

Group News



** December * 2013 **

** January * 2014 **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Minister

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Dear Friends,

As it draws near to Christmas once again, we are soon to begin again the cycle of Bible readings that we call the Lectionary, for the Christian calendar begins each year on the first Sunday in Advent. Our readings for each Sunday of the year, arranged in a three year cycle, A, B and C, have been carefully researched and put together so that over the entire period we cover as much of the Bible as possible. The aim being is that this way we have a good overall understanding of the Bible.

Right now we are just coming to the end of the three year cycle, so the question we should be asking ourselves is, have we grown in our faith and understanding of the Bible over these last three years? Has the lectionary been useful to us in our faith? Have we been aware of being on a journey through the Bible? I am aware that at a few points, I have left the lectionary behind, choosing instead to walk down an alternative path of understanding on certain Sundays. And this is the discerning job of the worship leader. But it is also for us all, as we healthily challenge what is in the Bible.

On the first Sunday in Advent we then get to begin again. But why do we do this? Is this a cycle that we are too familiar with, its meaning having faded over the years? Well I hope not, as I know that I find that no matter how many times I work through the whole three year cycle, I still have more to say on Sundays! Why did I ever worry, whilst training to be a minister, that I would run out of things to say and ideas for sermons?

And the reason is that God is still speaking to us today. God has yet more to reveal to us! Only we need to be ready to listen, and ready to respond to what we hear from God. Oscar Romero, Roman Catholic Archbishop of El Salvador who was murdered as he led worship, once said, *'Christianity is not a collection of truths to be believed, of laws to be obeyed, of prohibitions. That makes it very distasteful. Christianity is a person, one who loved us so much, one who calls for our love. Christianity is Christ.'*

Throughout **Advent** we prepare ourselves to meet Christ. At **Christmas** time we greet Christ. And in the **New Year** we set off again in Year A of the lectionary to continue growing with Christ – for this we need to do every day of our journey of faith with God.

Have a blessed Christ-mas as you persevere in your journey to see the King!

‘As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.’ (Psalm 17:15 KJV)

Rev Catey Morrison

Sabbatical

Following on from my time away on sabbatical in the Holy Land and Turkey in the spring, and more recently carrying out reading and research on the quiet island of Lismore, I will be sharing some of that which I have learned in three multimedia services of worship which will hopefully help us all understand a little better the history and purpose of the Bible, and be able to get to see some of the Holy Land and Turkey for ourselves on screen.

Seasons Greetings

Synod Prayers

The Synod Prayer Diary for 2013 took as its theme the United Reformed Church's Vision 2020 mission strategy, focusing on each of the 10 statements during the year. For December the theme is 'Justice and Peace'.

1st December

The mission of the whole church

8th December

Trinity LEP, Bedlington; Rev Heegon Moon; Blyth; Rev Yvonne Tracey; Christ Church LEP, North Broomhill; Rev Lynda Coulthard; Elsdon Avenue LEP, Seaton Delaval; Rev Malcolm Sellers

15th December

Bishop of Newcastle Rt Rev Martin Wharton; Bishop of Durham Rt Rev Justin Welby; Bishop of Jarrow Rt Rev Mark Bryant; Bishop of Whitby Rt Rev Martin Warner

22nd December

Newcastle Methodist District Chair Rev Leo Osborn; Darlington Methodist District Chair Rev Ruth Gee; Northern Baptist Regional Minister Rev John Claydon; Independent church representative Dr Mark Bonnington

29th December

Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle Rt Rev Seamus Cunningham; Bishop of Middlesbrough Rt Rev Terry Draine; Northern Salvation Army Divisional Commanders Majors Darrell & Katrina Thomas

Prayers for the IPM Church in Mozambique

Pray for the three presbyteries of Limpopo South, East and Central, covering much of Gaza Province and reaching north to Inhambane. Together with Maputo this is very much the heartland of the IPM.

For 2014 the Synod Prayer Diary takes us around the churches of the Synod, as well as remembering Synod officers, groups and committees. Some significant dates in the year are noted, and where possible churches are placed near to their saint's feast day. The last Sunday of each month is set aside to pray for ecumenical partners in our region and our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique (PCM).

5th January

Epiphany – Chaplains; Rev Nigel Goodfellow; Revd Margaret Johnson

12th January

Trinity LEP, Ashington; St Andrew's & St Mark's LEP, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea; Rev Barry Welch

19th January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Ecumenical Committee; Convenor Rev James Breslin

26th January

Holocaust Memorial Day this week – PCM: The Moderator of the Synod, Rev Ernesto Langa; the President of the Synod Council, Rev José Tovela jnr; and members of the Synod Council; North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT); local Churches Together groups

Manse Prayers

The Tuesday morning (8.30am) Please contact Catey to enquire prayer meetings are not happen- about other prayer meetings for the time being. around the Group.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18th to 25th January**

Please see posters for local services in the churches of your area.

