

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

December & January 2008/09

Festive news and views from Redland Park &
New Brunswick United Reformed Churches

MERRY CHRISTMAS



www.redlandparkchurch.co.uk

Diary Dates December/January

DECEMBER 2008	Wed 3	7.30pm	ELDERS MEETING	
		7.45pm	Taize Service at Victoria Methodist Church (1/2 hour of quiet and meditation)	
	Thu 4	2.30pm	FIRST THURSDAY	
	Sun 7	10.30am	Morning worship with communion	
		10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)	
	Sat 13	9.00am	Scouts Christmas Tree Sale	
	Sun 14	10.30am	Gift Service led by the Minister	
		10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)	
		5.30pm	Giving Tree Scheme – celebration and distribution of gifts, Tyndale Baptist Church	
		7.30pm	Service of Prayer and Praise	
Sun 21	10.30am	All-age worship led by the Minister		
	10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)		
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight		
Wed 24	2.30pm	Crib Service for young and old		
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion Service at Tyndale Baptist Church		
Thu 25	10.00am	United Christmas Day Service at Redland Park URC		
Sun 28	10.30am	United Service at Tyndale Baptist Church		
	10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)		
JANUARY 2009	Sun 4	10.30am	Morning worship with communion	
		10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)	
	Wed 6	7.30pm	ELDERS MEETING	
		7.45pm	Taize Service at Victoria Methodist Church	
	Thu 7	2.30pm	FIRST THURSDAY	
	Sun 11	10.30am	Morning worship with communion	
		10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)	
		7.30pm	Service of Prayer and Praise	
Sun 18	10.30am	Morning Service led by the Minister		
	10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)		
	11.45am	CHURCH MEETING		
Sun 25	10.30am	All-age worship led by the Minister		
	10.30am	Korean Worship (Upper Room)		
	7.30pm	Service of Prayer and Praise		

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

How are you with the prospect of waiting? When I walk into Tesco Express on Whiteladies Road and see a long queue winding its way up to the check outs I have to confess that my heart sinks. When I'm stuck in a traffic jam my hearts sinks. We have all had the experience of waiting for exam results to come through. That is a matter of anticipation mixed with some real anxiety. The anxiety derives from the unknown outcome of the exam that we have just been through and in which we have invested much time and effort. However it may have also been the case that we gave up on the exam before we even sat it and that means that we await those results with some resignation and even guilt.

Given these various examples it would be fair to say that waiting is not exactly our favourite activity most of the time. Yet there is a particular Andy Warhol image on the internet featuring the face of that artist, all in the purple, and a quote from Warhol, "the idea of waiting for something makes it more exciting." As far as I know Warhol wasn't an advocate of Advent, nor did he have anything

to do with the Christian faith, but I think that all the writers of the New Testament would have applauded that statement.

The message of Advent is that Christ has come and Christ will come again. This forms so much of our faith and it takes us into Christmas. Centuries on we might well wonder at times whether anything of this will ever happen. When will God be more evident in the world? The Bible doesn't answer that question but it does explore the notion of waiting. Waiting needs to involve hope and expectation. When I am in Tesco's I wait with the expectation that I will get to the checkouts. My waiting isn't pointless. My previous experience tells me that it will happen. With God I take my previous experience of God in my life to remind me that there is something bigger yet. It will happen at some point in some way, it is just that I nor anyone else knows. It should be very exciting. In the meantime I wait and that waiting involves living as Jesus taught here and now.

Happy Advent! Happy Christmas!

Dougie



Des Lane has now moved to Abbeyfield House, 9 Downfield Road, and we wish her every happiness as she settles there.

It was good to see **Christine Lloyd** back home and feeling much better – we hope it continues. **Olive Howell** is also recovering at home – we think of them both at this time.

Esme Rawlings remains in hospital while an assessment is carried out but we hope she will soon be well enough to move to a new home.

Henry Dickenson has been in hospital for some time and has now returned home. We remember him in our prayers and also **Joyce**, who has health problems too.

