

— ESTD 1901 —

# The Recorder

September '22

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



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

# New Brunswick Update

## Preachers for 11 am Services

September

4th Rev. Helena Mckinnon

11th Rev. Douglas Burnett (Will include Communion)

18th Astrid Molyneux (Leprosy Mission)

25th Angus Gregson

October

2nd To be Advised

9th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday September 6th is the monthly Joint Churches Pray meeting at 7.30pm hosted this month at New Brunswick. All are welcome.

Thursday September 8th. Church meeting at 7.30pm

Saturday September 10th we are holding a church clean. If you can help for just an hour that would be helpful. There will be someone at the church from 10am.

Saturday 24th September at the Greenway Centre there will be a Craft Fair from 12-3pm entry free.

Friday 30th September at New Brunswick at 7pm we are hoping to restart the 'Southmead monthly Quiz' Listen out for further information.

Advanced notice that Sunday 16th October will be our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Again further details in the coming weeks. But pop the date on your diary. Our good friend Les Fry will be leading our service.

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We send warm congratulations to **Diesel, Katie and Zac** on their wonderful exam results. We wish them every success as they move on with their education. WELL DONE!! All of you.

What a joy it was to see **Elizabeth** in church a couple of Sundays ago. After a period in hospital and then in rehab she is pleased to be back at home. Thank you Elizabeth for reminding us about the power of prayer and God's goodness to us all. We give Him the Praise and the Glory for your wonderful recovery.

We send our best wishes to **Robin** who has been in hospital for an operation and pray for his recovery.

Since the last edition of the Recorder we have been saddened by the passing of **Ivy Pickett** on 10th July and Carol's brother-in-law on 31st July. We pray for God's comfort for all those who are mourning at this time. May they feel His presence near.

At this time we uphold to God our friends at the **Pentecostal Church** and especially **Kathy** who has had a spell in hospital undergoing tests. Although she is now back home she has to rest and cut back on her 'workload'. We ask for God's healing for Kathy and understanding and support for the congregation.

We remember those who are celebrating this month. **Carol and David** celebrate their Wedding Anniversary on 20th September and **Angie** has a birthday on 27th. May you all enjoy your 'Special Days' may they be days full of God's richest Blessings..

United Reformed Church

Commitment for Life

Sept/Oct 2022

## MOVING STORIES

Commitment  
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Committed to supporting | our global partners | **ZIMBABWE**

### Reflection on Jubilee

In October, the United Reformed Church celebrates its Jubilee year – 50 years since it came into being in 1972.

Jubilee came into being with the rise of the early City-State empires in ancient Mesopotamia. Their recently discovered debt-based credit system made shifting wealth from freshly conquered territories hugely efficient. But it came with problems. Ordinary people fell into debt way too easily, and the system gave rise of a class of oligarchs, whose newly acquired wealth and influence threatened the power of the kings. To cope with this threat, the kings used to declare a regular 'amarga' (lit. 'return to the mother') or Jubilee that reunited heavily indebted peasants to their lands and families.

It's worth noting that Jubilee was originally implemented to protect the hierarchical system of Empire rather than as a redistributive mechanism. Jubilee was picked up in ancient Israel as a means of protecting the people against this debt system, but soon the powerful found ways of subverting Jubilee – and here we are today.

It may well be time for us to leave behind debt as a basis for our economy, given how destructive it is – as Jesus fully understood...

### Prayer for Jubilee

God of Abundance, help us find alternatives to debt. Give us the wisdom, means, courage to forgive debt, thereby subverting empire's economics for the sake of your kingdom..

We pray for Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Israel and Palestine; all are caught up in a web of debt that suffocates everyone, even the planet.

Amen.

## THE ZIMBABWEAN DEBT CRISIS

**Debt is strangling the poorest people in Zimbabwe, and in any sane world would immediately be cancelled.**

In 2019 Zimbabwean total debt stood at US\$17.69 billion with US\$7.7 billion of that being external debt. Only 25% is the principal amount, with the rest being interest accrued because of utterly insane, indeed immoral, interest rates. The global north, we note, is the primary beneficiary of a radically unjust, global financial and economic architecture.