For Our Prayers

Prayer Pointers for needs across the Group

Prayers for the week beginning...

- 2nd Dec – Pray that God will help us to prayerfully move through advent towards Christmas, realising yet more of what you came to be and do here in on earth.
- 9th Dec – Pray for nativity services this year to speak out boldly and truthfully the Christmas story to all who have ears to hear the true message of Christmas, whether they are children or adults, filling them with the real joy of this special time!
- 16th Dec – Pray for all in our communities who feel the loneliness of their shut in, housebound lives even more keenly at this time. Ask God to help us to find the time in our busy preparations to visit someone who God puts on our heart to visit, thus being Christ to them this week.
- 23rd Dec – Pray for all who are grieving the death of a loved one this Christmas time, or coping with caring for someone with a terminal illness. We pray for the dedicated doctors and nurses at our local hospices, and for Macmillan nurses who visit and support people with cancer in their homes regardless of bank holiday. Lord, help us to know what to say and how to reach out to those who are struggling.
- 30th Dec - Pray for the children who do not have a lot of toys or anything to play with, because of parents struggling to pay the rent and have enough for food and electricity afterwards, let alone be able to buy the presents that they would love to be able to buy for their children.

6th Jan – Pray for all those who have had a bad year last year in one way or another, that they might hold on to the hope of better times to come, with the reassurance of faith in God.

13th Jan – Pray for countries around the world where division and strife are blindfolding them from seeing God in their midst. Pray for God’s kingdom to win over every other one day.

20th Jan – Pray for all the many, many services of prayer that will be taking place all over the world this week, as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Give thanks to God that we are all to worship together in this way, putting aside differences.

27th Jan – Pray for those suffering as a result of the cold and wintry conditions; particularly those who cannot afford to have their heating on much during the day over these months.

‘The Bible’

A 10 part Bible TV series covering the whole Bible in dramatic form, called simply ‘The Bible’ has begun to be shown on Channel 5 at 9pm starting Saturday 30th November. It is meant to be a really good summary of the people and events of the Bible in the order it all happened. Catey would recommend it to you!

Group Elders

Thursday 5th December 7.30pm
Guisborough URC.

F.A.F. Club

The next meetings are on Sunday 15th December and then on Sunday 12th January, 6.30-8.30pm, at the Lingdale Manse.

All young people connected with our churches of roughly secondary school age are welcome!

Please ring Catey for information 01287 651926

Traidcraft



Shop 2013

35 Dundas Street, Middlesbrough
(the former Yorkshire Linen shop just inside Dundas Arcade)
Tel: 0798 520 4621



Open 10am - 5 pm Monday- Saturdays
until Saturday December 21st

*Fair Trade Christmas gifts, cards and
foods from around the world!*



News from the Persecuted Church

The 63 Christians in a Central Asian village were forbidden by their hostile Muslim neighbours from using the communal wells. But with a grant from Barnabas they were able to build their own well to provide water for drinking and agriculture. The Muslim neighbours were surprised that the Christians then allowed them to use the water from their well for free. Our partner wrote, "Now they see that Christians are not enemies. So they change their mind about Christians." The village elders and local authorities now have a more positive attitude to the church, and persecution has decreased. Praise God with these Christians for the impact of this project upon their lives, and pray that they will continue to find favour with the people in their village (Acts 2:47).

From the Barnabus Fund Prayer Diary www.barnabusfund.org

In Bangladesh pray for indigenous minorities in the centre of the country, and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, who are marginalised because of their religion and ethnicity

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

A fun Quiz

Our Tea towel gives some daft but amusing definitions such as 'Accurate: some one who helps a vicar' I prefer 'a cure for rats' either poison or medicine.

Here are the rest of the words on our tea towel. Use your imagination to think up better 'definitions' than the tea towel. I have given one to 'set the scene'

Acquire	Bigamy
Dogma	Endorse
Exact	Exchequer
Foreign	Forest
Handicraft	Hurricane
Laboratory	Liabe
Minimum	Palliasse
Pantry	Scintillate
Selfish	Shoemith
Superficial	Syrup
Tandem	Winsome

Tea towel definitions with the February Group News

Illegal: *an eagle that is not well*

Richard

Guisborough

As a fan of Middlesbrough Football Club, of some years standing, I approached Oakwell, the Barnsley F.C. Stadium, way back in October, with a clear hope of victory. They were bottom of the Championship Division and the 'Boro.' was also struggling and battling against the possibility of relegation. The stadium was clearly showing signs of its age – most unimpressive – almost from another age – visions of austerity and post war rationing, and the like. And this was soon reflected in the Barnsley team's lack lustre performance on the pitch. Boro weren't playing well, but comfortable on the ball, as they say. Suddenly, the two thousand visiting supporters were given an almighty shock. A Barnsley player weaved through our defence and scored. Then another goal came - and then a penalty. Three nil down at half time – and we were all stunned by the unexpected. There were boos as the team left the field at half time and supporters were even arguing amongst themselves. This was dreadful. In the second half play continued in a similar vein until, eventually,

our players managed to 'up their game,' in last ten minutes, and scored two goals. Just failing to manage a third in time to salvage some pride before the final whistle was blown.