We were sorry to hear of the death of **Doris Bowden** whose funeral was held at Redland Park on 13 November. (Her obituary will appear in the next issue of *The Recorder*). She had been unable to come to church due to failing health for some time, but we remember **Margaret Donadel**, her daughter, and send our best wishes to her.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of **Revd Will Minnis**. Many people will have known him for many years as minister at Trinity URC on Cranbrook Road until his retirement, Interim Moderator at Redland Park for two interregna, and member here for some time after retirement.

Thank You

Ruth and Ian, daughter and son of Hilda Foster

We wish to express our thanks to her many friends who supported us in so many ways whilst she was in hospital and after her death. The donations, to the named charities, which to date exceed £700, are much appreciated. Thank you.

Margaret Donadel and sister **Jean** wish to thank everyone for their cards and letters of sympathy and support at the Calling Home of their mother **Doris Bowden**. God bless, Margaret and Jean.

Revd William Simpson Minnis

Being well-organised and knowing how difficult ministers sometimes find it to have a full life story for a funeral, Will wrote his own in the third person, together with the funeral service, hymns and readings! This is a summary:

Will was born in 1925 in Belfast, and his family moved near to London when he was 10 years old. He was a telegraphist during the war but continued theological training as soon as it was over. He always felt called to the ministry from an early age and he was able to persuade Brenda that being a minister's wife was her vocation too! Brenda came from Bangor, Co Down, but moved to London for her nurse training, where she and Will met again. Their wedding was delayed by Brenda developing tuberculosis but two weeks after his ordination they moved to his first pastorate in Hull. Their son, Jeremy, was born there and their daughter, Alexandra, was born at his second pastorate in Blundellsands near Liverpool, a ministry which lasted 17 years. His third and last pastorate was at Trinity Church in Redland, another ministry of 17 years.

It was a great sadness which they never really recovered from when Jeremy died at the age of 41. He left a wife, daughter and stepdaughter. Alexandra gave them two grandsons, William and James, who came to Redland Park's junior church for a short time while Will worshipped with us, and earlier this year she had another baby, Jack. (William is now undergoing pilot training at Filton, and James is studying computing at the City of Bristol College). Brenda suffered increasingly from arthritis and was in a nursing home for the last four years of her life. Will continued to preach until he suffered a series of strokes earlier this year although he was recovering well until his untimely death.

Who can forget the short but apposite sermons, the 45 minute services, and controversial topics being brought to a close by Will saying: "I suggest you go home and think about it for next time?" One of his pleasures in life was walking the coastal paths of Cornwall, which he enjoyed enthusiastically, while Brenda would happily enjoy the view from a comfortable bench! He also loved Monet and poetry, and one of his favourite poems by Thomas Hardy was read during the service.

We remember Alexandra and her family at this time.

Other News

Starbucks UK and the Fairtrade Foundation have announced details of the company's industry-leading support for small-scale coffee farmers. This commitment means that 100% of the espresso coffee sold in Starbucks stores in the UK and Ireland become both Starbucks 'Shared Planet' and Fairtrade Certified by the end of 2009.

Myra Jones



WILL OUR CHURCH MAKE CHRISTMAS COUNT?

According to research by PayPal, £78 million worth of Christmas presents are returned to shops in the new year, and that the average price of an unwanted gift is £72! With ever-worsening news of the world's finance, surely our churches need to have a fresh message about how we are spending God's money – and that our gratitude to God must shape our attitude to giving? It is no accident that in 2 Corinthians 9: 11-13 when Paul talks about giving, he mentions thanksgiving three times.

This Christmas you can help by buying fairly traded goods for Christmas gifts, purchasing goods for families in Africa through organisations such as Oxfam Unwrapped - in the shops or online - or making donations to charities such as these. Carol Fry

Oxfam.org.uk Traidcraft.co.uk Savethechildren.org.uk Unicef.org.uk

BRISTOL CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

You may be aware of the high percentage of homeless people on our streets who have served in the armed forces and for various reasons have become homeless, jobless and without family or friends to support them.

This Bureau is setting up a new project to help serving and ex-serving members of the armed forces and their dependents in Bristol and the surrounding area. The service is completely free to access and is open to anyone who has served in the UK armed forces, including national service, or their dependents, offering money, benefits and debt advice.

