

Group News



** April * 2014 * April **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Minister

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Dear Friends,

Easter is very late this year, being within a few days of the latest date it can be, thus we have had more time and space between Christmas and Easter to gather our thoughts and work out the significance of these events for us. For although Christmas is a fun time, a joyful opportunity to celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the World, Easter is where it is all headed. Easter is in fact the pinnacle of the gospels, it is the point in time and in history to which all four gospels, and the entire Old Testament, point. Easter is God's solution for helping humanity realise his love and care for us all, once and for all!

Easter is the final showdown between a sinful humanity that is easily led astray and a divine human who was committed to love and grace, and in the first instance, in the afternoon of what we know of as Good Friday, it looked like sin had won. But in the end, the tables were turned on those who wanted to put a stop to Jesus' unsettling talk of eternal life and forgiveness of wrongdoings, and so love and goodness won! Jesus rose again and there was no more they could do to stop the message of love being shared throughout the world. Like ripples in a pond the news reached further and further out, and although some tried to stop the news spreading, the message pushed on out into the world, even through those who, like Jesus, gave up their lives for the sake of the gospel!

But where does Easter end? In one sense Easter ends in you and me, for there the good news has found a home, transforming our lives. In another sense Easter goes on and on, never ending, for the sharing of the good news also goes on and on. For generation after generation the good news is fresh, new, inspirational news, time and time again bringing hope into peoples lives, transforming lives and communities where people commit their lives to God through Jesus' example and through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Easter goes on and on.

This is the reason why some people have used the phrase 'Easter

People'. For Easter is where it all happens. But there is something beyond Easter, and we mustn't forget to travel there in our thoughts and reflections after Easter Sunday itself. And that is the place where we can go beyond what Jesus has done, and realise what God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit have done and continue to do in our lives and in the world. Yes we need to celebrate the good news of what Jesus has done, but then be able to see what he did as part of the master plan of the master himself, God almighty, all seeing, all knowing, our all loving God. For God loved us so much that he sent his Son to come and be with us here on earth, and we need to see behind the work of the Son to God himself, the one who sent him. For that was Jesus' goal. To illuminate God above, to point us in the right direction, rather than just to focus on him.

I pray that is what we will take time to do in the days and weeks following on from Easter, rather than end our journey of reflection and prayer just when we have got to the beginning of the story as Jesus rose again. There is yet more, so much more, that God has in store for us, Jesus showed us a glimpse of heaven, let us pray that as we continue to journey on with him God will reveal so much more to us.

'Praise to God for a Living Hope!' (1 Peter 1 v 3-9)

Happy Easter and beyond!

Revd Catey Morrison

Manse Prayers

Fun And Faith Club

Manse prayers are at Ken Harris's house every Tuesday morning at 8.45am. Everyone is warmly welcome to join in reading through the lectionary readings for the following Sunday and reflecting on their meaning for us in our lives. This is followed by a time of quiet prayer.

The FAF club will be meeting on Sunday 13th April for a discussion on what Easter means to us in our faith (Please contact Catey for further information or for a lift.)

For Our Prayers

Synod Prayers

6th April Passion – World Church Group; Elsdon Avenue LEP, Seaton Delaval; Revd Peter Rand; Blyth

13th April Palm – St Mark's, Amble; Revd Alison Mills

20th April Easter – St George's, High Heaton; St Cuthbert's LEP, Heaton; Revd Dr Grant Wilson

27th April PCM (Mozambique) - Ministers in training at Ricatla Ecumenical Seminary and the work of the Seminary; Vasco Sitoi as he continues his theological studies in Brazil; Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle Rt Revd Seamus Cunningham.

The last Sunday of each month is now set aside to pray for ecumenical partners in our region and our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique (PCM).

Prayer Pointers for April

6th April Pray for the homeless in our communities for whom the warmer weather brings a bit of respite in their plight. Pray that those homeless may receive the help and guidance that they need to make the move off the streets and into more settled lives.