The system beggars belief. Take the British foreign aid budget. The majority goes not to poor people but to a colonial-era investment firm called CDC that invests in luxury hotels, malls, and restaurant chains. In the end, only 3% of this aid goes to suppliers in the global south, with over 90% being paid to British firms. "This is the real scandal," says economist Jason Hickel. "Aid money is taken from the pockets of British taxpayers and sent straight into the already-gilded coffers of the British business elite. It's a shameful abuse of our most compassionate impulse," he concludes.

Together with Global Justice Now, Commitment for Life works to cancel the debt of the highly exploited nations like Zimbabwe. Thank you for all you do to bring about justice in our world through effective debt cancellation.



Photo – Towfiq Barbhuiya - UnSplash

[commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk](mailto:commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk)

[www.bit.ly/URCEL](http://www.bit.ly/URCEL)



Congratulations to **Emma and James Hollands** on the birth of a baby last month; We don't know the name as yet but wish them all well.

**Allan and Meera Lafferty, together with Aditi and Alexander**, have now moved to Motherwell, near Glasgow, where Meera has a new job (she is a geriatrician) in order for Allan to undergo training for the ministry (Church of Scotland). We send them all our prayers and hope all goes well with the move and new changes in life. Allan has led or helped to lead several services in Redland Park and New Brunswick and we will miss this ministry.

We have missed **Teblez and Teama Mebrahtu** for some time; they were with their daughter **Zeb** and looking after their grand-daughter while Zeb had minor surgery. This has been more serious than expected so they have been away from home longer than planned; we look forward to their return and to Zeb's return to good health.

**Truida Mutare** has now moved to Exmouth but will be attending Redland Park as often as she can; we wish her well. We also send our good wishes to **Sarah Trigg** who is about to move to Newport; we do hope she is happy there but look forward to seeing her in Redland Park.

We continue our prayers for **Andrew Sims** and his family, and **Jane Beazer** and hers, hoping their treatment will be successful. Jane has a new treatment regime which we hope will improve things.

We prayed for **Janet Stables'** younger son, **David**, prior to his operation in July and we are glad to know this has made a big difference to him and his health.

We also pray for **Jean**, whose health is failing prematurely, that she may know the loving arms of God around her at this difficult time.

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. We pray especially for Ukraine at present, and for Russia that their leader develops some humanity; we pray also for Eritrea, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan at this time.

We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, especially those areas suffering from the effects of Climate Change bringing drought and famine to countries in Africa and floods to Pakistan.

## Prayer page:

Loving God,  
Open our eyes to see the messenger.  
Open our ears to hear your words.  
Open our hearts to love as you love, without prejudice, bitterness, pride or expectation;  
Simply loving as Christ loves, welcoming all, caring for all.  
Sharing with all the bread of life;  
Touched by angels, touching angels,  
Living life in all its fullness,  
Eager and ready for the unexpected,  
Sent in the name of Christ.

May we see others as Jesus did, with eyes of compassion.  
May we listen as Jesus did, to the cries of the broken hearts and a broken world.  
May we reach out to others, as Jesus did, with healing and hope.  
May we serve others as Jesus did, with no strings attached.  
May we break bread with others, as Jesus did that the hungry may be fed.  
Amen



# Church Charities

For two years, our church charities have been Toilet Twinning (overseas) and Car-ing in Bristol (local).

We put forward three new overseas charities for voting, as well as three local ones:

Sat7 - support the Christians of the Middle East and North Africa in their Chris-tian witness and lives.

The Vine Trust - an international development charity which enables volunteers to provide medical, home-building and care support to communities living in severe poverty in Tanzania and Peru.

Commitment for Life (through the URC) - Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the URC.

Changing Tunes – people with lived experience of the criminal justice system can experience the life-enhancing benefits of music-making, especially its power to help them lead crime-free lives that are meaningful and creative.

