

Group News



** April * 2013 * April **

Part of the URC Northern Synod – www.urb-northernsynod.org.uk

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Ministers

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Dear Friends,

Can you imagine what it was like in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' death? The sombre atmosphere, the fear in the hearts of those who had been with Jesus in the days and weeks before the end; the sense of let down in the hearts of those bystanders now the hype of the spectacle of Jesus' trial and death was over; the jubilation in the hearts of those who had come to hate this Jesus who quietly but resolutely declared that he was king of the Jews; the relief in the minds Roman officials that another potential uprising had been put down!

And from whichever viewpoint you stood at surveying the scene, now a kind of stillness had come over Jerusalem. The excitement was over; the climax of events had been reached, and even the Passover pilgrims were now on their way home. The sacrificial lamb had been slain and the celebratory meals had followed long into the night, even the wee small hours and then the commencement of Shabbat (the Sabbath day), with its laws against making journeys home on that day. But now they were stirring, and the most eager to leave were already on their way home; Jerusalem emptying of people, the city returning to normal.

And it was at this quiet hour, just past the ninth hour (6am), as the business men of the city were setting up their stalls so as to fleece the homeward bound pilgrims out of the last of their ready cash for just a couple more souvenirs, that Mary and a couple of the other women who had been close to Jesus slipped out into the streets of Jerusalem. Leaving the streets of the walled city behind them, their quietly padding footsteps eased into a gentle jog as they passed through the gateway, then finally, with hurry in their hearts, they began to run. It was a heartfelt run, spurred on by the hope that they had been wrong, that it hadn't all happened as they thought. Although they also knew this was impossible thinking. They ran on, toward the rise in the valley, and finally up the hill were they had seen him last alive, hanging from the cross made of wood. And then on past the scene of his death, to the garden tomb, where they

had taken him, to lay his broken and bloodied body.

They ran there because they knew they were already too late. Too late to anoint his body, rituals that should have already have taken place to release his spirit in three days' time. If only the Shabbat hadn't got in the way. But laws were laws – in the same way as there were laws regarding anointing a dead body, and so they couldn't have arrived here any sooner. And then Mary came to an astonished stop, with her friends colliding with her in the process. Things weren't right. This wasn't how they had left things, something was wrong. She ran on again, now with a spurt of speed, into the tomb where the stone was already rolled away, and into a discovery that would change the world for ever!

This is a truly astonishing story, a story that really has changed the world, bringing personal knowledge of God's love and grace to all who choose to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal it to them. And it is this story which continues to draw millions of people to Palestine and Israel, to the lands of the Bible. Now I, too, shall be one of those modern day pilgrims going to the Holy Land as part of my sabbatical, my Sabbath rest, later this month. I hope that my time there will bring the Bible even more alive for me in what I see, hear, smell and realise in personal revelation and reflection. And it is those experiences that I hope to bring back to you all on my return, to share with you all in order to grow our faith with that hope which was founded on Easter morning.

God bless and Happy Easter!!

Revd. Catey Morrison

Sabbatical

Catey will be taking the first part of her sabbatical from 15th April to 2nd June. During this time ministerial support for our churches will be Norma Johnson for Marton and Redcar, and Ken Harris for Guisborough and Lingdale. If circumstances arise then additional assistance can be sought from either Norma or Ken as appropriate. Colin Offer may also be able to assist if others are not available.

For Our Prayers

Synod Prayers

This year's Prayer Diary takes as its theme the United Reformed Church's Vision 2020 mission strategy, focusing on each of the 10 statements during the year. This month the theme is 'Christian Ecumenical Partnerships'.