As a new project, they are asking for publicity so that those who need their help know that they are there – please circulate this further if you can. People can contact them on 0117 925 8565 or emilym@bristolcab.org.uk

Come and join the celebration!

Anyone who has been in the church over the last couple of weeks can't have failed to hear mention of Dougie's Advent project with the children of St John's School, Clifton. Using wonderful templates made by Lucy Pedlar and her fiancé Nick, the children have been creating colourful collages of the nativity story. If you were in church on the Sunday morning of 23 November you may even have had the opportunity to help complete some of the figures in readiness for the school assembly introducing the journey to the stable in Bethlehem.

Each child who attended the assembly at St John's on Friday 28 November was given a passport to Bethlehem and will be eligible to have that passport stamped at various points along the road. The collage of the Holy Family will be travelling up and down Whiteladies Road from 1 December onwards and the bearer of a passport can visit the shops and offices where the collage comes to rest.



The passport doesn't spell out the stopping places – it contains clues to assist in their discovery and there are further clues on the Redland Park website. There's no cheating allowed because each shop or office will have its own special stamp to signify that there has been a visit to that particular place. The final destination is the Christmas Eve party, which will replace our traditional crib service, and where the magic of Christmas will finally be revealed.

And this is where we need your help. We want to make the Christmas Eve party a very special celebration but we can't do this without some adult helpers to assist with the catering and generally join in with the fun. **If you can spare a couple of hours, between 2pm and 5pm, please let Dougie or one of the junior church leaders know. We think you will have a good time!**

Jane Rogers

Merry Christmas ... I would like to take this opportunity and send everyone at Redland Park every good wish for Christmas and the New Year full of Gods Richest Blessings from everyone at New Brunswick. We thank you for your continued love, support and friendship. We look forward to even closer ties in the year ahead.

Brenda Drake

Nativity, nativity,
Now in Bethlehem.
(It's a happ'nin' now)
Nativity, nativity,
Now in Bethlehem.

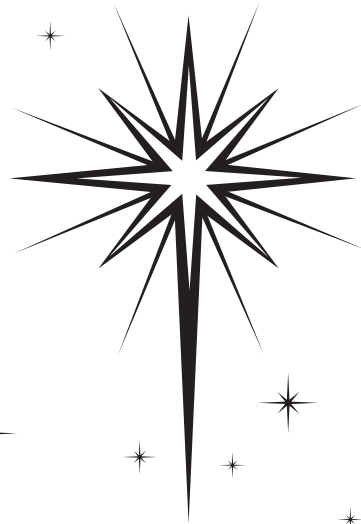
At early dawn a Child was born,
The Saviour of all men,
(It's a-happ'nin' now)
Nativity, nativity,
Now in Bethlehem.

Oh come and see nativity,
Come to Bethlehem
(Come and see it now)
Oh come and see nativity,
Come to Bethlehem.

From near or far you'll see that star
So follow it and then,
(You can see it now)
Nativity, nativity,
Now in Bethlehem.

Nativity for you and me,
Here in Bethlehem.
(Happ'nin' here and now)
Nativity for you and me,
Here in Bethlehem.

A cattle shed, a manger bed,
A Baby's cry and then,
(Happ'nin' here and now)
Nativity, nativity,
Now in Bethlehem.
It's a-happening,
It's happening today in Bethlehem.



A day in the life of an anaesthetist...

At the November meeting of First Thursday, Judith Holland spoke about her work as a consultant anaesthetist in the North Bristol NHS trust.

After describing a typical operating theatre and recuperation room, she went into detail on some of the operations carried out. Of particular interest was her role as part of a team involved with cleft palate surgery and surgery for Parkinson's disease.

Visuals showing the situation before and after the operations brought home the importance of this work.

Some of the graphics, in particular those relating to the brain, were hard to take but they emphasised the delicacy of the techniques involved.

After her interesting talk, we all felt a bit more comfortable about going into hospital and being anaesthetised. Our thanks to Judith for taking time off work to address the group.

Mal Owen

January **8th** (NOT 1st)

It will be our New Year party with tea kindly supplied by the Pastoral Committee. 2.30 pm in the Conference Room.

