



# Group News

## Minister

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Part of the URC Northern Synod – [www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk](http://www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

It is quite scary how quickly time passes sometimes. And so it is to my surprise that I have realised that it is already over a month since Sunday 26th February, a date when right across the Mission Partnership all seven of our churches (Guisborough, Lingdale, Nunthorpe & Marton, Redcar, Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby) met to worship with one purpose through a specially and carefully prepared service. The purpose of the service was to introduce for discussion the difficult matter of the deployment of stipendiary (ie. paid) ministers in the future across the churches of our Mission Partnership. For the reality is, so we were all told in the form of a statement read out towards the beginning of the service, that because of reduced membership in our churches, whenever one of the existing three ministers in our Mission Partnership leaves, they will not be replaced. The big question thus presented to us all that day was what are we going to do to plan for this, given that this situation will become a reality at the latest in January 2015 at the point of Colin's retirement?

You will not be surprised to hear that in the coming months discussions will need to be held in order to work out how two full time stipendiary ministers can be best used in the Mission Partnership and what other forms of leadership will need to be raised up in order adjust to the new reality. Lay leadership may become all the more important, but who will begin to grow into these new roles? And then there is the question of how lay leaders, stipendiary ministers, retired ministers, lay preachers etc all work alongside each other to provide every church with the spiritual and practical leadership that each church needs in order to be the churches that they feel they are called to be in each locality? So obviously some things are going to have to be done differently in the future, including some things that we have always taken for granted will be done that way!

And let's not forget on top of all this the question remains of how all our churches will come to a mind on all this anyway?! This is a particularly pertinent question particularly when the issue of a ministers calling is brought into the equation. For the reality is that neither Meg or Catey have been issued a call at this time to minister in the churches north of the river. So you can clearly see, even if nothing else is clear, that no assumptions can be made! Instead discussions need to begin to pave the way step by step through to a suitable outcome for our Mission Partnership - beginning now!

February 26th hopefully did enable these conversations to begin, commencing with a challenge for everyone in our churches to consider what exactly makes your church a special place? What is it that draws you there and keeps you there? What do we value most about our church? These conversations will give us all an idea of what needs to be supported by leadership in order that these special and valuable ministries continue.

But the second challenge that comes on the back of the first is that of considering afresh what our part is in the leadership of our church if we so want those special things to continue? But we will not be called to do this on our own – no! The way forward, whatever the outcome, will involve us all understanding afresh what it means to work together collaboratively as teams in which we can play our part as we all minister in God's name.

I urge you to take another look at the statement which follows later in Group News, but more than that, to get praying! We are at most, 2 years and 9 months away from this time of change, but rather than be fearful we are going to ask God to lead us on, trusting that God who let his son, Jesus, die on the cross at Easter knows what he is doing.

Shalom. Revd's Catey & Meg

## Teesside South East Mission Partnership

*On Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February the following statement was read out in all the churches of our Partnership to inform people of the situation regarding the deployment of stipendiary ministers in the synod and to begin the process of preparing for the time when the Partnership has 2 instead of 3 stipendiary ministers*

“Today, all of the Churches in the Teesside South East Mission Partnership of the United Reformed Church will be focussing in worship on the issue of future ministry and leadership in our churches. As a reminder, the churches in the Mission Partnership are,

the United Reformed Churches of the East Cleveland Group in Guisborough, Lingdale, Nunthorpe and Marton, and Redcar; and of the Teesdale Group in Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby.

At present these churches are served by three ministers, two in the in East Cleveland and one in Teesdale. We have known for some time now that, because of reduced memberships in the churches, that whenever one of the existing min-

isters moves, that will become two ministers. At present we know that will at the latest be in January 2015 when Colin retires, though it could of course happen earlier. We need to prepare for that.

We also are in a position where we have a number of active retired ministers and lay preachers in the East Cleveland Group though they are available to serve more widely.