- 7th April North East Christian Churches Together (NECCT); local Churches Together groups
- 14th April St John the Evangelist LEP, Kingston Park; Revd Roger Mills
- 21st April South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area; President Revd Barry Welch; Secretary Mrs Joyce Calcraft; Treasurer Mr Jeff Owen
- 28th April Oxclose LEP, Washington; Revd Sheelagh Aston; St Andrew's Dawson Street LEP, Crook; Revd Ray Anglesea; Revd Andrew Robinson

Prayers for the IPM Church in Mozambique:

Pray for the three presbyteries of Umbulizi Central, North and South centred on Maputo. Pray for the newly-launched English language service at Khovo, and for growing churches that are looking for resources to rebuild and expand their work.

Manse Prayers

Join Ken, Dorothy, Norma and Catey for a time of prayer and bible reading at 31, Oakley Close, Guisborough every Tuesday at 8.30am.

All welcome.

Group Prayer Pointers

As we pray for needs and inspiration across the Group:

Prayers for the week beginning...

1st April – Pray that people in our various communities will have heard the true message of Easter this year, looking beyond the Easter eggs, and pray that they will be led to reflect on their own beliefs and faith at this time. Pray that we in the church will receive the challenge of Easter afresh in our lives too.

8th April - Pray for the memories day being held at our Lingdale church this coming Saturday, that people may take interest in the history of the village and remember past involvement in the church, and consider being involved in the church once more. And that the church members might welcome people warmly into the church on that day and be an inspiration to others in their faith.

15th April – Pray for all who are in need in our communities, particularly this week those newly unemployed, and those looking for new jobs due to being unhappy in their current job. And pray for the families of those newly unemployed across our region as the cope with the news and its implications for them too.

22nd April – Pray for all who are ill at this time, that they might be able to gain strength and encouragement from God and from church members, and pray that we might know how to support them practically and in prayer. Pray for those in our communities who have little or no support to help them get through such difficult times, and ask that God might direct us to those people.

Modern:

There is no Easter without a Good Friday

Matthew Fox North American Priest and Theologian (late 20th Century)

News from the Persecuted Church

Please pray particularly for Christians in Syria. Before the Arab Spring, Syria was one of the easiest places in the Arab world to be a Christian. The country's 2.3 million Christians were allowed the freedom to practice their faith without much official harassment. However, because they have enjoyed such tolerance under the government of President Bashar al-Assad, opposition fighters assume they support the regime. Because of this assumption and because there are Islamist groups among the rebels, Christians are suffering numerous and grave abuses. The Christian population of Homs, originally 50,000 - 60,000 had virtually gone, fled or murdered, by last December. Some families have asked for their loved ones to be killed outright rather than have them subjected to brutal torture. (further details from Richard Harris or from their web site)

From the Barnabus Fund Bimonthly Newsletter; www.barnabusfund.org

Please pray for Omar and Kenia Gude Perez and children expelled from Cuba for being outspoken on the level of persecution in Cuba. In 2008 Omar was sentenced to six and a half years in prison on trumped-up charges.

From the Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer diary; www.csw.org.uk

F.A.F. Club

Next meets on

Sunday April 7th

6.30-8.30pm

Lingdale Manse

(Please ring Catey for information)

Blowing Your Cover,

Helping you share Christ with your friends and your community!

This is a unique and fresh approach to evangelism, that is designed to equip and release Christians to confidently share their faith.

Cost is £25 to include workbooks, leaders guide and DVD's. Anybody interested contact Ray Tunnicliffe

I-pad Appeal Update:

Can I thank everyone for the generous support for our son, Nathan, in our quest to raise money for a computer programme which runs on an iPad which will enable him to be able to talk through pressing buttons that will speak for him. The software and the iPad are pretty expensive but will be life-changing for Nathan, and will hopefully in time allow him to be set free from the tantrums of the terrible two's, a developmental phase he has been stuck in for some years now. So that we can get Nathan talking our children, and a few friends too, have decided to do a sponsored bike ride to help their brother. This was due to be in March, but on the allotted day there was a 90% chance of rain

or snow, 25 mph winds from the North East, and a temperature of 1°C forecast. For safety reasons I just couldn't let them do it! After a practice run on an exercise bike at the Redcar Easter Coffee Morning to keep their motivation going, they will now be aiming to cycle their 16 -18 mile bike ride from Lingdale to Redcar via Guisborough on Sunday 14th April. Thank you for all your support thus far, and due to the amazing level of support so far, we have now decided to additionally try to raise money for an iPod which can also take the same software to act as back up for when the battery runs out on the iPad, as this is all becoming ever more vital to Nathan in his communication with the world around him. With such huge thanks to you all! Catey

