

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

September '21

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



New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

September

5th Angus Gregson

12th Rev. Douglas Burnett (Will include Communion)

19th Trevor Ranger

26th Rev Ruth Browning

October

3rd Representative from Leprosy Mission

(name to be confirmed)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th September, Southmead joint churches prayer meeting. This month the meeting will be held at New Brunswick URC at 7.30pm. There will be an opportunity to pray for the local area, Our concerns and challenges within our own fellowships.

We are pleased to hear that Julie's husband Pete is now back home after his 14 weeks in hospital/rehab. He continues to make slow progress.

In the last few weeks John has had a spell in hospital where he was treated for an infection. After several days of treatment he is now recovering at home. Where he has good and bad days.

After months of negative Covid tests , Gill was surprised when her latest test came back positive! This has meant that she has had to be isolated for 10 days. Despite testing positive she has had no symptoms and felt well throughout her isolation.

We uphold all these folk in our prayers. Praying that God will continue to grant healing as each has need,

There are others, too, in the fellowship who would value prayer Margaret,Wenda, Ivy, Dave and Angie. Each has different needs. Which are known to our loving God and we ask that He minister to each as their need requires.

We send best wishes to anyone celebrating a special date in September thinking especially of Carol and David who celebrate their Wedding Anniversary on 20th.

Redland Park People



We think of old friends such as **Margaret Donadel**, who has been unwell for some time and receiving medical care; we pray for healing. **Janet and Mal Owen** are in flats in Westbury Fields, and Mal has terminal cancer. They were able to come to church and see old friends on 29 August, and we pray for them both.

Unfortunately **Sheila Smart** has been in hospital for a while and her son is considering more support and care for her; we pray that she finds the right support and we send every blessing.

Congratulations to **Margaret Prigg** who celebrated her 97th birthday in August. All good wishes to her.

We pray for **Jane Beazer** who is undergoing a course of treatment and for **John Turner** as he recovers from an operation; we send every blessing for healing to them both.

We hope to see **Christine and Malcolm Johnson** soon but we pray for them in the meantime for good health.

We wish a speedy recovery to **Brian Day**, who has broken a couple of ribs in a fall, so we hope he feels better soon

We are glad to know that **Peter Lunt** has come home from his operation and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to the **Revd Bohyun Kim** pastor of the Bristol Korean Church, as he has been appointed General Secretary of the PCK (Presbyterian Church of Korea) with

effect from 23 August. This means that he and **Yoon Joo** will be returning to Korea for the foreseeable future. We wish him every blessing in his new role, and hope to see them both again, together with **Haen and Daniel**, some time in the future.

COP26 is being held in Glasgow later in the year; the Youth Christian Climate Network has young people walking from Cornwall to Glasgow, 750 miles to link the G7 meeting to COP26 and they came through Bristol from 13 to 16 July, when several Redland Park people took part in various activities. RELAY | YCCN <https://www.yccn.uk>. We pray for success for them in all they are doing.

Please pray for our members and friends who are recovering from illness or operations; it is difficult to visit and support as much as we would like in the lockdown but they are in our prayers and thoughts. We pray for Jeff, who has been suffering from cancer for some time and now has secondary cancer.

Dear God, please uphold these friends and surround them in your loving care.

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 Afghanistan and Libya at this time. We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters such as floods in China and India, wildfires in California and Greece, and the earthquake in Haiti.

Prayer page:

God, we thank you for the power of prayer, the prayer of thanks and praise and the prayer of confession and request, prayer alone and in the community of your people,

prayer for ourselves and prayer on behalf of others.

May our prayer for each other bring healing of bodies, minds, hearts and relationships, healing for individuals and communities,

and the healing of our earth.

Give us perseverance in prayer and empower our prayers with faith and understanding.

We pray especially for your guidance and strengthening for elders and ministers;

Your healing for the sick

Your turning of those in error to the truth of your love.

Let us pray always in the power and wisdom of your spirit,

Through the love of Jesus Christ, your son.