Two days later, Tony Mowbray – 'Mogga' - the manager was sacked and the Evening Gazette devoted acres of newsprint to a detailed analysis of how the team had fallen so far from grace. And all of this was followed up by hundreds of comments from fans on the paper's website. Later, Boro managed a 4-0 win against Doncaster – to begin a fight back. But then lost again against Blackburn, and then again a last minute home draw against Watford and so it goes on - such passion, such concern for a football team. How would it be if such passion could be fully realised in our churches? Do we feel as strongly about faith as the football fan feels about their team? Should we be arguing or debating furiously about the content of the sermon we have just heard. Or, perhaps, eagerly telling our friends, in the fellowship, about how faith has touched us and

helped in our every day lives during the previous week - or is this inappropriate for *our* type of faith and belief in Jesus Christ?

In 1st. Corinthians I think we can see something of such passion as various factions within the early church promoted their favoured leader: I am for Paul, no I am for Apollos or I am for Peter. Their passion may have been misguided, but it clearly showed a real strong feeling for faith and what it meant to the people of that time. Then Paul came to the rescue of this fellowship with an even greater passion for unity in Christ. Similarly, much later in 1662 we have the Great Ejection of ministers from their churches for refusing to conform to the *'Book of Common Prayer.'* Sacrificing their livings to stay passionately faithful to what they considered to be the "*nature of true Christianity.*" Last year the importance of this stand was celebrated by A Service of Reconciliation held in February at Westminster Abbey, with Archbishop Rowan Williams preaching the sermon. And then again, we have the passion of belief emerging from the first Billy Graham evangelical campaign of the 1950's – when so

many people came forward to be with Christ. So what about us?

For ourselves there will be an opportunity to feel passionate about our belief in Christ when as we embark on the 'Blowing Your Cover' project in the spring of next year. Following on from the evangelical presentation by Paul Stokes in 2011 and later - further ideas from John Paul, of West Denton URC – the Group Elders have agreed to incorporate the concepts of Blowing Your Cover into monthly services. The aim is simple: to help us all to move one stage further on the way to making evangelism a natural and essential part of the life of our churches. In essence it means taking the mystery and guilt out of evangelism; equip churches to effectively share faith with those around them; help people to find a way to tell others about Christ and enable fellowships to work evangelistically as a team, rather than individuals. It is something to think and pray about for the enthusiasm and passion we can have for such a mission.

The Guisborough Bridge Association, which has been a piece of church outreach into the com-

munity, for more than ten years, is the 'Jewel in the Crown' of achievement for the churches in Guisborough. Over the years it has built up a range of projects in the town from youth and children's work, to a food bank for the needy, a Christmas Day Meal for the lonely and other work. All of this comes at a price both in the efforts of volunteers and hard earned cash needed to pay for salaries, expenses and buy essential products and materials. Unfortunately, the charity is now running at loss with difficult decisions needing to be made in order to balance the books. It has been a success story in terms of the benefit to the local community and was declared Charity of the Year by Sainsbury's – but the work needs to continue. Please place the Bridge in your prayers for its trustees and members as they face the hard task of 2014.

For Guisborough Church there has been joy and sadness in recent months. Two of our mem-

bers: Dorothy Harris and Stuart Marshall have died. Dorothy's contribution to church life, published in detail last month, was greatly valued and treasured by all members. Stuart was a long time member of the fellowship, being an official of the church in the past and involved in work for retired ministers housing for many years. His wife Carolyn was also a long time member of the congregation – and our thoughts and prayers go out to her and the family at this time.

However the good news is that we now have a resident Brownie Pack in our church hall after an absence of around 35 years. It was good to see them join us for our Harvest Service, in October, under the leadership of the Guider in Charge, Elizabeth Henderson. It would be good if they are able to join in with our Junior Church for their Special Christmas Service in December.

Ray Tunnicliffe

Modern

Christmas day declares that he dwelt among us. This is the festival which makes us know, indeed, that we are members of one body; it binds together the life of Christ on earth with his life in heaven; it assures us that Christmas day belongs not to time but to eternity.