Synod Report

Once I had found my way to Waddington Street after getting a bit lost, we had a warm welcome to Synod. We began with worship led by the moderator who asked me to read Romans 10:8b-13 which begins "But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is the word of faith that we proclaim);

Revd. Rowena Francis, at her last Synod as Moderator, urged us to value our history of a faith of the head, but also to embrace the future with a faith of the heart.

After worship she asked to be excused while we discussed the issue of her successor as moderator. Synod structures are in a state of uncertainty across the country as the five northern synods hope to work together more. No-one has yet come forward to express an interest in the post. Although there were some concerns about how the decision not to recommend the current moderator for a second term was arrived at the chair was asked to thank her for her work as Synod Moderator which has been much appreciated.

It is a pity that at this time of uncertainty we are also without a Synod Clerk, this has been advertised as a full time salaried position and in the interim, three members of Synod have agreed to hold the fort with Wendy Watson the Synod Administrator sharing the jobs out according to their areas of responsibility.

We had a very interesting presentation from Jan Adamson who is Northern Synod's LMMR co-ordinator and who also works for the Synod of Scotland. She explained what the process would be and what she hoped it would achieve and asked for an invitation to each Mission Partnership in June.

There was lots of positive news about people and funding for

CRCWs and thriving projects. We were introduced to Kevin Waller, the new Synod Children's and Youth Pastor and he is already making contact with those working with children and young people throughout the Synod.

Christian Aid gave a very good presentation of the IF project. Look out for the short video which puts the points across so clearly. The idea is, there is enough food for everyone on the planet, IF we give enough Aid, IF we stop large companies evading Tax, IF we stop farmers being forced off their Land and, IF we make governments and multinational corporations more honest and Transparent in their unfair practices.

One of the highlights of this Synod was the presence of Ernesto Langa and Bart Langa amongst us, pastors from the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique. After all the trouble we had trying to get visas for them in October for the 40th Anniversary Synod it was good to have them with us at last. They addressed Synod and brought bags and aprons to sell from the sewing project they have set up. We also held a collection to help those affected by recent flooding including Xai-Xai district where Rosa lives.

Ernesto said that they were both very conscious of their poverty

when they saw just how much we have here, but they took comfort from the fact that they were rich in people, with their full churches, whilst we were poor in Church attendance. God bless our Partnership was their message.

The Church at Crookham is on the site of the Battle of Flodden in 1513 when 10,000 died in a few hours of fighting. The Church and village have responded to the 500th Anniversary by creating a Peace Garden behind the Church, involving the whole village. Curved paths, shrubs, well designed borders now waiting for planting will make an inviting place for any who wish to sit, think or pray.

There was an interesting discussion about the ethical investment policy of the Trust which differs from the national one in that the Synod still invests in a PLC (Diageo) which manufactures alcohol. There is just one holding of £31,000 out of total investments of £5m and there were some good points made. It was agreed to allow the Investment Managers to monitor the quality of their marketing activities especially via the Supermarkets.

Sandy Ogilvie has taken over the Children's and Youth Work committee and pleaded with us to support our young people by sending

them to Youth Assembly in January 2014 so that they can meet those from other Synods. Could we fill a Minibus and deck them out in Synod T Shirts? With Kevin now in post we need to let him know exactly what is going on in with young people in our Churches.

Training has to be undertaken for new worship leaders who wish to be allowed to preside at Communion. The list of all those who do was duly agreed. There are 12 candidates studying TLS with a view to being equipped to take a larger part in the life of their Churches, which is very encouraging.