Amen

Please pray for:

Afghanistan – its people- those who have left and are seeking refuge and those who remain, in fear for their lives and for their human rights.

Countries devastated by wild fires, hurricanes, earthquakes and other climate disasters.

Relief workers, who try to improve people's lives and rebuild their communities.

Jeff Cole.

Jane Beazer

Mal and Janet Owen

Margaret Donadel

Joojin's wife

Dougie and the Elders

Students starting the next phase in their education

The lonely and unloved.

Those suffering from mental illness.

All carers and volunteers.

God, your love surpasses our understanding. We believe that you are present wherever there is human suffering. Surround those we have named with your love and healing.

Amen



For your Meditation [*thanks to Rev. Cyril Grant*]

“ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth-----and God saw that it was good. **Genesis 1.**

“ Five hundred years from now historians - if there are any- will look back on the 20th Century as a time when men plunged into a reckless exploitation of their global environment quite without precedent”.

Observer,

10th November, 1968

“The times we are living in summon the world to a great penance. But the summons is addressed, in the first place, to Christians, to the white man, to Western man, to the spoiled child of the Northern Hemisphere, whom everything has conspired to shower with privileges”

. **Abbe Pierre.**

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for September 2021

Sun 5th	9.30am	Big Brekkie in aid of Christian Aid
	10.40am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
Wed 8th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sat 11th		"Doors Open" day
Sun 12th	10.40am	Morning Worship with led by Rev. Mike Peat
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 19th	10.40am	Morning Worship with led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	11.45am	Church Meeting
Sun 26th	10.40am	Morning Worship with led by Rev. Mike Peat
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

October 2021

Sun 3rd	10.40am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
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Once again this winter, the night shelter will be taking place in a bed and breakfast hotel rather than church halls around the city, but this year they hope to run from November 2021 through to March 2022.

Many churches and individuals supplied cold lunches (sandwiches, fruit, etc) or hot dinners (cooked at home and served in takeaway containers ready to be microwaved). Several people at Redland Park volunteered to serve breakfast or lunch for the three months of last year's shelter, and many more made cakes or provided biscuits, and this year they are asking for volunteers to sign up for something similar. Not many of the guests came down for breakfast last winter, taking advantage of having their own room instead of having to leave after breakfast each day on to the streets, and returning only for dinner in the evening so breakfast items were supplied to them the night before and this will be the norm this year.

If you would like to volunteer to provide a sandwich lunch one day a week for the first two months, or a hot meal in the evening, or simply make sandwiches or cakes for other people to serve, we would appreciate your help. We hope that the Redland Park team can offer to do lunch one specific day a week – day to be decided!

You can contact the leader directly on
bristolchurcheswintershelter@gmail.com
or please speak to Carol Fry

PRESENT

The Minister and 27 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 1 member.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed after one correction: in the third paragraph under "Secretarial Matters", the phrase "...so that his secretary could become..." was changed to "...so that his successor could become...".

Matters Arising

All matters were covered by agenda items.

Church in Society

Carol Fry reported that the final total raised from the Christmas collections was £987; this had been donated to the night shelter. Nearly £700 had been sent to Toilet Twinning and £607 to Caring in Bristol.

Dates:

Friday 30th July, 7:30pm – Zoom quiz in aid of church charities

Saturday 4th September – Christian Aid Fair

Sunday 5th September, 9:30am – Big Brekkie – all are welcome

Saturday 11th September – Doors Open Day

Saturday 9th October – Trip to Barton Camp featuring activities for old and young

Jane Rogers drew the meeting's attention to the fact that Love Saves The Day will be held on The Downs on 4th September which may interfere with, or increase the footfall of, the Christian Aid Fair.

Finance and Property

Expanding on his pre-circulated note, John Neugebauer observed that, 12 months ago, the church was within two or three months

of running out of cash. As a result of an appeal, members had pledged to increase giving by approximately £7,000p.a., but that still meant that members' giving barely covered our M&M contribution and most other expenses were covered by income from lettings and rents. Significant outlay would be required in the near future on refurbishing the flat at no. 1 Redland Park (c. £5,000) and on a replacement boiler (c. £22,000; a gas boiler was recommended).