Frederick Dennison Maurice English theologian and writer (19th Century)

Guisborough Calendar

Sun 1 st Dec	10.00am	Group Advent Service with Communion
Thu 5 th Dec	7.30pm	Group Elders meet at in the Hall.
Tue 24 th Dec	2.30pm	Make a date for Christmas Eve Carols at Belmont View Care Home
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Morning Service with Rev Norma Johnson

Weekly

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

Choir Travels the World this Christmas

There's a lively and imaginative programme for Guisborough Choral Society's ever-popular Christmas concert this year. There'll be the traditional carols of course, but they will be spiced up with a selection of carols from around the world; from as far afield as Hawaii and as close to these shores as France. Another highlight of the evening will be the beautiful and rousing choruses from Handel's Messiah that celebrate Christ's birth. The Guisborough Salvation Army Band will accompany the choir and perform a selection of their own festive favourites. The concert is on Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Westgate, Guisborough.

Tickets priced £10, £8 concessions, £1 under-19s, from Guisborough Bookshop, Greensleeves Music, wegottickets.com, or on the door.

**A Sermon Preached by
Rev Catey Morrison on Sunday, 22nd, September, 2013
in Guisborough United Reformed Church**

In a lifetime of worship we will listen to so many sermons usually soon forgotten. But then, suddenly, one will remain clearly fixed in our memory. It has struck a chord within us for some reason – answered a need at that time. I can think of three, in my past experience. One was delivered by an elderly retired minister with a simple theme building up to one declaration: go home and read Mark’s Gospel in full – something we don’t normally do. This I did in less than an hour – what an experience. Later, a sermon by Michael Dunford, a former minister of our Stockton Church, stayed in my mind for one word: ‘busyness.’ Don’t be too busy with the routine affairs of the church – that you miss the call of God. And then there was a sermon I read, preached in the 17th century for a wedding – perfection in language, wisdom, and humility. Sadly, I can’t remember the name of the book in which it was published – so no reprise, as yet. Sometimes it may be that we just want to hear again a homily that has just been preached. The following sermon, by Catey, I also found to be memorable, perhaps you would like to read or be reminded of what she said.

Ray Tunnicliffe

One of the world’s greatest cellists was the Russian Mstislav Rostropovich and by the time he died, in a Moscow clinic in 2007, aged eighty he had not only captivated the world’s concert halls but had also touched the world’s conscience. Back in the days when Europe and the world were divided between East and West – and an Iron Curtain and the Berlin wall cut through so many hearts. Some in Russia dissented and spoke up for freedom and human dignity. And one was the Nobel Prize winning author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn who was taken off to forced labour in Siberia. When that happened, Rostropovich wrote a public letter to the Moscow newspapers in 1970 speaking out for human rights. In return he and his wife were stripped of their citizenship and headed off into self imposed exile in the West. Imagine the power of the sight of this lone old man sitting on a chair and playing Bach on his cello in front of the Berlin Wall as it was torn down in November 1989. That’s a picture of goodness overcoming evil. That’s a picture of hope winning out over despair. The mighty empire fell and the cellist played on. But there is something more about Rostropovich that is captivating. It’s the story of his concert performance one evening in Chi-

cago. As so often when he played, as the last note of his cello faded into the air the audience sat silent. You could have heard a pin drop. It was if a spell had fallen over everyone present. And after the beautiful came the unexpected. Rostropovich stood up and kissed his cello. Then he hugged and kissed the conductor. Then he hugged and kissed the whole cello section of the orchestra. Then he hugged and kissed the violin section; then he went on until virtually every member of the orchestra had been hugged and kissed. This was gratitude. This was gratitude so deep, so overwhelming, so wonderfully all embracing that it just flowed into embrace after embrace after embrace. Rostropovich was simply grateful for everyone around him who had added to the music that he was playing - and every one around him was blessed. This is what we can be like and what others can be like with us. Think of a time when you have known huge gratitude welling up inside you. You might be grateful for a tablet given to you at Christmas, you know, which is Sophie's dream. Imagine, sorry, remember back to a time when you have been really grateful to somebody for something they have done - a situation perhaps when words, words were not enough. Thank you was not enough, and you just had to do something, say something more to express your thanks. Can you think of such times? Have you tasted them, have you touched them? I hope and pray so. For although we might not all go around the room hugging. I would because I am a huggy person. We not all huggy people are we, right? But some other way when we just want to appreciate what has been done for you; and say thank you. And we need to hold onto those memories as we turn to the Bible. For gratitude is the essence of what scripture wants to say to us today. In our psalm we hear the cadence of gratitude, the flow of thankfulness throughout his words. Let all people in every place bless the name of the Lord. The psalmist puts words into our