13th April - Pray that God will lead us all on a journey this coming week to meet with the risen Lord. May our thoughts focus on learning about the events of this last week of Jesus' life and being inspired by Jesus' actions.

20th April Pray that as we celebrate Easter this week may we have the words to say to share the good news of Easter with those around us on our street, in our neighbourhoods and communities, and may the Easter message of love be also visible through our lives.

27th April Pray for all those who have lost loved ones in recent times for whom this Easter is a chance to be at one with those who grieved for Jesus, and to be reassured that death is not the final struggle that it might seem to us from our earthly perspective. May we be reassured of eternal life in Jesus with his rising again at Easter.

News from the Persecuted Church

“For several months I was not able to take care of my children’s needs . Suddenly God opened the door and we now receive monthly food through the church. I am ... thanking God for this wonderful opportunity.”

A needy Christian mother in Bangladesh spoke of the blessing that Barnabus Fund’s feeding programme has been to her family. Give thanks that Barnabus is able to help 113 impoverished Christian families in Bangladesh with regular food support and pray that this will strengthen the families both physically and in their faith.

From the Barnabus Fund Prayer Diary www.barnabusfund.org

During Lent pray for CSW’s work campaigning for the rights of other minority faiths who at times face the same if not worse oppression than the Christian community.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer diary www.csw.org.uk

Ancient

The Holy Spirit Himself, which also operates in the prophets, we assert to be an effluence of God, flowing from him and returning back again like a beam of the sun.

Athenagoras Christian Apologist (2nd half 2nd century)

Synod Report

‘God’s people gathered together as fishermen gather their nets’ was the theme of the opening worship at St. Andrew’s, URC Monkseaton on a breezy March day. The Church has been superbly modernised and was comfortably warm and welcoming with bacon butties for any who had missed breakfast!

Prayers and words of hymns appeared on strategically placed screens along the length of the building and tables between the rows of chairs made the handling of papers so much easier than having to search on the floor under pews. The meeting was very smoothly handled by the Moderator, Rev Lis Mullen and the Synod Clerk, Mel Campbell, was visibly more confident in a job which she is clearly beginning to enjoy.

Among the news of people we congratulated Danny Pigeon, our invaluable Synod Treasurer, on his forthcoming marriage. We heard that Revds. David Peel, Colin Offor and Val Towler are all retiring within the next few months. We nominated by ballot Revd. John Durell and Andrew Atkinson to go forward as our Northern Synod candidates for the Assembly Moderators.

We were given a long presentation on ‘Fresh Expressions’ - a new way of being church out in the community. It is often Ecumenical and was started by the Anglicans, picked up by the Methodists, but we have been rather slow in taking it up. The process has as its focus the gathering together of a single or mixed age group in the area, often on non-church premises, and giving them an opportunity for sharing activities, perhaps some singing and hearing Bible stories in new ways. There is no pressure on anyone to ‘come to Church’. This is the Church doing Mission by going out and seeing where it will lead and lots more training is needed. It is aimed at those who are not a member of any Church and some of the Groups are now so well established they have become Church in their own right.

The way in which the Synod is run has been looked at in depth, as

it all had to be explained to the new Moderator and the Clerk. It was discovered that the structure has spread into many groups and subcommittees resulting in duplication of work, and a lack of understanding of the work needing to be done. This tangled web now urgently needs to go through a process of simplification. In fact, when the current pattern was displayed on a chart, there was no difficulty in getting agreement that ‘something must be done’. The revised suggestion was there for a slimmer and leaner way of working. It is hoped that once disseminated to the churches, any useful comments on the new thinking will be with the Clerk by 30 June, so that we will see the results by the October Synod. There is always a need for people with new gifts and skills to contribute to Synod to spread the load.