Angus Gregson proposed installing a temporary heating system, rather than simply replacing the defunct boiler with another gas boiler, to give us more time to research and install a "greener", long-term solution. This proposal was backed by Les Brentley.

Derek Jones expressed concern that not enough information was available to Church Meeting on which to base a long-term, binding decision about replacing the boiler. He also expressed his support for a "greener" solution than a gas boiler. Andrew Sims observed that we needed to act fast in order to have a new system in place by the autumn, and regarded spending £20,000 as a "temporary solution" that would buy us time in which to make a considered decision.

John responded by setting out the investigations that he had carried out, mentioning that "greener" solutions could cost over £100,000 which represented a large proportion of our reserves. In addition, the UK government had postponed the release of its paper regarding alternatives to gas-powered heating, making the adoption of any alternative risky as it may become unviable. Also, the Climate Justice Group had contributed to the discussion prior to the meeting, and the Elders had not argued against a gas boiler. In a perfect world, he would not want to recommend a gas boiler but felt it was the only viable solution given the current circumstances, even if it was only for a "temporary" period of c. 5 years.

Alison Hooper suggested that we should set aside regular amounts towards the next replacement heating solution, an idea supported by John.

David Hayden said that our primary consideration should be the installation of a replacement heating system in time for this winter so as not to put off anyone from returning to church. He also thought that a replacement gas boiler should be regarded as a temporary solution while a permanent, long-term solution was sought.

Sally King suggested that Adrian Male should be asked for his opinion when he carries out our five-yearly property review in August. Carol Fry said that she could not support a plan to spend £100,000 on a heating system. Alison thought that infra-red heaters would cost much less than £100,000, and Angus thought that such heaters provided a more efficient alternative to a gas boiler. Myra said that she could not support any solution that perpetuated the of fossil fuels.

John Neugebauer formally proposed that we purchase a hydrogen-ready gas boiler for approx. £20,000, to be regarded as a temporary solution for about 5 years while we seek a long-term, "greener" solution; this was seconded by Sally King. The motion was carried by 15 votes to 9, with 3 abstentions.

Ministerial Matters

Dougie reported that the Soup Run was still on hold due to Covid concerns, and that recovery from the Covid restrictions was taking a long time across all churches in Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland.

From September this year, Rev. Mike Docker will be going part time before retiring as minister of Tyndale Baptist Church at Easter 2022. In addition, Rev. Rachel Haig's contract will not be renewed when it expires in 2022.

Dougie had discussed church music with Claire Hobbs with a view to building up music within Redland Park from the autumn. In addition he thanked the team who had sought and appointed Claire as our new organist: Peter Lunt, Les Brentley, Andrew Hayden and John Turner.

Walking the Way

Nothing to report.

Ministerial Deployment in Bristol

Andrew Hayden reported that the Bristol-wide meeting of churches in May had been disappointing as it did not tackle the primary concerns of the churches and ministers, and there seemed to be little prospect of any follow-up meetings that would.

Dougie reported on a meeting involving himself, James Jang, the Moderator and the Bristol Synod Pastoral Advisors, which had been frank and, at times, fraught. James Jang and John Gray had been told that their stipends would not now be cut until January 2022 at the earliest.

Andrew explained that he has written to the Synod Pastoral Committee with three basic questions which remained unanswered:

Will Dougie's stipend be cut?

Will Redland Park's scoping be reduced to 60%?

Will the Bristol Korean Church get a full-time minister?

A response had been received earlier that day but the Elders had not had time to digest it.

Horfield and Portishead URC's had been joining us occasionally via Zoom and would continue to do so. They were also starting to explore ways in which they could maintain permanent links with Redland Park.

Andrew Sims commented that it was disappointing that James and John were left with such uncertainty about their future.

Helena McKinnon commended Dougie for the support he had shown to his ministerial colleagues who had felt very hurt by the whole process.