St Peter's Hospice - this is a local charity that provides care and support to adults who are living with a progressive life-limiting illness in the Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset area.

North Bristol Food Bank - Our foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust's network of 428 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our local communi-ties, as well as across the UK.

The voting was as follows:

C4L = 5; The Vine Trust = 12; SAT7 = 3; so the Vine Trust is our overseas charity for 2022-2024.

Changing tunes = 6; St Peter's Hospice = 4; N Bristol Food Bank = 10; so the Food Bank is our local charity for 2022-2024, and we look forward to supporting these two worthy charities.

The first event of this summer was a garden party lunch attended by nearly 40 adults and children in the beautiful garden of Jane and Richard Pedlar; the sun shone, the food supplied by members of Church in Society and others was deli-cious, and £165 was raised for the two new charities.

Carol Fry

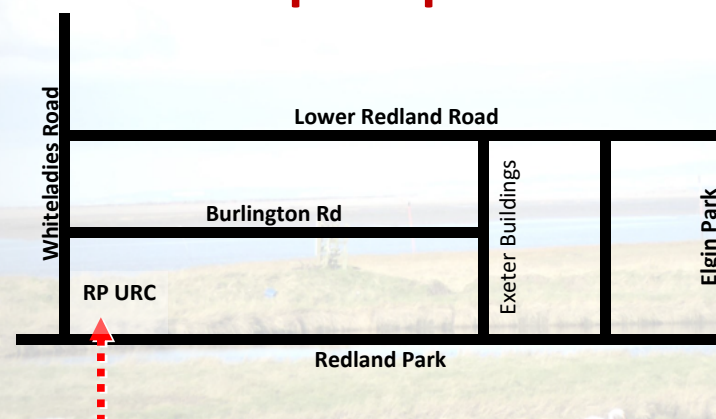
You are warmly invited to join Redland Park Church  
and the local community in the

## BIG GREEN WEEK

## LITTER PICK

### Saturday 24 Sept. 2022

### 2pm-4pm



**Meet at RP URC garden at 2pm**  
Litter bags and pickers will be provided

## Help us care for our environment.



# WINTERSHALL

WINTERSHALL - England's answer to Oberammergau?

Three years ago, when Les was working at the night shelter at Horfield Methodist Church, he heard about this open-air performance of 'The Life of Christ.' We booked for 2020 which turned out to be the year that never was, so this was delayed to 2021, then 2022, and we finally managed to experience this in June.

Wintershall is actually a country estate about eight miles from Guildford in a village called Bramley, so we stayed overnight in a local hotel, saving us a three hour drive in rush hour traffic on the Wednesday morning. The performances are repeated over several days and began in a small way in a barn in 1989, but now have a cast of hundreds of people, mostly locals, plus sheep, donkeys, horses and doves, and there are thousands in the audience, including many school parties, who sit on the grass or camp chairs and move around with the three acts over the day. The photograph is from the scene of Jesus' baptism by John.

The actual performance was amazing and very emotional; you know all the words, the actions and the characters, but the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is really brought home to you in a moving way and I really recommend it. [www.wintershall.org.uk](http://www.wintershall.org.uk)

Carol Fry



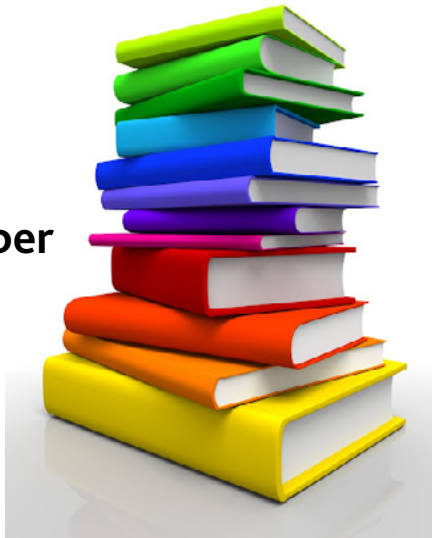
## CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

On a lovely summer Sunday at the end of July, in the beautiful garden of Jane and Richard Pedlar, nearly 40 of us gathered for a garden party lunch after church in aid of our new church charities. Members of the Church in Society group provided food and everyone brought chairs or blankets. Jane and Richard provided quiches and drinks, and there were plates of meat, cheeses and dips, salads of all sorts, crisps and snacks, followed by strawberries. It was a wonderful time to enjoy the company and the weather, with swings and games for children, plus the hens and bees to enjoy. £165 was raised for The Vine Trust and the North Bristol Food Bank.