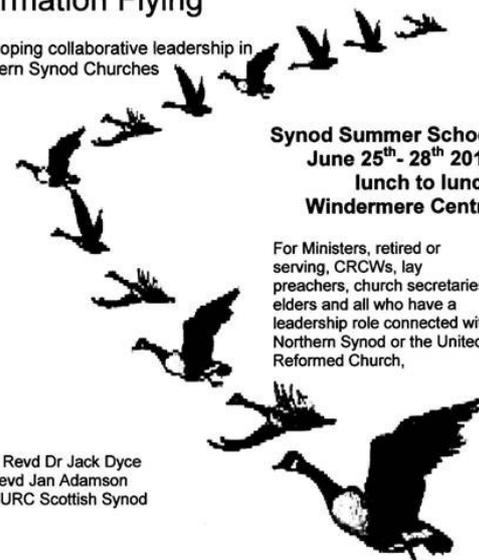
In addition, a number of those who provide leadership in our churches as elders and secretaries and treasurers are stretched. If the Church in this area is to remain active and mission focussed in an era of declining ministerial resources, we need more people to participate in such work.

So today is in some ways an opportunity to engage in conversation about the kind of ministry we might want in future: a shared team across the Mission partnership, or continuing with individual ministers in each group, for example? But it is also an opportunity for everyone to consider their calling and what talents or time you are able to give to the church's life and work.”

### Rev Dr Andrew Frazer

*Many folk within the East Cleveland Group will remember Andrew Frazer, who as a non-stipendiary minister, often preached within our churches. Sadly, at the age of 92 Andrew died earlier this year. The following is the eulogy given at his funeral by Rev Val Towler.*

Andrew was born in Glasgow in 1919, and was an only child. His father was an accountant and the family moved house several times when he was young, before settling in Bearsdon. He met Morag, who lived in the same street, whilst they were still at school. Andrew attended Glasgow Academy, where he excelled in all subjects – and he was proud to say that he was member of the undefeated Rugby XV during his last year! He said that he used to go at lunch time to a local restaurant with which his father was associated, and he was frequently the taster of new dishes before they went on the menu. He later became a member of the Incorporation of Bakers of Glasgow and a Freeman of the City of Glasgow, a title that comes down through the family.



**'Formation Flying'**  
Developing collaborative leadership in Northern Synod Churches

**Synod Summer School**  
June 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2012  
lunch to lunch  
Windermere Centre

For Ministers, retired or serving, CRCWs, lay preachers, church secretaries; elders and all who have a leadership role connected with Northern Synod or the United Reformed Church,

led by Revd Dr Jack Dyce and Revd Jan Adamson of the URC Scottish Synod

Developing leadership in the church  
Rediscovering the heritage of the 'Priesthood of all believers'  
Ensuring each person is able to use their gifts and passions for the mission of God in home, work, church and community

**Come along and discover how we might do this together.**

Andrew went early to Glasgow University where he first read for a BSc because he was too young to enter medical school, and so took up his medical studies later. University vacations were spent fishing in western Scotland or playing golf, but he also spent time working on the Island of Iona!, helping George MacLeod to rebuild the Abbey. He frequently spoke about life as a medical student and newly qualified doctor when he had to visit the tenements in Glasgow. Very often arguments and brawls would be taking place – but the combatants would stop the hostilities to let him through to treat the patient, and then start again!

Andrew was `called up` after qualifying, and he served with royal Army Medical Corps in the north of Scotland, in the Orkneys and in India and with the liberation forces across Europe.

Andrew and Morag married in 1947 and went to live in Blackpool, where Andrew worked as a G.P., although he continued to study with a view to specialising as an anaesthetist. He treated several actors and performers who were in Blackpool for the summer season, many of whom later became famous on the television. Their older son, Andrew Junior, was born in Blackpool, but Ian was born in Hartlepool, as Andrew had by then become an anaesthetist. They moved to Hartlepool in 1952, and Andrew worked at the General Hospital. He was actively involved in the design and planning of the new University Hospital, in which he was the Consultant Anaesthetist. On Christmas Day though, he became the surgeon and carve the turkey on several different wards! He was the Club doctor for Hartlepool United in Brian Clough's years as manager, although the sport he most enjoyed was golf. In his student days he played off a low handicap, with and against many eminent Scottish players. Early family holidays were all spent in Scottish hotels, selected for their proximity to several golf courses!! In later years he was a member of the Castle Eden and Seaton Carew Golf clubs and used to tee off very early at Seaton Carew with Tony Ritchie and George Strain. Andrew also enjoyed walking and until last year he and Morag took a daily walk round Ward Jackson Park.