Secretarial Matters

The URC Moderators had issued a paper outlining their assessment of the UK government's easing of Covid restrictions, which had included the reinstatement of congregational singing, Holy Communion and sharing of coffee. The Elders would consider all these matters at their special meeting in the following week and Andrew would report their decision.

News of members

News of member was shared.

A.O.B.

Myra Jones drew the meeting's attention to the establishment of a Climate Justice Group within the church and invited more people to join her, Angus Gregson, Les Brentley, Alison Hooper and Dougie. Their aim is to promote "green" issues and reduce the carbon footprint both of the church and its members. Following a proposal by Andrew Sims, it was agreed that the Climate Justice Group should be officially recognised, reporting regularly to Elders.

Andrew Sims asked that the Elders consider publicity of church activities to the local neighbourhood now that Covid restrictions were being eased. Sally King said that she would commission a poster for the notice board advertising the fact that we are open.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Sunday 19th September at 11:45am (tbc)



In June world leaders of the 7 richest nations came together at the G7 summit, but they did not deliver on our calls for climate justice. We are united in our criticism and dismay of the lack of action taken, and we must make sure world leaders are in no doubt that this was not good enough. By standing together, praying and taking action, we can still hope for a better outcome at this November's climate summit, COP26. We must continue to speak out, so our collective call for justice cannot be ignored. (*Christian Aid Prayer Chain Resources, July*)

In an effort to bring leaders' attention to the seriousness of the Climate crisis and the urgent need for action now, the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) is journeying along the length of our island in their pilgrimage to the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow. Two start points (*one from St Ives starting immediately after the G7 conference there, and one from St Davids, Wales*) converged in Bristol on 12 July.

A group of us from Redland Park (Myra Jones, Angus Gregson, Alison Hooper), plus others from Bristol churches, (*Wendy Hopkins and Margaret Postlethwaite*) joined the YCCN relay walk section from Bradley Stoke to College Green following the Community Forest path to Purdown then on through St Werburghs to the Bristol city centre. It was good to think we were helping the YCCN raise awareness of their pilgrimage to Glasgow.

We pray for hope and determination to build fairer world, even in the face of setbacks.

A prayer from the Christian Aid Prayer Chain Resources, July

Dear Father, The Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) is journeying along the length of our island in their pilgrimage to the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow. In your name, they ask for climate justice and fair climate finance for all nations. Bless everyone involved in the relay – those walking, those involved in local celebrations, those online, and those joining in prayer. Inspire all of us to seek change and put compassion and understanding into the hearts of governments and decision makers. In this crucial year for the future of our earth, help us to rise to the moment. Father strengthen us. And lead us to justice. Many are still feeling the repercussions of the Covid pandemic. We pray for those who are mourning loved ones, experiencing ill health, or suffering from loss of livelihood. In this moment of rebuilding our communities afresh, help us to work towards sustainability, equality, and peace. Inspire us and our governments to build back better. Help us to rise to the moment. Father strengthen us. And lead us to justice. Today, this year, and always, help us all to rise to the moment. We ask this for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!

Sunday 5th September.



Come and join us for a **Big Family Church Breakfast**
from 9.30am to 10.30am

Food

Drinks

Fun

Games

Activities

Music

Fellowship

Video

And all funds raised go to



More details from
Les Fry, 07769253279,
lesjfry@hotmail.com

Keeping up with the vicar Pt117 Angus Gregson

After feeding on the bread on John, chapter 6, for most of August, we're back to Mark again this month, the Lectionary's gospel of focus for this year.

I think Mark 8:29 is a sort of hinge verse. Up till then Jesus has called the twelve, taught and healed people, but often told them not to talk about it, leaving people to ask, "Who is this man?" Now Jesus puts Peter on the spot and Peter acknowledges Jesus is God's chosen one, the Messiah. From now on, although there will be more teaching and more healings, Jesus is heading towards Jerusalem for the last time, and trying to get the disciples to understand what messiahship really means.