REDLAND PARK  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
BOOK SALE

Saturday 24 September  
11.00-1.00



## Climate Justice - Energy

This September issue, it's my turn to write about what we can do to save on energy. This is very much the topic of the moment as home energy prices look set to rocket given the war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis due to gas shortages. If, like me, you have a gas boiler, you'll be thinking hard of ways to reduce your consumption. And this will have the added benefit of reducing one's carbon footprint, a win-win all round.

Firstly, it's important that you have a handle on what energy you actually use, not in money terms but in kWh terms. Look back over

past years' statements, (then you can compare any savings you make year on year).

Before 2017, my annual gas usage was about 20,000kWh, and electricity 2000kWh. Now my estimated annual gas usage is 12,000kWh and electricity 1447kWh. How have I managed to achieve these savings?

I had 6 solar panels fitted in 2010. My panels generate about 1400 kWh per year. So at my present electricity consumption, I generate about half my electricity needs by solar energy. Based on my own experience of trying to save on energy heating and cooking costs, I offer the following tips:

**1. Insulate as much as you can and install up-to-date equipment.** I installed a new kitchen 2018, and part of that work involved knocking the kitchen and dining room into one. As a bigger room, I expected the room to be colder than before, (it had been always quite cold in winter) but due to the new thermostat and temperature control fitted on the boiler, a new properly insulated floor, and two new radiators replacing older ones but of the same size, this room is now the warmest in the house.

Furthermore my gas usage went down to 18000kWh per annum, a saving of 10%. The boiler control is now split, so that water and heating are controlled separately. Before, to have hot water in the summer, I used to have to

**2. Install modern energy efficient appliances.** By far the biggest saving has been through the installation of a new A-rated gas boiler. In my case it is a condensing boiler which heats the central heating and the hot water tank. It replaced a 20 year-old gas boiler which I was told in each annual inspection not to replace as it would go on for years and years. Yes, but it also generated lots of CO<sub>2</sub> as well. My annual gas bill is now projected to be 12000kWh, a 33% saving on the 18000kWh I was using installation.

**3. Fit solar panels if you have a south facing sloping roof.** Expensive but they will pay for themselves in time, (usually around 10 years). My 6 solar panels were fitted 11 years ago, and are estimated to have a life of 25 years. I was lucky to be part of the FiT payment scheme, which means that the payments I received for generating 1400kWh per year paid for the initial outlay of the panels in about 11 years. But that is not taking into account the saving I made on my own personal electricity use from the grid over that time, estimated to be about 700 kWh from my panels per year. Fit payment schemes are no longer available, but fitting solar panels is cheaper than it was then and still very much a great option for those who have an good roof area. I run electric items, such as the washing machine and dishwasher, during the day and if possible, when the sun is shining.

### What further savings can I make?

1. Heat pump. I have looked into replacing my gas boiler by a totally carbon-neutral heat pump, but that is only worthwhile if your house is well insulated. This will be the case for modern houses. Houses with cavity walls can be relatively easily insulated by inserting foam-insulation into the cavity.

2. Insulation. Those houses like mine - 1930s and before - have solid walls. They either have to be retrofitted with exterior or interior insulation. From initial investigations of exterior insulation, I have rejected this option so far for my house. This is partly due to cost and partly due to the fact I have pebble-dash rendering. So I will probably go down the route of interior insulation. I have used thermal liner on a couple of rooms, (special lining paper about 1 cm thick which can be over-painted to resemble plaster or papered over). It has made quite a difference to those rooms. So next in line will be my hallway and landing.