The Synod meeting ended with Communion in which Rowena used the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of mankind* as a format for her prayers. This was moving and effective and there was a feeling that this would be the last time before she moves away. The comfortable Church, the music and the images on the screen all contributed to a quiet ending to a very full day of renewed friendships and the inevitable farewells.

We meet next on 12 October at Stockton Road (previously St George's) Sunderland and everyone is welcome to attend.

Donna Moore and Jane Tomlin

Lingdale

'Memories Day'

Saturday 13th April = 10am-4pm

Come trace your past through photographic displays and much more, and bring your own family photos to be scanned in to add to this comprehensive collection of photographs of the history of Lingdale.

Once again Alison Small will be bringing along a selection of the photographs from her Lingdale history web-site, a number of which are new to the site since her last visit in 2008.

Refreshments available all day.

Lingdale Calendar

Tue 2nd Apr	7.00pm	Book Club
Sun 7th Apr	6.30pm	FAF Club
Wed 10th Apr	1.30-3.30pm	Craft and Conversation
	7.00pm	Annual General Meeting in Church - all welcome
Thu 18 th Apr		Judging takes place for North-umbria in Bloom.
Sun 21 st Apr	5.30pm	Anniversary Service led by Norma Johnson.
Wed 24 th April,	1.30-3.30pm,	Craft and Conversation.

Weekly

Tuesday	10.00am – 10.30am	Prayers for our Community
	10.30am – 11.30am	Community Café
3 rd Sunday of the month	5.30pm	Family Service followed by a Youth Meeting at the Manse

Book Club

The next meeting will be on 2nd April at 7.00pm when we will be discussing *The Good Father* by Marion Husband, a local author. A story about three fathers and their relationships with their children.

Flower Rota

7th Apr – Miss S Griffiths
14th Apr – Mrs J Coulthard
21st Apr – Mr B Dove
28th Apr – Mr A Thompson
5th May – Mrs M Saunders

Guisborough

In preparation for writing this contribution, I re-read Maureen's reflection from last month. She began with this poem,

*For all who have walked before me
Showing footsteps so I do not stray
I bow my head I pay my respect
For their guidance on my way.*

With 50 years of worship and service to recall I value the wisdom that both she and David share. Maureen recalled how the churches in Guisborough and the other churches of our group have worked to support each other and how since the time of a much loved Secretary, Bob Macdonald, we in Guisborough have become more confident in organising and leading worship ourselves.

Do you feel a 'but' coming on? I wonder if I need to look for some leading footsteps for guidance.

Each passing month at Elders' or Church Meetings there seems to be news of changes at Synod, Mission Partnership, Group and Local church levels. The resulting challenges mean more discussion and re-planning which takes time from more creative projects.

I know that before Meg left, she helped the Elders here in Guisborough with a jobs audit. There was much positive discussion which I feel has resulted in a firm level of independence. We have an active property committee which has identified a timetable for the year, pri-

oritising projects with dates for completion. We, in the church family are acting on decisions made under the heading of ‘evangelism 2020’ and promoting our Thursday Coffee and Belmont View connection. Ray Tunnicliffe is also promoting the Blowing your Cover course under this heading.

I admit to feeling both frustration and impatience however that so far, we in Group Elders have found it difficult to move on together.

An important purpose for the Group Elders’ meetings across the year, is to allow Revd Catey contact with the elderships without having to attend 4 individual dates to cover the same material. I hope that Catey feels that this aspect is working well to make more efficient use of her time. However are the Elders clear about what else can be done through working together to avoid duplication of tasks or are we not yet comfortable enough with each other to work together productively? Answers to these questions and some suggestions about the next steps might be found by referring back to Maureen’s experiences.

It is my view that the appointment of a Group Administrator would give structure but we as Elders in each of the 4 churches have to begin to work together on specific, identified tasks and communicate with each other. Revd Catey has identified this need too, suggesting a social time before the next of the Group Elders meetings.