Andrew had a particular fondness for India, formed during the War years, and one of his first overseas trips after retirement was to India. His only complaint was that his stomach had never recovered from the hot curries he had experienced whilst in the Army and he could no longer eat hot and spicy food! Andrew and Morag enjoyed their travels around the world, and he spoke particularly fondly of India, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. More recently

most holidays were spent in Scotland; he loved Pitlochry each autumn for the theatre, and also Dumfries and Galloway. The trips usually included a visit to Morag's sister, Aileen, in Glasgow.

Andrew was very proud of his Scottish roots. He always supported Scotland in sports fixtures against England, and he was very keen on upholding Scottish customs and traditions such as first-footing at New Year. He and Morag were for many years members of the Hartlepool Caledonian Society, and Andrew served as President for a time. As the passage from Luke suggest being both a healer and a preacher means that a lot of demands are made of you but Andrew thrived on it all.

Andrew had retired from medical practice at the age of 60, and the post of Consultant Anaesthetist was subsequently held by Dr. Johnson Daniel, who is a member and elder of St. George's URC in Hartlepool. Andrew and his family are grateful to Johnson and Mary for the friendship and support given to Andrew and Morag over recent years.

Retirement didn't mean that Andrew did nothing – it wasn't his nature. Having been a member, elder and one-time Church Secretary as well as a lay preacher, he made a second career for himself as a non-stipendiary minister, looking after Durham Street URC on Hartlepool's headland until 1991. He served the wider church as a member of the Synod Finance Committee and he was active in the Teesside District Council.

As well as being a brilliant academic, medic and minister, Andrew was a devoted family man. He conducted the wedding of Morag's niece, Julie, and the baptism of Ian and Kate's son, James. He loved to arrange family gatherings, either a lunch or a weekend away, to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in particular. Andrew and Morag's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary was truly memorable with a card from the Queen and an excellent family weekend. Andrew was especially fond of his grandson, James, who was a regular visitor to Hartlepool

Andrew was a keen gardener, and he and Morag spent many hours tending their garden hosting at least one church garden party there., in spite of misgivings about the potential damage to the lawn!

Andrew had a very good, very active and very long life, but the past two years were more difficult for him. The staff of the two homes he and Morag were in looked after them well, for which his family is grateful.

# Synod Prayers

## Prayers for the churches of the Tyne Valley

*Week beginning 1st April:*

St Aidan's, Hexham; Rev Bill Ellerby; Horsley Village Church; John Knox, West Denton; Rev John Paul

*Week beginning 8th April:*

Ponteland; Rev Joan Ross; St John's, Wideopen; Rev Philip Gray

*Week beginning 15th April:*

Church on the Green Stamfordham LEP; Rev Les Dinning; Great Bavington; Rev Ron Forster

*Week beginning 22nd April:*

The Synod Trust; Mr Danny Pigeon, Synod Treasurer; Synod Health & Healing Advisor, Rev Liz Blair

*Week beginning 29th April:*

IPM Igreja Presbiteriana de Moçambique (The Presbyterian Church of Mozambique): churches of the northern provinces, including new congregations formed by evangelisation programmes

## Manse Prayers

Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Guisborough
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Marton
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Lingdale
Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Guisborough
Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> May:	Marton

Manse Prayers are held each week at 8.45am at the following venues. Everyone is welcome.

Guisborough: 31 Oakley Cl Lingdale: 2 Stanghow Rd  
Marton: 10 Farington Dr

# Lingdale

## Lingdale Calendar

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm Annual General Meeting at – all welcome.

### Weekly

Tuesday 10.00am – 11.30am Community Café followed by  
11.30am – 12noon Prayers for our Community

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 5.30pm Family Service followed by a Youth Meeting at the Manse

## News from the Persecuted Church

Nadia Iftikhar, aged 11, was beaten unconscious by a Muslim teacher at her evening coaching school in Dharema, Punjab, Pakistan, after Nadia had said in class that she was both a Pakistani and a Christian. The teacher had read from a text book stating that all Pakistanis were Muslims, when Nadia made her statement The enraged teacher beat her with a bamboo, saying, "You are not a Pakistani but a Christian. Your homeland is somewhere in Europe or America." Pray for Nadia as she recovers from her ordeal (Revelation 3:8b). Pray also for her teacher and many other Pakistani Muslims who also do not believe that Christians can be loyal Pakistani citizens, that their hearts will be changed by the witness of Christians they meet.