2a Insulation through Double Glazing This year, I have decided to replace all glazing at the house front, - 2 big bay windows, one small bedroom window and porch door and windows with double-glazing. These windows were secondary glazed but over the years it is clear that they are not insulating efficiently. They are the last windows in the house to be replaced. It is not cheap. But I am hoping that like the solar panels fitted all those years ago, the windows will pay for themselves in time. I am told it will make a huge difference to my energy consumption. I am hoping it will reduce my annual gas consumption to 10,000kWh or less.

What does all this mean in terms of Carbon emissions. A gas boiler burns about 216g/kWh so my 20,000kWh equates to 4.3tonnes Carbon emissions. A decrease to 10,000kWh means a saving of 2.15tonnes Carbon/per annum, which is significant. And that's just on my gas saving calculation. My solar panels generate 1400kWh per annum which will also add to Carbon emission savings. Eventually, from the money I save on fuel, I hope to be able to invest in further Carbon saving measures with the eventual goal of my home heating becoming completely carbon neutral. Long term, I will install an Air Source Heat Pump. There is an excellent podcast on Air Source Heat Pumps, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0016pvn?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile>, part of the Sliced Bread series, BBC radio 4, broadcast 28 April 2022. Questions about heat pumps and associated costs are addressed. With the cost of gas ever increasing, the case for fitting heat pumps is becoming much more affordable and competitive, definitely worth looking into.



# Keeping up with the vicar Pt 127 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for September and the first week of October. Jesus is on his final journey towards Jerusalem so it's time for key teaching that his disciples need to understand. It's a lot about what living as a disciple, living in faith, is really about. I'm writing this an hour or so before the deadline – Sarah-the-Editor is sooo patient – and I know that this morning's reading from Hebrews 13 was along the same lines. After two chapters (Heb11 & 12) explaining why faith is the key thing, the writer more or less says, "OK, so if you're going to live out this faith, what does it look like?" Perhaps it's no surprise that in the light of all that at the start of October's readings the disciples ask Jesus to "Increase our faith". Not a bad daily prayer for us all.

Jesus makes it clear that being a disciple means taking up your own cross, and that's a phrase oft misused in our conversations. "That's the cross I have to bear" is not about putting up with aches or pains or loss or disappointment. Taking up your cross as Jesus' disciple means a careful consideration of just what that extra challenge will mean, what the cost will be in time and commitment, and whether we really do want to go ahead with it. But we can, safe in the knowledge that he'll be there with us, every step of the way.

While Paul was in prison Timothy had been sent back to work with the fledgling church at Ephesus. Timothy was relatively young ("I knew your granny" – 1Tim1:5) but Paul trusted him with the responsibility to build the church. There's a lot of good guidance about leadership in the church in the first of these "pastoral" letters.

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.

| Sept       | Old Testament         | Psalm   | Gospel        | NT               |
|------------|-----------------------|---------|---------------|------------------|
| 4th        | Deuteronomy 30:15-20  | 1       | Luke 14:25-33 | Philemon 1-21    |
| 11th       | Exodus 32:7-14        | 51:1-10 | Luke 15:1-10  | 1Timothy 1:12-17 |
| 18th       | Amos 8:4-7            | 113     | Luke 16:1-13  | 1Timothy 2:1-7   |
| 25th       | Amos 6:1a, 4-7        | 146     | Luke 16:19-31 | 1Timothy 6:6-19  |
| <b>Oct</b> |                       |         |               |                  |
| 2nd        | Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 | 37:1-9  | Luke 17:5-10  | 2Timothy 1:1-14  |

# Redland Park Church Calendar

## Sunday services @ 10.30am. (At church and on line)

4th Rev Dougie Burnett. *(including Communion)*

11th Tuesday Evening Cell Group.

18th Rev Dougie Burnett.

25th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

## 7pm service.

11th and 25th

Zoom log in; 815 4053 7777; passcode 087103

## Elders Meeting.

7th at 7.30pm at church.