The URC (Northern Province) Trust Ltd is 100 years old this year having been founded as the Durham & Northumberland Congregational Union in 1914. It continues to care for properties and has responsibility for funds totalling £8m. The ten Trustees meet five times a year and would always be pleased to welcome new Trustees. The reports as usual contained many figures clearly presented, which, as usual, no one questioned at all. It was noted that much of the money set aside for Training grants has not been claimed and that expenditure for 2013 in the General Fund was below budget. The Property sub group urged all churches to have an asbestos survey done and to take the remedial action required. The Ministry & Mission contributions from the Churches were paid in full for 2013 but since the turn of the year, the arrears are mounting up. We were reminded that M&M does need to be paid monthly to enable Ministers to be paid.

It is 20 years since the Holy Island project began and an Appeal was launched to raise £20,000 for renovations to keep the facilities at the St Cuthbert’s Centre up to a good standard.

The many committee reports went through very quickly, again with few if any questions being asked before votes were taken on the various resolutions.

The Moderator then updated us on the thinking about her post as Interim Moderator which will now last until July 2015, but in November 2014 the search for a permanent Synod Moderator will begin. Meanwhile the talks with the other Northern Synods will continue to see if specific areas of work could be shared across the whole of the North.

Some discussion took place as to why Ministers are not willing to move to the North, the importance of Call, and the future of Mission Partnerships. Lis was pleased to have these observations and there was a relaxed feel about the meeting now as we were well ahead of time and in fact finished early. A member of St James Alnwick thanked everyone who had contributed to the meeting, thanked the Church for the warm welcome and invited us to the Synod meeting in Alnwick on 11 October.

Anyone is welcome to come to a Synod Meeting and it is so good to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

Jane Tomlin & Donna Moore

Training for Learning and Serving

Applications are now being taken for the 2014 -2015 year of TLS. As well as the two year foundation course there are also one year courses looking at worship, pastoral care and prayer. The course is offered at different levels depending on how much studying you want to do and is open to anyone, although members of the URC qualify for a discount on the fees. I am coming to the end of the two year foundation course and, while some of it has been difficult, I have really enjoyed it, not least the study weekends!

I would be happy to provide more information or you can go to www.urb.org.uk or contact the administrator Heather Skidmore on 01777 838 634 or tlsskid@btinternet.com.

Susan

Blowing Your Cover

Several years ago two Evangelism training days were held in the Mission Partnership to help us find new ways of sharing our faith in our everyday lives and as churches to help us with our outreach. Following on from those days, a course was recommended to us called 'Blowing Your Cover'. The Group Elders recently purchased a copy of the course and the decision was made that we should spend one Sunday a month using the course resources in the context of worship, beginning in June. Thus following on from Catey's final sabbatical presentation on the subject of where and how the good news spread following Jesus' departure, it was felt appropriate that we should look at how *we* can spread the good news. The course is non-threatening with some parts more appropriate to our situations than others, but hopefully over the six sessions we will gain some important tools to help us be more open in our faith.

If you would like to look at the resources, or if you would like to help plan and/or present the resources in your church then please speak to Catey, Donna Moore or Ray Tunnicliffe. Ideally we would like at least one person from each church to attend the next planning meeting on 8th May at 7.30pm at 153, High Street, Marske.

The Bible

a free course on the Internet.

One of benefits of the World Wide Web is access to information. An organisation called Coursera is in the forefront of providing free, high quality education from good universities. In the past 12 months I have taken a number of courses ranging from Special Relativity to Genetics and Evolution to Roman Architecture. The standard of these courses is surprisingly high. Each week for perhaps 8 weeks there are lectures to watch perhaps (2 hours), on-line quizzes (usually one per week and

often but not always multiple choice), and a Discussion Forum. On courses I have taken there have been several thousand participants from all over the world.

The website is: [//www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)

On 28th May there is a course entitled **The Bible's Prehistory, Purpose, and Political Future** presented by Emory University. It lasts 7 weeks. There are no penalties for starting and then giving up (except perhaps loss of pride!) and it's free. You can see the Course Syllabus on the website. I'm planning to give it a go. You do need to pre-register.