*(From the Barnabus Fund Prayer diary)*

## Flower Rota

1<sup>st</sup> April – Mrs J Scott  
8<sup>th</sup> April – Mrs P Green  
15<sup>th</sup> April – Mr A Thompson  
22<sup>nd</sup> April – Mrs H Dunstan  
29<sup>th</sup> April – Mrs P Griffiths  
6<sup>th</sup> May – Miss S Griffiths

# Guisborough

I feel a bit of a fraud writing about Guisborough for Group News as I am hardly ever there. I am only managing to drop in once a month to catch up on all the news. I am sorry to say that many of our members are suffering with illness or are caring for and concerned about others who are ill. Our congregation is aging and some of our long term office holders are longing to lay down their burdens at the AGM. Who will be ready to take up the challenges for the future? It would be all too easy to be gloomy and despondent about all this, but that is not the atmosphere I find when I turn up for worship.

As I write the signs of Spring are all around us. Daffodils and all the other Spring flowers are in bloom, lambs are being born and new life is springing up with gay abandon in the bright sunshine. It is hard to stay gloomy on a day like today.

I recently walked to Saltburn and back with a friend and her dog. While we were there we went to view the latest attraction on Saltburn

pier, a knitted Olympics. A Yarnbomber, Guerrilla knitter, or perhaps a group of them have created an amazing spectacle of athletes and events all stitched to the pier railings for everyone to enjoy. They had already produced a scarf of knitted books outside the library and a teddy bear's picnic at the Marine Parade picnic site. Someone or some people are putting a lot of work in, and keeping it a secret, just to give people great pleasure and joy.

Jesus said that we should do our good deeds and give to others in secret for it is a private matter. It is all too easy when we are working away, as

## Taizé Service

Good Friday

7.30pm

Guisborough URC

All are welcome to join us for this service

## Guisborough Calendar

Thu	5 Apr	11.30am	Holy Week Prayers: Times and venues to be announce on church notice board
Thu	5 Apr	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Agape Supper
Fri	6 Apr	10.00am	Good Friday Procession of Witness - meet at the Salvation Army Citadel, Westgate at 10.00am.
		7.30pm	Taizé Service
Sat	7 Apr	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – Guisborough Christian Fellowship at 32, Thames Avenue
Sun	8 Apr	9.30am.	Easter Day service
Tue	17 Apr	2.30pm	Service at the Belmont Care Home, Rectory Lane.
Thu	19 Apr	12.30pm	Elders' Meeting after prayers

### Weekly

Thursdays	10.00am - 11.30am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and others.

we believe we are called to by God, to feel unappreciated and unacknowledged. Cynics may say “no good deed goes unpunished” but Jesus reminds us that our Father sees what we do in private and he will reward us.

This is also the time of year for AGMs, I will be at St. George’s, Hartlepool as well as Guisborough. They are a time to give thanks and recognition to everyone who works in the background to keep our churches alive. It is a time to give thanks to God for we could not achieve anything without his Grace and Power. It is also a time to look forward to the future and seek his will for our congregations and to examine our own sense of call. What does God have planned for you in the coming year?

I would like to think, for myself, that it will be a bit of a rest once my TLS course is completed. I don’t think it will be long though, before I am shown new needs to be met. We can be secure that God will supply all that we need to do the work he has called us to do. All we must do is to take that first step in faith; and what better time of year to start something than this Eastertide, when we are full of the joys of Spring and the Resurrection?

*Donna Moore*

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
Apr 1st	D Beattie	R Tunnicliffe	P Etwell	D Kane
Apr 8th	D Moore		J Bulmer	H Burrows
Apr 15th	J Reynolds		M Burrows	B Ward
Apr 22nd	D Cross		J Basham	M Houston
Apr 29th	B Ward		J Bulmer	S Verrill

## *Redcar*

The January edition of the local lifestyle magazine ‘The Eye’ contained some very clever anagrams. Here is just one of them which we should all try to follow:

A mainstream Church is ‘BEST IN PRAYER’ so that must be the ..... Church.

NIWELTYERIAN

*John Crowther*

<b>Redcar Calendar</b>		
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	1.00pm	Craft and Chatter meeting in the Church.
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> April		Annual General Meeting, during Church Service.
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> April	1.30pm	Event meeting at the home of Elaine Robinson.
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> April		At Redcar United Reformed Church a joint service with Zetland Methodist Church.
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> May		A Jubilee Afternoon Tea – details to follow.
<b>Weekly</b>		
Thursday	9.30am	Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre

### **Ancient**

For where the Church is there is the spirit of God and where the spirit of God is, there is the church

# *St Andrew's*

## Quiz Night

The Quiz Night held on Sat. 10th March raised £297.00 for church funds.

