipping, praying and playing together. As one brought up in the church, it's about as close as I'm likely to get to a 'Damascus Road' experience.

What brought you to Bristol?

Mum & Dad!

Who/what led you to faith in Christ?

Many factors, most notably my parents, Connect '87 (see above) and Cyril Grant. I also thank all of RP's Sunday School / Junior Church leaders who taught me, some of whom are still at RP today (including the Recorder's editor).

Why did you start worshipping at RP?

I had little choice – I first attended when only a few days old!

Something particularly good about living in Bristol?

I love the diversity of the population and 'small' feel despite the city's size.

Something I don't like about Bristol?

The lack of a large arena for concerts, although that's finally being addressed.

Something you really value about RP?

The openness and friendliness of the people.



Taizé style worship Sunday, 10th November at 7 p.m. *Les Brentley*

Our 7 o'clock worship will take place on Remembrance Sunday in Redland Park Church. We also hope to stream the service via Zoom.

Taizé worship offers a reflective space, involving sung chants, brief readings and some led prayers. Between these elements there are silences, allowing us time for personal reflection and prayers. Time to connect with God in our own way.

I do hope you will feel able to join us, whether or not you have experienced this style of worship before.



Tear Fund's Big Quiz Night

In the last 7 years churches, including RP & NB, have raised over a million pounds for **Tear Fund** via their quizzes.

It's a bit of a laugh, with a big mix of questions. You don't need to know loads, but you'll certainly be able to learn a bit more about the amazing work that Tear Fund is enabled to do by your gifts.

It'll be on Zoom so you don't even need to leave the comfort of your home. We'll be using the same log in details as RP's morning worship. Why not invite some friends round to join your team. Who knows what vital answers they will be able to provide?

There's no entry price but please give what you can to our Tear Fund quiz JustGiving page at

www.justgiving.com/page/rp-nb-tfbqn2024

See you on **Friday 15th November 7.30 p.m.**

I know the *Recorder* is read by people beyond our two churches. If you, your friends, your entire church would like to join in on the evening too, you'd be very welcome.



We continue to think of **Wenda** and **Margaret** who were pleased to receive a small gift from our Harvest Thanksgiving. Margaret has now decided to move into Trymview Hall. She has had a couple of falls and her eyesight is not good, making it difficult for her to live on her own. We pray that God will help her to settle in her new home and she'll be happy there.

Robin W was also pleased to receive a Harvest Gift. He is finding life a little trying at the moment and is waiting to attend Southmead Hospital for tests.

May all the folk mentioned be assured of our continued prayers and support. May God in His compassion look on each as their need requires.

CELEBRATIONS!

Many of our folk will be celebrating this month.

Nov 1st Natalie, 4th Zac, 5th Liz, 19th our friend Les F, 27th Mary.

We wish everyone a very happy day and pray that God will richly bless you in the coming year. There may be others who have something to celebrate during the coming month and we wish you a very happy day and for everyone God's richest blessings.

What's been happening?

at New Brunswick...

from Brenda Drake

Harvest Thanksgiving

We held our Harvest Thanksgiving back in September and what a time of celebration this was? It was good to have friends from the Bristol Korean Church join us along with their Minister Yohan. To see the church so full of folk all praising God for His bountiful goodness to us was amazing. It was good to share after the service in some light refreshments and Fellowship. We pray that this might be something that could be repeated in the coming year.

As always New Brunswick folk were very generous in their giving. This year we supported the Julian Trust and although it was a little different to other years (no fresh produce). Socks, sleeping bags, T shirts were among the requests for donations, as well as tinned food items. The gifts were well received and will help many homeless men who attend the night shelter. Thank you to all who gave so generously. May you all know God's Blessings.

Girls' Brigade

Some of you will be aware that since Covid our numbers in Girls' Brigade have been just one girl of 17! Week by week she would come along and we would share together. Craft, cooking, table games were enjoyed by us all. During this time every effort was made to try and recruit new members! Posters in local notice boards, handing out flyers at the local Craft Fair. Local churches, too, were eager to help with posters, flyers and of course by upholding the situation to God in prayer. And then in the last month we had a text from our one girl who said that sadly because of the pressure of college and her part time job she no longer felt able to attend Girls' Brigade on a Wednesday evening. But she thanked us for the past 11 years and for helping her to build in confidence and wished us well for the future.

Was this the end of the Girls' Brigade in New Brunswick after almost 75 years!! NO! Leaflets had been handed out at an event during August at St Stephens and we had some phone calls asking for more information and also a referral from the Girls Brigade Head Office. To cut a long story short in the last three weeks we have had six girls come along on Wednesday evenings, ranging from 4 yrs to 13 yrs. We are encouraged that the parents are very eager for these girls to come along. It is also a blessing to us that these girls already attend other churches in the area.

For me this just proves that God hears our prayers but answers them in His time. Our faithfulness has been rewarded and yet again He has blessed us in this way. We pray in the coming weeks and months that these young girls will come to learn to 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ' (The Girls' Brigade Motto). To God be the Glory Great things He has done!!

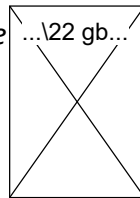
Key points from the RP September Church Meeting

There was unanimous sympathy for everybody who loved, worshipped and worked with Janet Lockyer, whose funeral would be on Sept. 25th.

Dougie celebrated some fresh beginnings - the new members of Redland Park - Mintae, Minjae, Joojin and Jayu, and a new Moderator for the South West Province - Rev David Downing.

There was also enthusiasm for September outreach to the University Students, to Whiteladies Road through the booksale, an evening meeting

from Brenda Drake



for our adolescents and an international Harvest Festival. Gratitude was expressed to the Organ Group for the continuing quality of the monthly Saturday Organ Treats. As always for all these events, more volunteers will further enhance our success.

The meeting fully endorsed a bid to Synod to support our recent purchase of a battery to supplement our solar panels and a request for the annual ring-fencing of £2500 per year towards the purchase of our next boiler.

Reports about the lease negotiations with the Scouts about Hurle Road, with Broad Plain about the departure from the current Riverside premises and the sale of the Knowle West social club reflected the on-going outreach into the wider city.

Full minutes of this meeting were e-mailed out on 24th September, highlighting that the next meeting will take place on **17th November** and will include a discussion on the URC Church Life Review.

What's coming up?

at Redland Park:

The **Bristol Churches Winter Shelter** begins on

1st November, and several Redland Parkers support this when we provide and serve Wednesday lunch. If

you would like to make sandwiches or bake a cake, or donate for the fruit, drinks and crisps that are also provided, please let Les or Carol know.

If anyone would be willing to volunteer over the Christmas period, please let us know that too, as the shelter does have spaces to fill.



Coffee morning

from Suzy Sims

I am having a coffee morning at Cheriton, 117, Eastfield Rd, BS9 4AN

on **Monday, November 11th**, from 10 a.m. to 12 midday in aid of Friends of Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre. £5 coffee and cake. Bring and Buy, edible goods only please. There will be a raffle and Christmas cards will also be on Sale. All are welcome.....

BHOC does wonderful work curing many cancers but also prescribing treatment giving precious time when incurable, life limiting forms of cancer are diagnosed, as was sadly the case for Andrew.