James Robertson (Guisborough)

Group Day-trip to Ampleforth

It is a few years since we have had a Group day-trip. In recent times we have had trips to Lindisfarne and Fountains Abbey. This time the Group Elders are proposing a trip to Ampleforth Abbey to spend time in worship and in conversation with one of the monks, with time also to walk around the grounds and visit the shop and cafe. Catey is looking at organising the trip for the early Autumn, but would first like to hear if people are likely to join the trip, in order to make sure we have enough people interested.

Please register your interest with Catey (01287 651926 or morrison.lingdale@btinternet.com).

Iona - May 2015

And looking further ahead still Catey is planning to take a Group back to Iona Abbey in 2015. The booking would need to be secured this summer, and so names for those wishing to go to Catey as soon as possible. Accommodation is in rooms of 2 to 6 people, with some bunk beds, and all food is provided by the Abbey staff. However, each morning you will have to take part in a few chores to play your part in community living. But the chores are part of the fun of it all! The rest of the time there is made up of worship services and theme sessions, walks around the island, a dance in the village hall and a concert, with plenty of free time to explore the island on your own! Last year the price was £330 plus transport to the island, but there is a much reduced rate for those who cannot afford it, ie on benefits or basic state pension without top-ups. Basically if you are at all interested please speak to Catey. Catey only wants a note of interest at this stage not a firm booking. The date is to be negotiated with the Abbey but is intended to be within the half term school holidays, 23rd to 31st May 2015, thus the trip is open to people of all ages. There is transport on the island for those who cannot get about much.

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday 17th April at 7.00pm, Guisborough URC

This year's Maundy Thursday Service is to be held at our Guisborough church. Once again it will be an Agape Service, a 'love feast', ie. a shared meal interspersed with worship. This year the service will be drawing from the traditions of the Passover, to help us understand more about what this worship filled meal was like for Jesus and how shocking it was to break into the rich traditions of the Passover Seder bringing new meaning to it.

All are welcome to attend this service for all ages which is for the whole Group and beyond. Please bring a small contribution of simple food.

Lay Preacher Commissioning Service for Donna Moore

Saturday 26th April at 11.00am, Guisborough Church.

You will all be delighted to hear that the above date has been set for Donna Moore's service where she will be commissioned as a Lay Preacher. This service comes at the end of a considerable amount of study and commitment from Donna and is much deserved. Many of you will have already have had the opportunity to hear Donna speak or lead worship and know just how much Donna has to offer to the church at large. We are very much blessed to have her on our preaching team, although it must be remembered that the Lay Preachers in our Group often have commitments beyond our Group of churches.

Please pray for Donna as she prepares for the service that is going to involve a number of people including the Moderator, Revd. Lis Mullen.

The service will be followed by a Faith Lunch. Anyone wishing to attend the service is most welcome, but please bring a small contribution of food for afterwards, if possible.

Guisborough

Although I have been a committed Christian since the age of 33, I have never written for the Magazine. When Ray requested that I write an article for the magazine this year, I felt myself saying yes. Ray gave me a couple of dates and I found myself picking April. Later to find Easter is in April this year.

Up to two weeks before the printing dead line I still had no idea what I would choose as the subject, however, the inspiration of forgiveness arose from a friend's response to me, which I refer to later in the article.

Easter may appear a sad time to many, but I see it as a remarkable time, within the Christian Calendar. It is a time when forgiveness was offered to us all.

I always feel better at this time of year, my birthday is in late March, and my eldest daughter was April born, on a Good Friday. Between the two of us we often celebrate our birthdays around Easter, depending on how it falls within the calendar each year.

On two occasions in the past, when I had been absent from the Church for a period of time, drifting along in life, Easter Sunday was a time when I came back into Church and affirmed my belief in Jesus Christ and promised to do better.

I was able to start again at what is a significant date in the Christian timetable, I felt it was okay to start again and I was forgiven for the absent times when I drifted aimlessly through life.

There are plenty of examples of forgiveness in the Bible and it is a key factor in our daily lives. After all we can never be happy unless we are able to forgive. Without forgiveness the way forward can be blocked indefinitely, relationships broken and destroyed.