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
1 st Dec	D Beattie	P Etwell	D Cross	M Houston
8 th Dec	M Houston		D Houston	H Senior
15 th Dec	J Basham		M Ward	Christmas Flowers
22 nd Dec	J Reynolds		D Moore	Christmas Flowers
29 th Dec	B Ward		P Etwell	Christmas Flowers
5 th Jan	D Moore	M Burrows	D Cross	D Kane
12 th Jan	D Houston		M Houston	K Harris
19 th Jan	B Ward		D Beattie	P Etwell
26 th Jan	D Cross		J Reynolds	J Basham
2 nd Feb	J Basham	M Houston	M Ward	D Collins

mouths. The words of a worshipping community caught up in a pattern of praise that was, hopefully, normal to them – here heart and mind turning towards God and to the depths of gratitude. Here is life offered as glad response to God, to which God has done. Then we read from Paul's first letter to Timothy. Ahead of today's passage Paul has already offered many words of gratitude; he has spoken again of his own journey of many years ago of his conversion. To the scoffer, the sceptic, to the faithful follower of Jesus Christ he has given thanks for the way, than to God who has caught him in a net of love and forgiveness - to set him on his way rejoicing. Those were the last few weeks that we have read about, and now he turns to explore worship and we read about prayer. At this point, there could be coming in all of its many forms. At this point here is some many things say. Prayer is such a central part of our faith. Where would we be without prayer? How would we communicate with, with God? It is a focus of countless bits of advice. Preachers can run almost endless sermons extolling the importance of prayer and exploring some of its many forms. But for all its noise and heat prayer is perhaps the most difficult part of faith too. Indeed maybe that is why there is so much heat and noise about prayer. We do not always find prayer easy, for every time, for every moment. I know when I was with Dorothy Harris at the hospice. And she brought the conversation back to faith. And she was just feeling too exhausted at that time – and too exhausted to pray. She was able to just sit, she said and to know that there was God. Prayer is not always easy. Prayer is something we can feel guilty about not doing enough of. Sometimes our prayers are sporadic. Sometimes very short: help me Lord. Sometimes we feel prayers go unanswered and that can leave a bitter taste in our lives. But we can look back and think: where was God in that? And not know the answer. Perhaps prayer is one of those unmentioned of faith, as I said, that could most easily produce that profound sense of guilt amongst us - and if any of this hits you and has you feel you have let down God in your prayer life we are to take heart today and, by the way, that does include me. Paul doesn't delve into a vast array of instructions for prayer here. He doesn't belittle Timothy in his prayer life. He keeps things staggeringly simple: pray for everyone – pray for everyone - because everyone is the focus of God's compassion - and concern. Christ Jesus has given himself as a ransom for all people, so pray for all people. Be grateful and pray. Where does such prayer come from - what draws it from us? What motivates our hearts in praying and what gives words to our lips when we do? The parable Jesus tells us in a Gospel reading - the reading that we didn't touch on today. You will know the one. The Gospel looks at our insights and motivations so do many other places in the New Testament concern our motivations You know the story of when the rich man is moti-

vated both by anger at the allegation that his manager is squandering his riches - and by grudging respect for the managers readiness to create his own safety net by fiddling his masters books to benefit himself and his master's debtors. The manager is motivated by self preservation in the face of impending ruin. It is a parable about scheming and deception, greed and selfishness. And it draws from Jesus (have you read it) the punch line that we need to always hear. What is that punch line? Do you remember the punch line? "You cannot serve God and...? (**Voice: mammon**) Well yeah, you cannot serve God and wealth. It takes us back to Paul's words to Timothy on praying. Forget about calculations. Forget about new deals with God. Forget about being motivated by guilt. Forget about learning a particular set of prayers - as if some secret scheme will guarantee a better prayer life. Forget all of that and instead simply dwell upon gratitude. Be grateful for what God has already done. Let gratitude be the root of faithfulness. We can be so busy trying to do so many things for God. We can crowd our church agenda's with endless tasks. We can be rooted in rotas and centred upon spread sheets. There's endless things that could and should alarm us about our churches and our context, our communities and our consciences. But into all of this we need to let gratitude come. In creation God has made us. In Christ, God has saved us. In the spirit God is at work in us, amongst us, around us. Isn't that enough to make us grateful? Isn't that enough to root our lives and thus our praying, that's it. Think to give thanks for what God has done; what Jesus has done; what the Holy Spirit continues to do. Scripture today invites us to dwell deeply on the essence of what we are. To ponder long and hard on the truth we hold in the core of our being. God's word today wants to seek out souls? And the lesson is an invitation to gratitude. It is not always an easy lesson, particularly if we are not huggy, exuberantly thankful kind of people holding things in ourselves, inside ourselves. It's not always any easy lesson either because church, context, community and conscience can alarm us. We know what it is to be broken and to live alongside those who are broken and that hugging, that healing is elusive. But if we still begin each day with gratitude. I believe Dorothy did - so much to learn from Dorothy. Dorothy prayed every day. What if we turn to prayer ourselves every day and to gratitude? What if we encounter our neighbours, even the ones we don't like so much with the spirit of gratitude, thanking God that they are there. What if we build up this congregation of life beginning with gratitude as our essence - a thankful church? What if God is simply good and we give him all praise and thanks. Our purpose is to be simply grateful.