We each have duties in our own churches on Sundays but may I suggest that we as elders would benefit from visiting other churches in the group for worship from time to time so we have more common experiences. This opportunity to widen our view of the Group could translate into better discussion and understanding in the more formal structure of a meeting. Indeed it may be that all of us in the church family, might plan a visit to a service in one of the other churches in the months ahead. As is so often the case, the young people gave a lead in this very way in their presentation for Christmas.

Maybe the first line of the next verse should be; *‘For the young who now walk beside us. . .*

Joyce Basham

Guisborough Rotas

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
7th April	D Beattie	R Tunnicliffe	D Cross	J Reynolds
14th April	J Reynolds		M Burrows	B Ward
21st April	D Cross		B Ward	F Thompson
28th April	B Ward		M Ward	S Verrill
5th May	J Basham	J Reynolds	D Cross	D Harris

Crowning Glory

Guisborough Choral Society

Guisborough Choral Society is celebrating another Diamond Jubilee this year. The successful local choir is marking 60 years since the Queen's Coronation with "Crowning Glory", a concert of Coronation Music. An English Coronation service has always been an occasion of great magnificence, where the pomp and ceremony is enhanced by music of equal splendour. The choir will present a varied programme of music associated with the crowning of monarchs, including some of the very pieces performed for the Queen in 1953.

The choir will be singing *Zadok the Priest*, the great anthem that Handel wrote for the Coronation of George II in 1727. It's been used at every single Coronation since, including for Queen Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey 60 years ago. As well as *Zadok*, there'll be more music by Handel, together with pieces by Purcell, Blow, Britten and Vaughan Williams, and also Mozart's stirring *Coronation Mass*. Four special soloists and an organist will join the choir, making it a glorious musical experience.

The concert is in St. Nicholas Church Guisborough on 27th April at 7.30 pm. Tickets on sale at Greensleeves Music Shop and Guisborough Bookshop (both in Chaloner Street). Also from choir members or at the door. £10, or £8 concessions and just £1 for under-19s.

Arthur (Mike) Thompson 1924 – 2013

What can a lad from Derbyshire say about a lad from Lancashire? For on a cricket field we would have been sworn enemies. These two lads never met until both were retired. When moving to Guisborough, it was where I first met Mike and of course his wife Freda, while sharing in worship and discussions, I began to learn about this character from Oldham.

Our friendship continued and grew where I began to discover about this young choirboy who was unable to develop this talent because of family circumstances Mike grew up at a time when, like myself, there were limits to where our educational backgrounds may take us in the future, Mike's opportunity came when the Home Guard was formed and he was able to reveal some of the hidden talents that he had, and the outbreak of the Second World war, and in spite of being underage, he joined the army to fight for his King and Country.

It was while serving in the armed forces that two opportunities arose, one, to train as a Physical Training Instructor and secondly to develop his skills in leadership. Both these abilities served Mike wonderfully well, enabling him to go through a series of promotions. After sixteen years serving in the army in a number of regiments and particularly the Scottish Regiment where his love of bagpipes began to grow. Life was not easy for people of Mike's situation but he continued to develop his skill in physical exercise and was able to help many people with physical disabilities. His ability as a sportsman in many different sports resulted in playing football, other sports, and in particular cricket. Competitive games were important to him, and his contribution to them was always of the highest standard.

Eventually, both Mike and Freda came to reside on Teesside and take on duties within Middlesbrough Council through the education authorities. Mike became the leader of The Settlement and to the young people he was heaven sent to them. From broken down premises and a small number of lads, the authorities had a change of

Guisborough Calendar

Wed 3rd Apr 2.00pm Prayer Meeting at Doreen's, 1 Nidderdale Skelton.

Sat 6th Apr 8.00am Guisborough hosting the Prayer Breakfast

Thu 11th Apr 12noon Elders Meeting, held at church.

Tue 16th Apr 2.30pm Service at Belmont View Care Home.

Mon 22nd Apr 7.30pm, Churches Together in Guisborough, to be held at the Methodist Church.