At a time when Jesus' personal ministry was drawing to a close we

are able to witness forgiveness on a scale not imaginable to us, especially in this day and age, when every new broadcast appears to inform us of events more abhorrent than the previous bulletin.

There seems no end to what happens in the world or our own communities. Sadly we are slowly becoming conditioned to unacceptable behaviour.

All too often we listen to inquiry followed by inquiry to investigate what went wrong? What was the cause? Only to witness that apportionment of blame is high on the agenda, long before the inquiry is complete.

Because Jesus forgave our sins we are able to forgive others. Forgiveness is a bit like helping others or giving a present, it can be uplifting, rewarding, calming and make one feel much better, healthier in fact. It can create the feeling of love in one's heart. And guess what, the more you do it the easier it gets and the happier you become.

Just because you forgive, it does not make you a door-mat for others, in fact quite the opposite, the person absorbing and forgiving the others mistake is often the stronger person and can gain strength and confidence by doing so. Relationships don't thrive when failures are punished.

Recently a friend of 10 years, asked me to help with some paperwork, I would produce a management control document to enable an overall view from just one document.

I duly produced what I believed was required, however, upon seeing the document; my friend became quite defensive, outspoken, angry and irrational.

Perhaps the document triggered a feeling of criticism or vulnerability, none of which was ever intended, maybe it was too late in the day and tiredness had set in, maybe my timing was lousy, whatever the cause, it resulted in an unpleasant moment at the time.

We can so easily say things on the spur of the moment which can cause upset. Often we say things to friends that we would not say to anyone else. After the outburst there was a stepping back moment for us both, the conversation started to fizzle out and little more was said, a cordial good night and we parted company for the evening to travel home.

I know how I felt at that time and I suspect my friend had similar feelings on what had happened even though a reason was difficult to see. As I drove home, my chatterbox started to creep in, (I think everyone has a chatterbox and will recognise it) keen to replay the whole event, who said what and when. In a short space of time it is on auto-loop continuously going over the sequence events, before long a course of action is all planned out, the chatterbox has decided exactly what you're going to do and say the next time.

It's highly unlikely to resolve the matter, it will only make resolve more difficult. Always stop the Chatterbox, think about forgiveness and focus rationally on a way forward.

A few days later when we met up as arranged, the atmosphere was a little cool and quiet, nonetheless very polite and civil, whilst both of us, uncertain how each of us may react and careful not to raise the matter quickly and ignite a continuance from where we left it several days before.

As it happened after a little while we were talking freely with each other, as normal but still avoiding the issue. After a while longer, the issue was raised, I still don't remember which of us was first to bring it up. That said, the whole discussion between us, about the document and what had been said a couple of nights previously was completely different.

Within a couple of minutes we were both apologising to each other, each of us offering a rational explanation as to why a few nights previously, the matter had caused such a prickly moment within our friendship.

Before long regardless of what had happened, both of us wanted to

Guisborough Calendar

Tue 15 th April	2.30pm	Belmont Care Home service.
Thu 17 th April	7.00pm	Group Agape Meal in the Hall. All welcome
Good Friday	10.00am	March of Witness in the Town, starting from the Salvation Army Citadel.
Sun 20 th April		Easter Day Service followed by distribution of eggs in the town in celebration.
Sat 26 th April	11.00am	Commissioning Service for Donna Moore followed by a faith lunch in the Hall

Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Quiet Time in Church – prayers and reflections with Catey, Ken, Norma and others.

take the blame for each other's timing, delivery and response, whatever. Clearly forgiveness was now prominent in our conversation. Real forgiveness was been expressed.

We both were relieved that our friendship saw through the awkwardness of a couple of days previously and became uplifted through forgiveness, which brought such a welcomed feel good factor, showing the strength in our friendship.

Suddenly the document was seen in its true light and subsequently implemented, now proving a useful tool and thus closing the loop. Our friendship as strong as ever.