And also in the New Testament, from the glory of the letter to the Ephesians we move on to James, one of the most practical letters. It's a shame the set readings miss the start of chapter 1 last month with James' encouragement to persevere with our faith, even when we're tested, to ask God for the wisdom we need and to ask in full confidence. Maybe you could read those 16 verses as homework.

James seems almost to assume your faith is secure - that's the crucial thing - but if that faith is real it's going to lead to action in our lives. "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" Paul writes (Phil 2:12); your salvation is assured but living out the consequences is of vital importance and should underpin everything else you do and say. That's what James' letter is all about.

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

Sept	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
5th	Isaiah 35:4-7a	146	Mk 7: 24-37	James 2:1-10, 14-17
12th	Isaiah 50:4-9a	116:1-9	Mk 8:27-38	James 3:1-12
19th	Jeremiah 11:18-20	54	Mk 9:30-37	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
26th	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	148	Luke 2:22-40	Galatians 4:4-7
Oct				
3rd	Genesis 2:18-24	8	Mk 10:2-16	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Barton Camp 9.10.21

10.00am to 10.30am	Welcome and Coffee
10:30am to 12.30pm	Climate change activities- Angus & Allison
12:30pm to 1:30pm	Picnic lunches
1.30pm to 3.15	Play reading-Anne Art-Lucy Cake making-Carol Adventure Playground-Anna/Matt Den building-Nik Singing-Claire Swimming-Les Walk to Crooks Peak-Derek
3.15 to 4.00pm	Afternoon Tea Closing Worship

An Afghan pastor's prayers for his country

How should we pray for Afghanistan as its people face an uncertain future under Taliban rule alongside drought, poverty and a global pandemic? To help us, Afghan church leader Shoaib Ebadi turns to the prayer our Saviour taught us, the Lord's Prayer. Please pray with us now for Afghanistan.

"Our Heavenly Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. We praise You, Lord. You are a loving God. You are merciful and almighty, God. We worship You.

Thy Kingdom come. Your Kingdom come throughout the world. Your Kingdom come in Afghanistan. Your Kingdom come in the hearts of people there. Your reign come in that forbidding land.

Thy will be done in our lives, and thy will be done in the lives of Afghans. Your will is perfect. Your will is for us to know Jesus and for us to live in peace. Lord, I pray that everlasting peace through the Lord Jesus will be established in Afghanistan. Your will be done, as it is in Heaven.

Lord, give us our daily bread. Lord, I pray for those suffering in this moment – for the thousands of displaced people in Kabul and other provinces – that You will give them their daily bread and provide for them from heaven. I do not know how; it seems impossible, but You are God. You are God and we pray that You will give them, and us, our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lord, I pray that You forgive us. On behalf of the nation of Afghanistan, there has been much sin committed in the past centuries. Lord, I pray that You forgive us our sins.

And also, with a heavy heart, I say that we forgive the Taliban. You know how heavy our hearts are, but this is Your command. Lord, we forgive them. I pray that You reveal Yourself in Your Son Jesus Christ, reveal Yourself to them so that they turn from killing and violence. Lord, this is heavy on our hearts, but we give it into Your hand. Forgive them Lord, and forgive us. We thank You, Lord.

Protect us from evil and temptation. Lord, I pray that you protect all Afghan women and girls from evil. People are being oppressed in so many ways, at every moment – even now, in this moment. Lord, I pray that by Your sovereignty You protect them from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory. Lord, I pray that You establish Your Church in Afghanistan. I pray that thousands will come to know You, and that You use the believers in every province as salt and light – to love, to forgive, and to bring Your peace.

Lord, we give this land, this land, into Your hand. Have mercy on the people of Afghanistan. Lord, I pray for all of us who live in the West, that You will help us to share their burdens, and to bear one another's burdens.

Thank you, Lord, in the Name of Jesus. Amen."

Pastor Shoaib Ebadi

Pastor Shoaib presents Secret of Life, a live Christian teaching programme in Dari, a regional variety of the Persian language spoken in Afghanistan. Born and raised in Kabul and now based in Canada, he is also Executive Director of Square One World Media.

**Deadline for contributions for the
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Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

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