

# *Group News*



*\* April \* 2018 \* April \**

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

[www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk)



## **A thought from our national moderator**

### **Moving Mountains**

On Sunday night I returned home following a four-day mission in Cumbria as part of the Moving Mountains campaign. The ecumenical mission involved Anglicans, Methodists, Salvation Army and URC. 33 teams worked across the county and were engaged in around 500 different activities reaching about 25,000 people. Each team consisted a group of local Christians supported by a number of others who volunteered to help. Four Synod Moderators (Steve Faber, Andrew Mills, David Pickering and Paul Whittle) and myself each brought a few others with them.

My little, but perfectly formed, team consisted of Gwen Collins and Kate, my wife. In addition, we were supported by Alan Winstanley, the ex-Bishop of Peru and Bolivia. Our team was allocated to the Furness peninsular region, excluding Barrow-in-Furness. This is a rural area that has the feel of an island. It is bordered on three sides by water and to the north by the A5092. Typically, people do not go south of the A5092 unless they need to. Despite being beautiful countryside, typical of the Lake District, it is just outside of the National Park and so not a tourist hot-spot. A peninsular, but definitely not insular! My team was made to feel very welcome and we quickly became part of the community.

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, Moving Mountains started with a commissioning service held in Penrith (in the Penrith Auction Mart) directed by the Mike Talbot (the Evangelism Enabler in the Carlisle Diocese and the programme manager for Moving Mountains) and included the Archbishop of York, The Most Revd and Rt Hon John Sentamu, Loraine Mellor (President of the Methodist Conference), Major Drew McCombe (Divisional Commander for the Salvation Army in the North West) and myself. The mission ended with the UK's largest Messy Church held in the Rheged Centre, Penrith on the Sunday.

The main work of the mission took place on Friday and Saturday. Our work centred on Urswick, a market town close to the centre of the peninsular and covered many activities from school assemblies and country markets to coffee mornings and a film night. On the Sunday morning I took the service in the Urswick URC. This was quite a poignant service given the church meeting has recently decided to close the church, which only has eight members. Was the mission a success? It is too early to say if we have enabled new people to get to know Jesus. I'm sure that this is the case, but I believe two other

significant benefits have already been ‘delivered’. Firstly, through the commitment made by a whole host of senior people (27 bishops, nine Methodist District Chairs, five URC Moderators and one Salvation Army Divisional Commander) we have encouraged and inspired the local teams to enhance their mission focus. In addition, we have demonstrated that the four denominations are more powerful together than they are apart. This is ground breaking in the life of our churches in England, and in no small part due to the ecumenical vision, grace and enthusiasm of the Bishop of Carlisle, the Right Reverend James Newcome.

Blessings,

Alan Yates  
Moderator of General Assembly of the URC

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## **Walking the Way**

This initiative was launched last Autumn with the sub title 'Living the life of Jesus today' and concerns the development of our Discipleship. How can there be a stronger emphasis on discipleship whereby we seek to deepen our understanding of what being a Christian disciple truly means in the world today. How can we live as disciples both in our Church and outside it? We are called to proclaim God's kingdom but the world has changed so much in recent years that we probably need to look again at how we do this.

A copy of the book 'Holy Habits' was given to each church and much more material is available in the form of leaflets for both Bible study and discussion groups. Do we need something more than Sunday worship?.

Think about it and if you would like to read the book please ask your church secretary. (There is much more details available at [wtw@urc.org.uk](mailto:wtw@urc.org.uk)) If your church would like more copies of the book or any other material, please let me know as there are Group funds available to meet the cost.

*Jane Tomlin (Group Treasurer)*

# *Synod Prayers*

*1st April:*

PCM, its congregations in and around the capital, Maputo Darlington Methodist Chair, Revd Ruth Gee

*8th April:*

St Andrew's URC, Blackhill; Bethel URC, Chester-le-Street; Christ Church URC, Stanley

*15th April:*

St George's URC, High Heaton; St Cuthbert's LEP (Methodist/URC), Heaton; Revd Dr Grant Wilson

*22nd April:*

St Mark's URC, Amble; Revd Alison Mills The work of Children & Youth Work Committee and for its convenor, Mr Sandy Ogilvie and Synod Children's Work Advisor, Mrs Hannah Middleton

*29th April:*

PCM, ministers in training at Ricatla Ecumenical Seminary  
The RC Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, the Rt Revd Seamus Cunningham

## **Induction of Rev Sue Fender**

The new date for the postponed Induction for Rev Sue Fender is **Saturday 7th April at St George's Hartlepool at 3.00am**. Please contact Margaret Humberston if you would like to go, for catering purposes. [humberstones@ntlworld.com](mailto:humberstones@ntlworld.com) 01429 425 847

# Guisborough

With the advent of spring, the nascent of flowers, a new life was being anticipated and at last the waiting was over. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 Alissa Grace Moody arrived into the world, not screaming and crying but with the contentment you can only have with purity and innocence. Our first grandchild, born to overjoyed parents who suddenly felt like children themselves. Overwhelmed with the feeling of love for their daughter each commented how vulnerable they felt, as though they themselves had been reborn from a fledgling couple to the formation of a family unit. From this moment on as life changes, values and beliefs will change with the ebb and flow of emotions, decisions and dreams for their child.