Tom Cross

In Memory of Freda Thompson

Freda was born ‘Freda Jolley’ on the 6th of July 1924 in Rochdale, the youngest of the three children in the Jolley family. Her brother Ernest was the oldest, then her sister Margery, followed by Freda. Freda did have a wonderful upbringing, a lovely childhood, but sadly it wasn’t without great sadness. Freda was only six when in 1930 her Mother lost her battle with cancer. But all credit to her Father, that positive childhood continued, with the help now of a housekeeper. Her Father really kept the family going, taking good care of them all.

Now Freda was a very clever child who went on to attend Rochdale Grammar School. On leaving school Freda took an apprenticeship with Lord’s the Bakers and this is possibly where she first developed her love of baking and cooking. She went on from there to work at Taylor’s the caterers in Small Ridge in 1939. However this isn’t all that Freda was doing at this time from the tender age of 15 onwards. For even at this age she was committed to learning more about her chosen profession, the food industry. So at this time she also went to Rochdale Technical College where she studied cookery and English.

Freda stayed working at Taylor’s in Small Ridge until 1946, but as these were the war years Freda had yet more on her plate. Freda took on a role at the Civil Defence Depot, working at the Ambulance Depot, driving an Ambulance. She used to do night duty, working 12 hour shifts from 7pm to 7am. Looking back at this part

Rotas				
	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
6th April	D Beattie	R Tunnicliffe	D Cross	M Baird
13th April	J Reynolds		M Burrows	H Tucker
20th April	D Cross		J Basham	B Ward
27th April	B Ward		M Ward	S Verrill
4th May	B Ward	J Reynolds	D Cross	K Harris

of her life, I simply do not know how she managed work, her studies and work at the Ambulance Dept, and I am left with a deep admiration for how she did it. In 2009 Freda was awarded a Defence Medal for her contribution during the war.

But it gets even better! During the war years it became impossible at certain points to travel outside of Rochdale. However, Freda still managed it, furthering her studies again, now learning patisserie and icing at Leeds College, heading up to night school there on the train?! She worked, she cycled home, she got the train up to Leeds, she attended college! Phew! How?

1946-7 Freda went on to attend Salford Technical College attending both day and evening classes to gain her certificate for teaching cookery, before in 1947 becoming Chadderton School Meals Supervisor, at the central kitchen, overseeing the cooking of 1500 meals per day. Of course this wasn't all that Freda did, as off she went in the evenings now teaching cooking at college!

1949 saw her win a Bakery Institute Scholarship with the huge sum of £150 as her reward. This allowed her to study for a national certificate in bakery, studying full-time in Leeds.

In 1951, at the age of about 27, Freda took the job of Assistant Meals Organiser in Middlesbrough, although she still travelled home regularly to see her Father in Rochdale. On one of the Sunday evening train journeys back to !! Middlesbrough in November 1951, Freda happened to meet Warrant Officer Michael Thompson, and as we all know, they rather hit it off.

In 1954 Freda gave up her job in Middlesbrough to move back to Rochdale to be nearer to her Father as his health began to fail. Instead she took a job in Oldham as School Meals Organiser, whilst also taking on a teaching appointment at the college. However, in 1956 Freda's Father sadly died at a rather young age.

But Freda continued to live in Rochdale, and in 1957 Mike and Freda were married there and began their life there together, their family ultimately being completed by daughter Doreen and son

Michael. Mike had earlier had a cycle and toy shop which they used to live above, but the shop closed in 1964 and they moved out into a bungalow in Elm Park Way.

In 1970 the family moved to Guisborough due to Middlesbrough Council inviting Freda to apply to be their Training Organiser for Teesside Education Schools Meals Service. i.e. they needed Freda to come and head up the organisation of their school meals service, this following her earlier stint with them. Then in 1971 Freda became Senior Education Catering Officer for Teesside. Freda had the challenge of providing healthy, cheap school meals to the children of Teesside and creating recipes that worked in large quantities and that did not spoil as they were transported around to the schools. She was in charge of over 500 kitchens serving 97,500 meals daily, and in her own way Freda did make a real impact on the health of the children of Teesside. By focusing on the nutritional content of the school meals she was able to improve the health of the poorest children in the area and this gave Freda a real sense of pride and joy in her work. And so by 1974 Freda was promoted again!