That's it. *Amen.*

Redcar

The Annual Bazaar

A huge thank you to all who supported this event in any way: by donating, by helping or by visiting on Saturday, 9th November. It was a very busy event but one which had a wonderful atmosphere and was well attended. The Bazaar raised an amazing £861 for Church funds!! Thank you also to Newcomen Methodist Church and Coatham Memorial Hall for the use of their trestle tables.

Craft and Chatter

The Craft and Chatter group have at last completed and installed the new piano back which has been our major project this year. It was blessed by Rev Catey on her return to Redcar Church on Sunday, 17th November. The piece of work depicts the life of Redcar Church in applique squares: the origins of the Church building, the countries of the British Isles



SHEEP GONE MISSING

REWARD

*If you can find them during
Redcar Nativity Sheep Trail*

30th November to 14th December

*Hear all about it at switch on of
Christmas Lights*

4.00 pm Friday 29th November

Redcar Town Clock

*or pick up a leaflet from Wilkinson, Tourist
Information, libraries and churches*

members come from, the Scout group and of course the activities and groups attached to the Church. Thank you to all who had 'fun' with this project – hope everyone enjoys looking at it!

Memorial Service

10.30am Saturday 14th December

Memorial Service for all those who have lost loved ones to have chance to remember in the seasonal time

A 'Thank-You' is sufficient

Children's literature along with everything else changes as time passes. Over the last thirty years or so, stories have been written about man made objects which are given personalities.

So we have Thomas the Tank Engine along with his friends, Edward and Henry. These are important names to our family for three brothers who are our grandchildren also have them.

Giving names to inanimate objects isn't new for playing cards come alive in 'Alice in Wonderland' and more recently the Duchess of York gave a helicopter and their machines their own personalities.

Some stories are made into cartoon films, short ones which advertise or longer ones which entertain children. Again old ones such as 'Bambi' and 'Snow White' or modern ones like the 'Ice Age' series.

A recent one publicises Eddie Stobart's haulage business. It uses the catch phrase which may irritate us for it has passed into common usage. It's just two words 'no problem.'

We may need to remind our children or grandchildren to

say 'thank-you' when gifts or help are given to them.

'Thank-you' are words offered by us all to God because of what He has and is doing in our lives. Part of an old prayer which was often used at Evensong expresses this very well.

'We thank you for our creation, preservation and for all the blessings of this life, but above all for your inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.'

A thank-you nowadays is sometimes spoiled by a reply of 'No problem.' But it isn't one and I'm perfectly happy with a smile for a 'no problem' may be seen as weakening those two important words.

A smile too, is all that is needed for the Minister when we are given Holy Communion.

John Crowther

**New Year Left Overs
Soup and Sweet Lunch
Sunday 5th January
after the morning service**

Donations of left over desserts would be gratefully received.

Redcar Calendar

- Sun 1st Dec 10.00am Group Advent Service at Guisborough
- Tue 3rd Dec 2.00pm Craft and Chatter – venue to be arranged!
- Sat 14th Dec 10.30am Memorial Service
- Sun 15th Dec 11.00am Catherine’s Carol Service
- Mon 16th Dec 7.00pm Redcar Street Angels Public Meeting at St. Peter’s Church, Redcar

Welcome at Wins – **Please note unfortunately there will be no meeting in December**

- Tue 7th Jan 2.00pm Craft and Chatter in the Church
- Sun 12th Jan 11.45am Church meeting
- Sun 19th Jan 11.00am United Covenant Service with St Peter’s, Newcomen and Zetland Park Methodist churches at our church
- Tue 21st Jan 2.00pm Welcome at Wins

Weekly

- Wednesday 11.00am Singing Group
- Thursday 9.30am Prayers
- 10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre
- Bible Study at the home of Catherine Milburn on Thursdays - please see her for details

Ancient

‘Glory’ saints and angels sang; heaven with their praises rang;
while shepherds saw with wondering eyes the shepherd who had
made the world.

Sedulius Spanish or Gallic poet and hymn writer (5th Century)

St Andrew's

Condolences

It is with sadness we report the death of Trevor Morris after a long illness.

Please remember Sheila, Rachel, Neil and family in your prayers.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Christopher Wheeler and his fiancée Sarah on their recent engagement. Our very best wishes and congratulations to them both for a happy future.

Knit 'n' Natter

There will be no meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January

Coffee for Charity

20th Oct RNLI	£19.00
27th Oct Fund	£20.00
3rd Nov Box Appeal	£20.00
10th Nov Boys' Brigade	£23.85

Christmas Social

Christmas Social is to be held at St Andrew's on Wednesday 11th December at 7.30pm. Mince Pies, tea or coffee will be on offer together with a raffle. Proceeds from this will go to charity.

Shoe Box Appeal

We have now completed this appeal and must thank everyone for their donations and help. We managed to send 38 completed boxes from this church. Well done everyone.