Gazing down at my son and his wife as they fed their little bun-

dle of joy, I too re-lived the feeling I had with the birth of my son and knew for all his bravado and his strength and maturity, especially as a busy charge nurse on A&E, he has now an Achilles heel - his daughter.

**Psalm 127 Chapter 3 to 5:**  
“Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them”.

Whatever way this is interpreted the truth is that children are a gift. They remind us we are born innocent with no malevolence. There is no evil particle within our DNA to breed evil; these are learned traits.

With all the tragedies we see and hear of in this fast and occasionally furious world it is worth re-

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Door</b>
Easter Day	B Ward	P Etwell	J Basham
8th April	M Houston		P Etwell
15th April	R Tunnicliffe		M Ward
22nd April	P Etwell		R Tunnicliffe
29th April	D Moore		D Houston

## Guisborough Calendar

Sat	7 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00am	<b>Bridge Prayer Breakfast</b> in our church
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup> April		Gift Day

### Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	<b>Quiet Time in Church.</b> Prayers and reflections with Maureen, Madge, Ken and others. Details on church notice-board

membering that in those quiet moments when one has the time to reflect, it is the knowing that at one time we all were innocent pure and vulnerable. We have the power as adults to recognize vulnerability and act as advocates for those who need a voice of strength and reasoning. Where there is purity and calmness appreciate this feeling and let God hear our prayers. Innocence of thought and deed must be respected and nurtured to enable fruition and a celebration of the innocence of our childhood and the calmness we all seek to feel once more as the children of God. When God looks down at his children he will know the

fears, hopes and dreams we hold and yet to show his love for us he gave his precious son to us so we may know his love. I cannot comprehend the feeling of giving your most precious child to others to prove your faith and love. How blessed we are.

**Matthew Chapter 10 Verse: 16:** “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves”.

These are indeed the words of a father to his children, knowing the dangers yet having faith in what they can achieve.

*Angela Etwell*

# *Redcar*

## *EASTER COFFEE MORNING AT REDCAR*

*Saturday 31 March 2018*

*You are invited to Redcar URC between 10-12 for coffee and hot cross buns for £1.*

*Also Raffle, Tombola and Cake stall.*

### **Stop and Think**

I enjoy James Robertson's occasional articles in Group News. They cause me to STOP and THINK.

In his first paragraph of last month (the March edition) he wonders why some who take the Sunday Services may solemnly bow to the congregation before taking the Bible back to the Vestry, although I have not seen this at Redcar URC.

Perhaps this can be seen as a respectful 'Thank you.'

Other denominations especially the Roman Catholics and Anglicans do this – usually it's when a Lay person recognises an ordained priest.

For the congregation is made up of the priesthood of all believers.

The bow is therefore a sign of unity.

Perhaps we should in thought or action acknowledge by giving the bow back?

*John Crowther*

## Thanks in Advance!

Although when writing this, in the middle of March, well before our Easter coffee morning – thank you to all who helped and supported the event!!!

### Redcar Calendar

#### Weekly

Wednesday	10:30am	Singing Group
Thursday	9.30am	Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre
	2.00pm	Thursday Payers at Catherine's

## *St Andrew's*

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Christopher and Sarah Wheeler on the birth of their lovely baby boy, Caleb. A new brother for Jacob and a new grandson for Roger and Eleanor. We remember them all in our prayers.

### In Memory

It is with sadness that we have to announce the death of Albert McGarrell.

We will miss his lovely organ and piano playing and his cheeky smile. Thank you Albert for all your lovely music.

## Date for your diary

Coffee Morning on Thursday 31st May at 8 Towthorpe, Nunthorpe at 10.30am. Raffle, Bring and Buy Stall. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

## Coffee for Charity

4th February	Leprosy Mission	£20.00
18th February	Rosemary Fund	£20.50
25th February	Teesside Hospice	£14.00
4th March	Riding for the Disabled	£13.55
11th March	Boys' Brigade	£22.50

## Middlesbrough Food Bank

For many years St Andrew's has supported Coatham House in Red-car in its work with young people. There have been changes in personnel there and we feel that our food help is no longer needed. At the AGM in March it was agreed that we should instead support the Middlesbrough Food Bank. The following items are those most urgently needed and Joan Swan has agreed to take the boxes down regularly to the depot.

UHT and Powdered Milk,  
Long life fruit juice and cordial, Coffee  
Sponge puddings, Tinned rice pudding  
Tinned vegetables, carrots, sweetcorn  
Tinned fruit  
Tinned meat - Spam, hot dogs, Stews, curries, corned beef  
etc.

Please remember to add one (or more) of these items to your shopping and put it in the basket at Church. Thank you.

*Jane Tomlin*

# St Andrew's Calendar

## Weekly/Monthly

Boys Brigade

Details available from ministers  
and church elders

# *Preachers*

	<b>Marton</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Guisborough</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Redcar</b> <b>11.00am</b>
Easter	Margaret Harris Communion	Jane Rowell Communion	Ken Harris Communion
8-Apr	K & M Harris Parade	Maranny Jones	Jan Harper
15-Apr	Jan & Jane	Guis Folk	Norma Johnson
22-Apr	Jan Harper	Margaret Harris	Pam Stenson
29-Apr	Donna Moore	Brian Stephenson	Norma Johnson

Material for the May Magazine to church editors by Sunday 15th  
April please

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