Thanks to Doreen and Jack for organising the quiz and to everybody who helped behind the scenes. A special thank you to Malcolm for all his hard work. Finally thank you to everyone who came along and made the evening so enjoyable.

## Churches Together Prayer Diary

Week beginning:

1 <sup>st</sup> April	Marton Methodist Church
8 <sup>th</sup> April	St. Cuthbert's, Church of England
15 <sup>th</sup> April	St Mary's, Church of England
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Nunthorpe Methodist Church
29 <sup>th</sup> April	St. Bernadette's RC Church
6 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Andrew's URC

## Ladies Fellowship

Our next meeting of the Ladies Fellowship will be on Weds. 4th April at 7.30p.m. We will be shown a DVD of charity work in Malawi.

All are welcome.

## Diary Date

Una and Joan are having a coffee morning on Thurs. 24th May at 10.30a.m. at 8 Towthorpe. There will be a raffle and Bring and Buy Stall. Tickets £2.00 Proceeds will be for Christian Aid.

## Coffee for Charity

19th Feb	Rosemary Fund	£19.10
6th Feb	Zoe's Place	£18.50
4th Mar	Elmridge	£19.70
11th Mar	The Boys Brigade	£24.30

Many thanks for the above donations.

## St Andrew's Calendar

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> April	2.30pm	Palm Sunday Service at Kirkley Lodge
Thu	5 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting at 31 Roseberry Mews
Thu	5 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri	6 <sup>th</sup> April		Good Friday March of Witness (more details later)
		2.30pm	Good Friday Service at Kirkley Lodge
Wed	11 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Mon	16 <sup>th</sup> April	2.30pm	Service at Elmridge
Wed	18 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Banners & Evangelism Group
		2.30pm	Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup> April	1.00 - 3.00pm	Knit 'n' Natter,
Sat	28 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 - 1.00pm	Car Wash with Boys Brigade

### Weekly

Wednesday	9.30am	Midweek Informal Worship & Prayers at. All are welcome
Sunday	After Worship	Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)
Boys Brigade		Details available from ministers and church elders

## Quiz Answers

1. Anne of Green Gables
2. Brideshead Revisited (Evelyn Waugh)
3. Coot Club (Arthur Ransome)
4. David Copperfield (Charles Dickens)
5. Emil and the Detectives
6. Famous Five (Enid Blyton)
7. Greenmantle (John Buchan)
8. Hornblower (C. S. Forester)
9. Ivanhoe (Walter Scott)
10. Jamaica Inn (Daphne du Maurier)
11. Germanium
12. Polyanthus
13. Cowslip
14. Marigold
15. Nasturtium
16. Verbena
17. Lavender
18. Snapdragon
19. Starwort
20. Amaryllis
21. Smokies
22. Buns
23. Cockles
24. Sausages
25. Prawns
26. Mint Cake
27. Hot Pot
28. Sauce or Apple
29. Pudding
30. Oranges
31. One, two, Buckle my shoe
32. Two Lovely Black Eyes
33. Three Coins in a Fountain
34. Four Weddings and a Funeral.
35. Five on a Treasure Island
36. The Big Six
37. Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
38. When Eight Bells Toll
39. The Nine Tailors
40. The little Nigger (Indian) Boys
41. Sound as a Bell
42. Scamper
43. Attend
44. Wicked
45. Creates
46. About
47. Pickpocket
48. Peal
49. Frumpy
50. Incidental Music

## Modern

The coming of the Holy spirit at Pentecost was the coming of a missionary Spirit....Those who received the Holy Spirit became witnesses.

*Roland Allan British Anglican Missionary (early 20th Century)*

## Preachers

	1-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr	22-Apr	29-Apr
<b>Marton</b>	10.00am C Morrison	M Robb Communion	J Harper	N Johnson	MartonWT
<b>Guisbo</b>	9.30am M Robb	C Morrison Communion	M Robb	Guis Folk	J Harper
<b>Redcar</b>	11.00am M Robb	C Morrison Communion	M Robb	C Morrison Meeting	C Morrison Joint
<b>Lingdale</b>	5.30pm C Morrison	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Family Serv	C Morrison	M Robb

Material for the May Magazine to church editors by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April please

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