Thank you for organising us Shona and thank you Grant for taking the completed boxes to the collection point.

We now have no empty shoe boxes left and would ask everyone to help us to collect more during this next year so that we can start next year's appeal promptly. Without empty shoe boxes we can't send any completed ones!

St Andrew's Calendar

- Tue 3 Dec 10-11.30am Churches Together Christmas Coffee Morning at Nunthorpe Methodist Church.
- Thu 5 Dec 2.00pm Monthly prayers hosted by Audrey.
- Fri 6 Dec 5.30-7.00pm Marton & Nunthorpe "Shine" Christmas Event at Nunthorpe School
- Wed 11 Dec 7.30pm Christmas Social
- Wed 18 Dec 9.30am Midweek Prayers at Church
- Tue 24 Dec 2.30pm Service at Kirkley Lodge
6.30pm Christingle Service
- Christmas Day 10.00am Christmas Worship
- Wed 22 Jan 1.00-3.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
2.30pm Service at Kirkley Lodge

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

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship next meets on Tuesday 14th January 2014 at St Andrew's, 1.30pm to 3.00pm when we will hear a talk from Rob Nightingale of "Smile".

Advance Notice

The new Flower List for 2014 will shortly be placed on the Notice Board.

Anyone interested please add their name to the new list. Joan Swan will be very grateful!

A Tribute to Trevor Morris:

Trevor was born in St. Barnabas' Road in Middlesbrough on 2nd March 1938, the second of four children, which included Sylvia his sister, and brothers John and young Alan. Trevor's father was a fruit and vegetable wholesaler, which no doubt meant very early mornings for him, and Trevor used to accompany his dad as he grew older, even going with his dad all the way down to Lincolnshire to fetch the strawberries up. A very early start!

But Trevor seemed set on quite a different career from his early days, being very intelligent and studious. He did suffer a setback when aged 11 he badly broke his leg. Being off school for three months he went from the top of the class to the bottom of the class, and then he had to steadily work his way up again! But being determined, he did it. Trevor went on to go to Acklam Hall Grammar School, where he did very well at school indeed, gaining 9 O-levels. The Head of the Grammar School wanted him to stay on at school, such was the promise he showed, but Trevor had plans of a more practical nature, and so he started work as an apprentice draftsman. However, it would appear that Trevor's career could have taken off in one of many different directions, such was Trevor's natural skillset. You see Trevor was a perfectionist and so whatever he did he made sure he did well, whether it was wall-papering, DIY, car mechanics, or garden design and construction. He even installed the central heating system himself – well he would rather do that than pay out for someone else to do it! And he built an entire garage complete with a ridge roof, at his first marital home.

But life wasn't perfect for Trevor, and at the age of 19 Trevor lost his dad. But what Trevor was, as well as being a perfectionist, was determined and no doubt life had to be got on with. At the time Trevor was working hard on his apprenticeship at Teesside Bridge and Engineering Works. It was a three year sandwich course, with 6 months working then six months at college, and so on. In addi-

tion to this Trevor took extra courses, both then and over his career, boosting his career prospects with correspondence courses and night school courses. However, I think he really took those extra courses because he just wanted to – that is who he was! Interested and driven, and adding so many letters to his name over the course of his life that I didn't manage to get them all down in my notes!

However, there were other perks arising from the night classes at that time, for it was on a night out with his night school class at the Spa Ballroom in Saltburn, that Trevor first met Sheila when she was also out with her night class. It wasn't love at first sight, but gradually, as their two separate groups of friends began to socialise together more - Trevor often dropping Sheila off on his way home - they got to know each other more, and well just began to drift together until eventually they were a couple. They married on 24th August 1963 shortly after Trevor had completed his apprenticeship.

Trevor's first job was in civil engineering, based down in York, and so shortly after they got married they made the move down to York, purchasing their first house together, a bungalow in Huntingdon!

Then in 1967 their daughter Rachel was born, but by that time Trevor had changed jobs and was now working in Beverley for East Riding County Council. However, Sheila and Rachel stayed put in Huntingdon. 1969 saw a move for the whole family to Preston in Lancashire, where Neil's birth then completed the family in 1970.

Trevor's working career, however, was still progressing. Promotion next meant a move to Middlesbrough Council, then a move to Dorman Long, experimenting with using slag from the steelworks for road building. Trevor was then head hunted to go onto the plant to oversee the building of the chimneys that were required. Two teams were involved in the building of the chimneys, but then after the project was completed one team had to be cut, and unfortu-

nately it was Trevor's team. Trevor then got a job with Foster-Wheeler, and was contemplating a move to Australia. However, instead, in complete contrast, he became Chief Civil Engineer on Shetland – Sullun Voe Oil Terminal. Trevor used to go up there for 4 weeks at a time before a stay at home. For the first year, he used to live on a ship, as the Oil Terminal was built. Then Trevor had a house up there, and the family visited for the whole of the summer holidays when Rachel was 12 or 13. When Sullun Voe was opened by the King and Queen of Norway, the Royal Britannia brought them up to the opening. The weather was so windy that the red carpet had to be nailed down!