February 5th

Mal Owen will be telling us of his (and Janet's) visit to India.

What's On?

GIFT SERVICE

Please bring your gifts for Caring at Christmas. – Toiletries, new underwear, socks, scarves and hats, combs and brushes.

When: 14 December

Where: Redland Park Church

FUNDRAISING IN THE NEW YEAR...

An African evening, food and Music.

When: January 24th 7pm.

Church lunch with speaker from Brace.

When: 1st March

Where: Redland Park Church

ADVENT WITH CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid has an inspired advent email in which you will receive daily tips on how to beat the credit crunch this Christmas. There are tips on saving cash, cutting carbon emissions and having some Yuletide fun.

When: Sign up from 1st December to receive these daily tips

Where: www.christianaid.org.uk/advent

COLLECTIONS

Please don't forget that Viv Hayden is collecting foreign coins on behalf of the Penny Brohn Cancer Care charity, and old clean tights are being collected for the Ethiopian Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa (Carol has the address to send these to in the UK).



ROYAL MARINES CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

with the band of HM Royal Marines.

Tickets £15, £13, £11, £9, £5 (Matinee-children under 16 half price except £5 tickets)

When: Sunday 7 December 3.00pm and 7.00pm

Where: Colston Hall

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NEW YEAR'S EVE

Viennese Gala Concert

Tickets £21, £18, £16, £13, £11. Under 26s £5.

When: Wednesday 31 December 7.30pm

Where: Colston Hall

WALKING TALL - Getting your church noticed

Would anyone be interested in being Redland Park's press officer?

A day's practical training for local church press officers. Easy things a volunteer press officer can do to get publicity for a local congregation... Writing press releases; Going on radio and TV; Handling interviews; Being the voice of the church; What to do with 'bad' news.

Cost £15 including lunch (Redland Park would reimburse)

Telephone 01604 696307 or e-mail contact@crosswayscentre.org.uk to book a place. Led by Stuart Dew, national press officer for the United Reformed Church. Organised by East Midlands Synod.

When: Saturday June 13th 2009

Where: Crossways Centre, Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire



Masindi Secondary School – an update

Many of you expressed the wish to donate money towards sponsoring some of the neediest children to enable them to complete their education. I have the privilege of returning to Masindi in February, which is also the beginning of their new academic year. It would be lovely to be able to give the school enough money for at least one or two children to be assured of their school fees for the next two or four years. If you would like to contribute anything at all (one year's fees are about £75), please give cash or a cheque (made payable to Redland Park Church) to Tim Jenkinson, in an envelope, marked 'Sponsor a child in Uganda', by the end of January. Thank you all so much for your support.

Les Brentley



REDLAND PARK TODDLERS

Following our relaunch in September, Toddlers is now flourishing, with lots of mums, carers and young children from small babies to pre-schoolers. We are into double pages on the rota and have the pleasure of seeing new friendships made and the children having lots of fun. We hope some of them will join us at the Christmas Eve celebration and service.

This all means that we are very much in need of NEW HELPERS. Could you spare a couple of hours on a Thursday morning once a month? Duties are very simple and enjoyable - arranging the toys to create an inviting room, making coffee and tea, talking to the carers and playing with the children. We have 2 helpers on duty each week so you are never left on your own.

We are also in need of toys and puzzles, (perhaps outgrown by your children or grandchildren?) and we are looking for safe small chairs.

If you can help please get in touch with Jane Pedlar (9507303), thank you so much!

Ministry and Mission Fund

Whenever Redland Park (and other churches no doubt) discuss our accounts, or income and expenditure, the amount that we pay into this fund is usually commented on. As a church, we pay about 1¾ the cost of one minister, but the main reason for this is that we do have funds in reserve, which many churches do not, and being part of the URC means that all churches pull together, helping each other. However, the national church has decided to respond to comments with information that may help churches to answer any queries, and leaflets will soon be available from church house to give to everyone.