This is a wonderful testament to a remarkable woman, but even now we haven't yet uncovered all that Freda was. At the age of 55 Freda took an Open University degree course, going on to gain a BA honours degree in arts and literature, studying Shakespeare and more!

But life wasn't all work and study, however enjoyable this was to Freda. As a family they took continental holidays, particularly to France, going back to Normandy where Mike had served. They had friends in Julleville and met up with them every year, bringing their two families together. And Freda could speak French, she took night classes in Guisborough of course, and at the library so she could speak the language when she went to France.

Freda also did lace-making and not long ago she did a computer course, and got pretty good at emailing! But baking always continued to be Freda's hobby outside of work. She loved watching

cooking programmes and did lots of baking at home. Freda baked beautiful wedding cakes for family members, and I am sure they would have been amazing! Freda also used to bake for church, and would take her turn on the rota baking the scones for the Thursday coffee mornings at church up until not so long ago.

!2 And another hobby for Freda was attending the football matches back over in Burnley with Mike and Michael. This was a regular feature of their lives, always followed by going for tea at Doreen's house afterwards before returning home to Guisborough. They liked seeing the family regularly this way, but were happy to remain in Guisborough even in later years.

So it was in Guisborough that Mike and Freda made their home for the last 40 years of their lives. And this church here in Guisborough was where they were home too. Faith was very important to Freda, it kept her strong throughout life's ups and downs, including on losing Mike almost exactly one year ago. Freda had lots of books to inspire her faith by her bedside, including the Bible which she regularly read. She liked to read a thought or verse for the day.

And thus I want to finish my memories of Freda with a few verses from the Bible, from Psalm 18, which I can imagine would have brought Freda strength in her life and which will hopefully bring strength also to us in our lives...

'I love you, Lord, my strength.! The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;!
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,!
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

As for God, his way is perfect;!
the Lord's word is flawless;!
he shields all who take refuge in him.!
For who is God besides the Lord?!
And who is the Rock except our God?!
It is God who arms me with strength!
and keeps my way secure.!
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;!
he causes me to stand on the heights.

The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock!! Exalted be God my Saviour!'
(Psalm 18 verses 1-2, 30-33 & 46)

Redcar

Redcar Calendar

Diary Dates

Tue 1 st April	2.00pm	Craft and Chatter in Church.
Tue 15 th April	2.00pm	Welcome at Wins – at the home of Win Cordiner.

Weekly

Thursday	9.30am	Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre
	2.00pm	Thursday People – at the home of Catherine Milburn for Bible Study.
Wednesday	11.00am	Singing Group in the Church

Are we over simplifying the worship in our Church?

In this twenty-first century those in power continue to work towards equal and fair treatment in the work place, in education and between men and women - both the handicapped and the gifted benefit. All these efforts are good and are making a positive difference. Yet some colourful traditions are disappearing and the variety they give to our lives is weakened. In our churches we may resent things being 'dumbed down,' and the attraction of true mystery weakened. Words have been altered both in hymns and in

prayers. Better understanding is given but the poetry of words and their challenge of our thinking is lost.

It makes sense to change the word 'without' to 'outside' in the words of, 'There is a green hill far away,' yet to put in four words of one seems to me to be unnecessary, for the word 'likewise' in the Anglican Communion Service has been replaced with, 'In the same way.' As to the word 'devil' losing its 'd' in the Baptism Service – no comment.

Should ministers wear special clothes to take services? That question too has been in the news. Yet vestries labelled as such are seen and spoken of in our churches. In my view ministers need to be recognised by visitors and they work for God's glory only. We also clean and polish up our churches and vest them with beautiful flowers to appreciate and to thank God.