Trevor continued to work for Foster-Wheeler, next in Southampton, then Pembroke, then Ulverston, and then Thailand! Trevor worked for Foster-Wheeler in Thailand for about 8 years before trade then took a down turn and Trevor was again made redundant. But this just opened the door for Sino-Thai Oil to approach him to work for them, which he did for three years, before a crash in the Asian market meant that they couldn't keep him on as Assistant to the President, the highest job he could have over there.

Trevor's only disappointment on returning to work in England was that he couldn't achieve the same level of pay over here. However, coming back over here he took some agency work until he turned 70, and even then, the agency still wanted him to keep working for them. And I think that all says so much of what Trevor had to give to the working world over the course of his life, his work was always much needed.

But sadly, even while still working, things started taking a turn for the worse for Trevor. At work he started having slips and falls, he would just go down. On retirement his health sadly just got worse. For a very active man this was extremely hard going, and Trevor had to live with increasing frustration, as his body gradually refused to cooperate, and Trevor progressively was able to do less and less for himself. But Trevor's independent spirit still remained. He still wanted to try to do things for himself. And even when his

body was not complying, he could still enjoy watching the birds in the garden, as previously he had always enjoyed watching the birds wheeling high into the sky as he stood by the sea in Whitby – one of his favourite places. And Trevor was also able to enjoy celebrating his Golden Wedding Anniversary together with Sheila and with all the family, celebrated with a vintage tea, including best man, John, and Chief Bridesmaid, Sylvia, only two months ago.

But the memories that are going to keep Trevor alive in our hearts are not so much the memories of the last months and years, but the memories of Trevor as he was. For Trevor was a highly intelligent, family orientated, proud man who always had a kind of military bearing, not just being tall in stature, but always standing erect. He was a man who knew what he wanted to achieve in his work life and home life, and he went on to achieve his goals, with incredible dedication. He was a complex character, uniquely Trevor, upright and highly capable. And so for Trevor what these last years of life handed to him would have been particularly frustrating, as he progressively became less and less capable. I do believe it is a blessing that Trevor is now free from the frustrations of his body letting him down in these final years and flying free with God.

Rev Catey Morrison

Lingdale

Book Club

The next meeting will be on 3rd December at 7pm when we will be discussing *Anarchy and Old Dogs* by Colin Cotterill. New members welcome. Please note there will be no meeting in January but the February meeting will be on the 4th at 7pm – book to be decided.

Christingle Service

The Christingle service is being planned to be held on Monday 16th December at 1.45pm with the whole school coming along to the church along with parents and members of the community. Everyone is warmly welcome to come and join in. A buffet and drinks will be served after the service thanks to a donation

Flower Rota

1st December – No service
8th December – Mrs J Coulthard
15th December – Mr B Dove
22nd December –
In memory of Mrs Jean Winter
5th January – Mrs M Saunders
12th January – Mr T Waller
in memory of Miss J Scarth & Mrs B Waller
19th January – Mr T Waller
26th January – Mrs J Scott
2nd February – Mrs P Green

Boys Brigade & Girls Association

Anchors (aged 5 – 8's) at 5.30 – 6.30 and Juniors (aged 8 – 11) at 7 -8. New members welcome. The brigade is also looking for adult helpers if you are interested please contact Catey.

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

Tuesday 10.30am – 12noon Community Café
Alt Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm Craft and Conversation
3rd Sunday of the month 5.30pm Family Service followed by a Youth Meeting at the Manse

Material for the February Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th January please

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Preachers

	1-Dec	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	Christmas
Marton	10.00am	C Morrison Parade ToyServ	J Harper Communion	N Johnson Lessons&Carols	K Harris 10.00am
Guisbo	9.30am	K Harris	C Morrison Nativity	D Moore Lessons&Carols	N Johnson 10.00am
Redcar	11.00am	J Harper	C Milburn Lesson&Carols	C Morrison Nativity Parade	C Morrison 10.00am
Lingdale	5.30pm	J Coulthard Communion	C Morrison Lesson&Carols	C Morrison Nativity	C Morrison 11.00am
	29-Dec	5-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan
Marton	10.00am J Harper	M Johnson	C Morrison Parade	N Johnson Communion	C Morrison
Guisbo	9.30am K Harris	C Morrison Communion	N Johnson	C Morrison	
Redcar	11.00am N Johnson	C Morrison Communion	J Harper Meeting	C Morrison United Covenant	K Harris
Lingdale	5.30pm J Coulthard	K Harris	C Morrison Communion	J Coulthard	C Morrison

Group Advent Service
Guisborough church
10.00am.