## Church Meeting.

18th at 11.50am at church.

## Church open for prayer.

Wednesdays between Midday and 2pm.

## Cell Groups.

Mondays, 8.15pm.

Zoom log in; 831 5113 5751; passcode 508239

Tuesdays, 7.30pm.

Zoom log in; 312 983 3387; passcode 795550



# Ivy Pickett - Eulogy

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Surely for all of us we have got favourite people to be around. People who bring some sparkle and joy to our lives. For all of here today, Ivy was one of those people. She had about her a wonderful spirit and a *Joi-de-vivre* that was infectious.

She was born here in Bristol in 1931, growing up on Lake Road, Southmead. Though family circumstance meant that she also spent some time in Barnardo's. Schooling was here in Bristol. Early working life included Maynard's on Whiteladies Road, and also the Post Office on Sea Mills. She cycled her bike everywhere.

She was married in 1952 and with that set of to see various parts of the world, with her husband being stationed in France, Cyprus, Singapore and also Egypt. With all of that one of her proud accomplishments was that she did drive a tank, though also confessed that she wouldn't want to try to do so there days!! But she was in the T.A., she was able to drive lorries, and was also a personal chauffeur for a Colonel Dolbany.

Marriage also meant the arrival of four children, two grandchildren and six great grandchildren, all of whom brought great delight to Ivy.

Ivy was a caring person with a real empathy for others and the ability to come alongside them. So it is that

she worked in Southmead hospital and then St. Monica Trust for many years. Even beyond retirement I know that she kept a real interest in what was happening at St. Monica Trust. Helena, my wife worked for many years for the trust as well, and Ivy would also mention St. Monica on the occasions when we met up at New Brunswick Church.

Ivy was warm and caring person. She was also a fun and somewhat mischievous person! Like, when it came to playing pass-the-parcel (often a feature of the New Brunswick church parties) Ivy might cheat ever so slightly by unwrapping the parcel when she had the parcel in her hand and before the music stopped! Well, we not?!

She was very socialable. She loved going up to The Mall at Cribbs with Jenny for a cup of tea. She loved going to church. She would always be there setting out the table for communion. There was the history group. There was the keep-fit group. There were many outings. Like the trips to the Memorial Arboretum with Gill. The outings to Woolacombe, where she insisted on walking and not using the wheelchair.

She moved from her house in Southmead in 2020 after many, many years there. She moved during Covid having been there for some 60 years. Giving up the house wasn't easy, but moving into Waltham House was a

good thing for her to do. She loved the care that she received there. That care included painted toe-nails and finger-nails. She loved the various parties. That included the Jubilee weekend just some weeks back, and you will be able to see the photographs later on at the church. All those photos wonderfully illustrate Ivy's life, spirit, her humour and her vitality. In many ways she was a traditional kind of person. She would always watch the Queen on Christmas Day. When it came to food it was rich tea biscuits and fish and chips. Even pepper on her fish and chips might be thought to be a bit too much. If she didn't want to hear what was being said to her there was her "selective hearing". But she was always open to what was going on in the world. She was always a Bristolian!

From all the conversations that Ivy and I had, I know that she had a deep faith and a true spirituality. She loved to hear the words of scripture. She loved to share in communion. Her service in church was very much expressive of all of that. It was only a couple of years ago when she was no longer able to get to church. But then various of us, Covid-restrictions allowing over the past couple of years, were able to go and visit her and take church to her. That was through visits of various of us, and being able to take in home communion.

So, all this we bring together and celebrate at this time. There is

always the sadness at the loss and the parting. But more than that, there is the firm belief in Christ that was the bedrock of Ivy's faith. There is that firm belief that death is not the end but a new beginning. For Ivy sickness and frailty are now behind her. For Ivy there is the fullness of God's Kingdom and the completion of her faith. We commend Ivy into God's care and we give thanks for her life. Amen.



**Deadline for contributions for the  
October Recorder is 25 September**

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