Weekly

Thursdays 10.00am – 11.45am Market Day Coffee Morning

Thursdays 11.30am Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Ken, Norma and others.

heart: there was a brand new centre and a growing membership. There will be many young people of that time thankful of Mike's vision that all young people should be given that chance in life to develop their talents and abilities.

What can I say about this Lancashire lad now that I knew him much better? About his faith that he had found through music and worship as a choirboy, a faith that he never lost, In all that Mike did as a husband, as a father, as a team player, as a Company Sergeant Major undertook, he believed he was following and serving the Creator God who had watched over and directed his life throughout the whole of it, and would be there to guide through his last journey.

I have always felt that this Lancashire lad I had met and was able for a little while to journey with was indeed a privilege. But I wish that if it had been possible, I would have like to have opened the batting with him as my partner.

Ken Harris

Redcar

Prayerful Thoughts

Each day Lord Jesus I promise myself that I will spend some time with you, but it doesn't always happen. I have to remind myself how good I feel when I do.

Psalm 46 v10 – Be still, and know that I am God.

Catherine Milburn

Thank you!

Win Cordiner would like to pass on her belated thanks for all the good wished she received on her birthday.

Redcar Calendar

Tue 2nd Apr 2.00pm Craft and Chatter in the Church.

Wed 10th Apr 1.30pm Elders Meeting at the Lingdale Manse.

Sun 14th Apr 12noon Sponsored Bike Ride finishes at the church in time for coffee after the service.

Please note, there will be no welcome at Win's this month.

Thu 18th Apr 2.00pm Churches Together in Redcar meets in the meeting rooms behind St. Peter's C of E Church. A representative from our church is needed at the meeting. Any volunteers please speak to Catey. Thank you.

Sun 21st Apr 10.45am United service at Zetland Methodist Church.
Tue 16th Apr 2.00pm Welcome at Wins – meet for an informal chat and cuppa at

45am United service at Zetland Methodist Church.

Weekly

Thursday 9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

A tribute to Gwen Mowbray by Norma Johnson

We have come today to celebrate the life of Gwen. We have gathered in this Church, Gwen's Church, your Church, our Church, not to tie God to a building as if we ever could contain him within four walls. But OUR Church where both life and death are celebrated. We are sad of course, how could we be other for Gwen generated and was surrounded by so much love when she was with us.

Gwen was born in Lichfield, Staffordshire and had a poor beginning but she strove to achieve the very best for her own family, her three children, Anne, Susan and David. They lived in Queens Ferry before moving to Redcar over forty years ago.

Susan describes her mother as a staunch lady and indeed that sums up Gwen, one who was loyal, firm and dependable, always there for her family, a tower of strength, honest, upright, facing problems and coping with them. Gwen held strong views on most subjects but never passed judgement and wasn't afraid to backtrack. She told me a number of times that she had never been in favour of women ministers but that I had proved her wrong.

Gwen was a person of many talents, fond of music and at one time a member of the choir at this church. She was a great jigsaw fan and many graced the walls of her home, Gwen having made the frames too. She had studied German at one point and had she grown up in today's world would have gone far.

For all that, Gwen enjoyed the simple things of life. Her backyard was a delight and her small plot at the front of her house brought pleasure to all. Did she have green fingers? Or was it that she planted with love and talked them on their way. She was a dog lover too, in fact her dog kept her mobile in later years. Gwen enjoyed holidays with David and Jude and the girls and the dog went too. She enjoyed days out with the church family too.

But for Gwen, she was first and foremost a homemaker, a good cook, baking for church coffee mornings. She was thrifty and not one to

throw anything out, all of her memories and treasures are in that house. She loved her home on Station Road.