A hymn which is rarely sung tells the singer 'Deck yourself my Soul with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, come into the daylights' splendour' and we could add 'To meet Jesus.'

Church members usually, the ladies, clean and polish our churches usually before the main Christian Festivals and then they are dressed or vested with beautiful flowers. Over simplification

may lead to errors which startle and shock in the wider world.

About a year ago the Evening Gazette published a photograph of a sunrise over Hunt-cliff. It was labelled 'Sunset,' so it could be said that the paper did not know the east from the west. We also hear of sat-navs putting people into awkward places such as a ford over a river.

So it pays to be observant and also to be alert to obvious mistakes. John Rutter gives us this message through the words and music of 'Look at the world and marvel every day.' A cartoon emphasizes these thoughts. It shows a church notice-board. On it are just three words. They are 'STOP AND THINK.'

John Crowther

Lingdale

Book Club

The next meeting will be on 1st April at 7.00pm when we will be discussing *The Painter of Battles* by Arturo Perez-Reverte. New members welcome. Books are provided.

Flower Rota	
6 th April	Mrs J Scott
Palm Sunday	Mrs P Green
Easter Day	Mrs H Dunstan
27 th April	Mrs P Griffiths
4 th May	Miss S Griffiths

Community Café

10.30 – 1.00 every Tuesday. Please note the new time and don't forget if you have any donations for the food bank they can be dropped off at the Café.

Lingdale Calendar

Wed 2nd April 1.30 – 3.30pm Craft & Conversation Meeting
Wed 16nd April 1.30 – 3.30pm Craft & Conversation Meeting

Weekly

Tuesday 10.00am – 10.30am Prayers for our Community
10.30am – 1.00pm Community Café
3rd Sunday of the month 5.30pm Family Service followed by a
Youth Meeting at the Manse

St Andrew's

Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship had a lovely slide show on the Holy Land by Jimmy Anderson at their last meeting. We look forward to seeing Jimmy again in the near future.

Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everybody who gave donations, helped and supported the coffee morning held on 13th March. £199.10 was raised for church funds!!

Tools for Larchfield

I am now doing a voluntary placement at Allied Resource Community (Larchfield) in Middlesbrough.

We collect old hand tools donated by the public, renovate them and send them to Africa. If you have any unwanted tools it would be great if you could bring them in for me or take them to the workshop in Larchfield. We will put them to good use.

Thank you.

Steven Etwell

Maundy Thursday

A Group Service is to be held at 7.00pm at Guisborough Church to which all are invited. At Guisborough

Coffee for Charity

16th Feb Daisy Chain	£20.00
23rd Feb Leprosy Mission	£13.05
2nd Mar Elmridge	£15.80
9th Mar Boys' Brigade	£20.50
16th Mar Injuries Assoc.	£17.35

Shoe Box Appeal

Recently we have been given several empty shoe boxes for which we are very grateful as we had none left after last year's appeal. Should any of you have any of these just lying around we would be delighted to take them of your hands.

Boys' Brigade

Congratulations to the Mastermind Team who have progressed to the national final which is to be held in Belfast early in April. Good luck.

St Andrew's Calendar

Wed 23rd April 1.00-3.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

Weekly

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

Boys Brigade Details available from ministers and church elders

Modern

To be able to pray 'let go' is so important a part of our life that it deserves the practice it requires to become a part of our maturing way of living and its connection with final letting go should not be forgotten.

Alan Ecclestone Anglican priest and social activist (2nd half 20th century)

Preachers

	6-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	4-May
Marton	10.00am J Harper	C Morrison Parade	K Harris Communion	C Morrison	K Harris
Guisbo	9.30am N Johnson Communion	L Bustard	C Morrison Communion	D Moore	C Morrison Communion
Redcar	11.00am K Harris	J Harper	C Morrison Communion	N Johnson	C Morrison Untd 10.45 ZP
Lingdale	5.30pm N Johnson	C Morrison	K Harris Communion	C Morrison	J Coulthard

Material for the May Magazine to church editors by Sunday 13th April please

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