The largest share of the Ministry and Mission Fund budget is the direct costs of stipendiary ministers, as is the same in any organisation with employees. Increases in costs and stipends for 2009 has largely

been offset by a reduction in the number of ministers, mainly due to retirement, so next year's budget will be less than 1% higher than 2008. Out of a budget in 2009 of £22 million, direct ministry costs (stipends, pensions, NI contributions and Church-Related Community Workers) amount to £16m; Ministry related costs (eg training) amount to £3m; other costs (eg ecumenical work, international links, General Assembly costs) take up the remaining £3m.

The amount that each church is asked to contribute depends, firstly, on the number of members and, secondly, the average expenditure over the previous 2 or 3 years. As we know from our accounts, Redland Park is a relatively rich church and is therefore expected to pay according to its means.

Carol Fry



FLOWERS

If you appreciate the Church flowers and would like to contribute to the ever increasing cost please contact me.

Sally King 0117 9621000

New Brunswick | December/January Diary

Preachers for 11am Services

Dec	7th	Rev Douglas Burnett (Communion)
	14th	Angus Gregson (Gift Service)
	21st	John Waines (Family Carol Service)
	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY (Brenda Drake) The service will commence at 10am.
	28th	(Brenda Drake)
Jan	4th	To be advised
	11th	Angus Gregson (communion)
	18th	Tony Richmond (Alabara)
	25th	Angus Gregson



Women's Guild is closed until February

Girls Brigade will recommence on Wednesday 7th January

Our next Church Meeting will be on Thu 15th January at 7:30pm

We send our warm Congratulations to Hazel, Simon and Ellie as they welcome Oscar Blaise into their family. Oscar arrived on Friday 21st November. We also send good wishes to the proud Grandparents Gill and John Waines. Through the wonders of modern technology we have been able to see pictures of Oscar but hope it won't be too long before we can meet him in person.

At this Festive time of year we remember especially those of our congregation who are not enjoying good health at the moment. We are sorry to hear that Sheila has had a fall and hope she will soon feel better. Due to ill health we have not seen Joan Philips with us on a Sunday but we do uphold her in our prayers. We remember all our friends who have not been able to attend as often as they would like due to ill health. But we send you all our good wishes for the coming Festive Season and pray that 2009 will find you all in better health.

Brenda Drake

Secretary's Notes by Carol Fry



December is always a busy month, even if you are not a teacher or parent! There are several special services happening during December and we hope you enjoy them all - Gift Service for Caring at Christmas, Carols by Candlelight, Midnight Communion and Christmas Day service shared with Tyndale Baptist Church, and a Party and Crib Service on Christmas Eve - usually a haven of peace on Whiteladies Road - and not just for children, parents and grandparents. This will be the climax of the journey of the Holy Family, made by local children, and learning of the Christmas Story at Redland Park. Please come along.

Church meeting unanimously approved the installation of solar panels on our south-facing roof; most of the cost has been awarded by the Low Carbon Buildings Fund and EDF Energy and we hope for a large reduction in our electricity bill when these are installed in the New Year. Church Meeting was also glad to hear that the appointment of David Grosch-Miller as Moderator of the SW Synod was renewed with local opinions overwhelmingly in favour. Another item discussed was that members of our Korean Church are exploring ways of becoming members of the URC and the Multifaith Committee Convenor will be meeting here in January with us to try to progress this.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, Carol

CHRISTMAS POSTAL SERVICE

As in previous years, I will be running a Christmas Postal Service for Redland Park members and adherents. Post boxes will be placed at the front and back of the church on the following Sundays:

• December 7th • December 14th • December 21st

Please put fully-addressed cards in these boxes. I will be assisted by a band of Christmas helpers from whom you can collect cards sent to you. If you're able to take cards to those who cannot get to church, that would help us greatly. Please note that the postal service will only operate in the mornings, i.e. not at the Carol Service.

Andrew Hayden



If you would like an ethically-friendly alternative to sending many Christmas cards to your church friends, you can display one on the screen in the front vestibule, and make a small donation to church charities for the cards you save!

Deadline for contributions for the **February Recorder**
is **25th January**.

Please send to the editor

e. petejhawkins@mac.com

t. 07947 405 453 / 0117 941 3668

or by post to The Recorder at the Church
address at the bottom of this page

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Merry Christmas
See you in February...

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