Just yesterday I saw a brief clip on the television of ‘OUR HOUSE – IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET. Do you remember the band performing the song on the roof of the Buckingham Palace for the celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The final line was changed from "Our house, in the middle of our street" to "Our house, in the middle of one's street",

It reminded me of ‘Gwen’s House at the end of the street. Your house, Gran’s house, Granny’s house. You were the people who made it a home. Gwen was very much loved by all her family which included her six grandchildren, Paul and Richard, George and Pamela, Emma and Laura. And her great-grandchildren, Jordan, Will and Ivy. And her great, great, grandchildren, Leon, Kai and Damian. Gwen would knit and buy for them all and a garment is on the needles waiting to be finished.

Your minds today will be full of memories, experiences you shared with Gwen. Good times, sad times, challenging times, all the things that make up family life.

Gwen died surrounded by the love and care of her family and that must be a great comfort for you all. To be remembered fondly and with love by those who know us best would surely be the wish of us all. The evidence of that is all of us gathered today to pay tribute to Gwen, to celebrate her life. All the memories, all she taught you and shared with you are yours to keep. We are here too, to celebrate her passing to a greater life, to entrust her to the God she loved and served. The writer of the Book of Revelation had a vision of an open door in heaven, OUR HOUSE IN HEAVEN. We believe Gwen has exchanged her earthly home for a heavenly home. Many people have found comfort in the words of Jesus in John’s Gospel, as he sought to reassure his own disciples when his own death was imminent.

‘Set your troubled hearts at rest... there are many dwelling places in my Father’s house ... I go to prepare a place for you... (*selected verses from John 14*)

Food for Thought—Handy little chart ~ God has a positive answer.

You say	God says	Bible verses
You say: 'It's impossible'	God says: All things are possible	Luke 18:27
You say: 'I'm too tired'	God says: I will give you rest	Matthew 11: 28-30
You say: 'Nobody really loves me.'	God says: I love you	John 3:1-6 & John 3:34
You say: 'I can't go on.'	God says: My grace is sufficient	II Corinthians 12-9 & Psalm 91:15
You say: 'I can't figure things out.'	God says: I will direct your footsteps.	Proverbs 3:5-6
You say: 'I can't do it.'	God says: You can do all things	Philippians 4:13
You say: 'I'm not able'	God says: I am able	II Corinthians 9:8
You say: 'It's not worth it'	God says: It will be worth it	Romans 8:28
You say: 'I can't forgive myself'	God says: I forgive you	1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
You say: 'I can't manage.'	God says: I will supply all your needs.	Philippians 4:19
You say: 'I'm afraid.'	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear.	II Timothy 1:7
You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated.'	God says: Cast all your cares on ME.	I Peter 5:7
You say: 'I'm not smart enough.'	God says: I give you wisdom.	I Corinthians 1:30
You say: 'I feel alone.'	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you.	Hebrews 13:5

Submitted by Mary Hartshorn

‘No one knows the day or the hour’

In his Easter letter Archbishop John Sentamu starts with the following sentence: ‘Measured solely in evolutionary terms the human race is doomed for extinction. The planet won’t last. We are on notice.

Yet such an imaginary ‘last chance saloon’ for planet earth is huge, beyond our imagining, as indeed is the time in which it would exist.

For there have apparently been a few sudden extinction events which the earth has passed through. The last one did away with the Dinosaurs, after their extremely long reign of being the planets main life form.

That this last event was caused by a planetoid strike is now widely accepted. The Archbishop’s article in the York Diocesan April newsletter leads on to our belief in life after death and our Christian hope.

That evolution is all about to change, isn’t mentioned, but science tells us that we aren’t unique and the odds are stacked against us being a permanent life form here on earth.

History tells that we have been moved a number of times from a seemingly important central position. For no loner is the earth at the centre of the universe. Neither is the sun, or the milky way or even the large group of galaxies known as the local group which are bound together by gravity along with the milky way galaxy.

So the virtue of humility is all important in science and in religion.

‘Time is like an ever rolling stream
bears all it’s sons (and daughters) away
they fly forgotten as a dream
dies at the opening day’

The triumphal first verse it then repeated more loudly.

‘O God our help in ages past
our help for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
AND OUR ETERNAL HOME’

John Crowther

St Andrew's

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning held on 14th March raised £200.00 for church funds.

Many thanks to all those who supported and helped to make this such a successful morning.

Ladies Fellowship

At our last meeting on 6th March Jimmy Anderson gave us an interesting slide show on "Orkney and Shetland". His next trip is to the Holy Land and we look forward to hearing about it.

Rosemary

The annual international transfer of funds for £247 has been made to Rosemary, our partner in Uganda. This was made up by £97.00 from St Andrews treasurer (church events; Sunday coffee) together with donations of £150 from friends and individual efforts for her personal use.

Rosemary is a sister-tutor, at present based in Jinja. She sends her grateful thanks for our valuable support and will continue to update us with occasional news.

Christian Aid

We are having a "Soup a Lunch" at St. Andrew's on Wednesday 17th April from noon until 1.30pm. Donations will be for Christian Aid. We are looking for volunteers to make soup. If you are able to help please see Doreen, Sheila or Joan S. Thank you.

Grant and Steven are doing a sponsored walk in the Wyre Valley for Christian Aid on the 16th May. Sponsor Forms will be available from them soon for this very worthwhile walk.

Ancient:

We spend the night before Easter in vigil because of the coming of our King and Lord, so that when the time of his resurrection comes, we may be found awake, and not sleeping

Isidore of Seville Spanish Archbishop and Scholar (7th Century)

Weekday Prayers

Mid Week Informal Worship and Prayers
Weds. now at 9.45am. All welcome.

Monthly Thursday Prayers at 31 Rose-
berry Mews, Nunthorpe on Thurs. 4th
April back to 2.00pm. All welcome.

Coffee for Charity

17th Feb.	Samoa	£19.20
24th Feb.	North Air Ambulance	£17.80
3rd March	Teesside Hospice	£16.00
10th March	Boys' Brigade	£16.48
17th March	Rosemary Fund	£18.60

St Andrew's Calendar

Knit and Natter Weds. 24th April 1.00 - 3.00p.m.

Wed 3rd Apr 7.30pm Ladies Fellowship

Thu 4th Apr 10.00am Prayer Meeting at Audrey's, 31
Roseberry Mews.

Wed 10th Apr 7.30pm Elder's Meeting.

Weekly

Wednesday 9.30am Midweek Informal Worship &
Prayers – All welcome

Sunday After Worship Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday
in month)

Boys Brigade Details available from ministers
and church elders

Group Accounts 2012

Income from

Churches for normal costs	12295
Bank interest	217
	12512

Less Expenses

Ministers	8114	
Manses	4485	
Preaching fees	1475	
Group News and Admin etc.	779	14853

Deficit taken from Reserve **-2341**

Money in various Funds

	General	Manse	Res've	M'son	Xai'
In fund at 1 January 2012	6514	9059	3750	4925	-457
Paid into funds Redcar			4200		
Linthorpe closure bank acc.			5379		
Donations					1130
	6514	9059	13329	4925	673

(Res've = Reserve; M'son = Malkinson; Xai' = Xai Xai)

Spent - taken from funds

Deficit as above	-2341				
Manses		-535			
Grants				-254	
In fund at 31 December 2012	4173	8524	13329	4671	673
Total of all Funds				£31,370	

Cash in the bank	32,048
Less money owing by the Group	-678
	£31,370

Jane Tomlin

Preachers

	7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr	5-May
Marion	10.00am J Harper	D Moore Parade	K Harris Comunition	J Harper	Marion WT
Guisbo	9.30am N Johnson Comunition	N Johnson	Guis Folk	L Bustard	D Harris Comunition
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison	C Morrison	Joint Service 10.45 @ Zetland	K Harris	J Harper Comunition
Lingdale	5.30pm J Coulthard	K Harris Comunition	N Johnson	K Harris	K Harris

Material for the May Magazine to church editors by Sunday 14th April please

Wheeler's have moved house; please take note of new address and changed email.

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