

Group News



** December * 2016 **

** January * 2017 **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

From Hilary Collinson

Dear All,

I am writing to you as the Synod appointed 'pastoral friend' to your group of Churches. Firstly, to introduce myself, and hope I have an opportunity to meet with you at the group service on December 4th. Secondly, to assure you that the wider Church wishes to support you through a sensitive time and thirdly, to speak of the love of God made very real at this time of the year.

So, I am Hilary Collinson, who along with my husband, ministers in the Tees and Swale Pastorate i.e. Northallerton, Darlington, Low Row and Keld. We have three sons, one in Birmingham, one in London and one at York University. I have been in ministry for 33 years in various pastorates, various chaplaincies and in several different roles in the wider Church. I think it was this wide-ranging portfolio of experience that led the former moderator, Liz Mullen, to approach me to be your 'pastoral friend'.

A pastoral friend, as I understand it, is to walk alongside a Church or group of Churches who are experiencing something other than a normal vacancy. The main way that is done is by supporting the elders in the situation. I have been attending the Group elders meeting since July seeking to understand things from your perspective. I hope that the letter from the New Moderator, also printed in this issue, helps you to realise that work has been going on to deal with your concerns. It has not been easy for your elders in this situation, with a change of Moderator and a three-month period of an Interim Moderator. The elders have kept you as informed as they were and as I was. It has not been easy for them as the wider Church has kept its confidence on the issue and to some extent still does. However, David Herbert has been seeking advice and we hope that some things will become more clear and settled in the next few weeks. Can I ask that you continue to hold every-

one in this situation in your prayers as we seek to show God's love and care for all.

Which brings me to the Christmas season. We too readily move to Christmas, spurred on by the commercial and social forces that surround us. Christmas, with its feasting and festivities begins on December 25th and lasts for twelve days! The lead up to Christmas is Advent the time of waiting, of expectation and of reflection. It is a time to contemplate how things really are, take stock of ourselves and look at the world around us, but in the knowledge, that behind all the gloom and darkness, behind the anxieties and deep concerns, there is a promise. Not a promise of transient happiness in a day's celebrations but a promise of God with us, in all, through all and with all, that 'there is noth-

ing in all creation that is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus' (Romans 8 v 9).

It is a promise rightly celebrated as we look at the vulnerable baby laid in a human mother's arms, but it is a promise that goes into our deepest, saddest, most desperate moments too. God 'Immanuel', God with us.

It is that promise that in all that we face, as a group, as individual Churches, and in our own lives and in the troubled life of the world, that God is with us. That is worth contemplating, reflecting on and living by day.

So in this waiting time, the time between what was and what will come may you find the God who is with us.

Yours in friendship

Hilary

Group Service

**Led by Rev Hilary Collinson
Sunday 4th December - 10.30am
at St Andrew's, Marton.**

From Synod Moderator

Dear friends,

I am writing to reassure you that we are doing as much as we can in the wider councils of our church to address the concerns the congregations have regarding Rev Catey Morrison's continuing sick leave. We are grateful for the support Rev Hilary Colinson has brought to the East Cleveland Group, and for the active support of many others both from within and beyond our immediate congregations. As your Moderator, I am keeping in touch with all parties and continually taking soundings as to what can be done in the coming weeks. Your congregations are a high priority in my prayers and pastoral concern. Having met with your Group Elders' Meeting I feel I am fully aware of the many questions people have, and I am working hard to address them. I am hoping that by the beginning of December we will have resolved some significant concerns the Group Elders' have shared with me. This is my third week in post, and so I am absorbing as much information as quickly as possible and ascertaining ways forward. Please be assured of my continuing prayers and pastoral support.

As ever, and in the love of Christ,

David

Rev David Herbert, Synod Moderator

Traidcraft Shop 2016



**40, Linthorpe Rd,
Middlesbrough**
(opposite M&S)

Tel: 07903 119 698

**10am - 5 pm Monday - Saturday
until Wednesday December 21st**

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



Seasons Greetings



St Andrew's

Christmas Social

**Saturday 17th December
7.30pm.**

Teas coffees with mince pies.

Raffle.

Donations for Christian Aid.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ian and Norris Robertson on the birth of their new great grandson, Findley Robert. Best Wishes to new grandma Patricia and to the new parents Victoria and Alasdair.

Many Thanks

A grateful thanks to everyone who donated items, cash and knitted hats plus empty shoe boxes for our Shoe Box Appeal. We sent 74 boxes to the collection point. This was up 19 on last year!! Many thanks to you all.

Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship will next meet on Tuesday 10th January 2017 from 1.30pm to 3.00pm when we will be given a talk by Dave Elliot.

All welcome.

Flower List

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their donations for the Sunday Church Flowers in 2016. Also to Jane for our lovely Advent Ring. It is much appreciated.

The new 2017 Flower List will be on the church notice board very soon and I am asking once again for your kind generosity in adding your name to the new list.

Joan Swan

Coffee for Charity

23rd Oct	Larchfield Community	£ 7.50
30th Oct	Shoe Box Appeal	£27.61
6th Nov	Shoe Box Appeal	£17.50

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boys Brigade

Details available from ministers and church elders

Guisborough

As is the way of writing for Group News I am trying to prepare something for December/January on Armistice Day, the 11th day of the 11th Month. So, I awoke

this morning to the death of, the songwriter and poet, Lou Reed and a wonderful Thought for the Day from Bishop James Jones of Liverpool who managed to encapsulate the power of silence as a response to grief.

This has been a difficult year for many including myself. I had just got used to being confronted with my own mortality, it would appear I am not immune from the diseases I treat in others, when I suffered 2 bereavements.

The first, in the summer, was my father in law. He was a strong, independent man who was still climbing trees with a chainsaw in his 80s. We thought he would go on for ever but time eventually caught up with him. We have a lasting inheritance in the presence of his little cat Smokey who is still struggling to come to terms with the change in her circumstances.

The other was my friend Ernest Dale, a long time member of Guisborough URC, a brilliant musician, playing organ and piano and with a wonderful tenor voice. He was heavily involved in the URC in their links with the Waldensian Church in Italy and at District level, in the days when there were Districts. He taught languages and enjoyed being told by former pupils how much he had influenced them for the good, even the less scholarly boys.

There were 17 people at Ernest's funeral in Blyth including 5 carers from the Cramlington Nursing Home, where he had been living the last 3 years, and 5 members of Guisborough URC. The service was led by the Reverend Ron Foster from Morpeth URC and it was good to meet Ernest's cousins and chat at the tea afterwards. We

Guisborough Calendar

Sun 4th Dec	10.30am	Group Service at St Andrew's Marton with Rev Hilary Colinson.
Sun 18 th Dec	9.30am	Nativity Service
Christmas Morning	10.00am	Short service of Lessons & Carols.
Thu 29 th Dec		There will be no Coffee Morning.

Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Ken, Margaret, Madge, Maureen, Donna and others.

were at last able to put faces to the voices at the end of a telephone. The hope is to organise a Memorial Service, a celebration of Ernest's life, in the New Year. Watch out for a date in January when all will be welcome to come and share their memories of this remarkable man.

On Armistice Day and on Remembrance Sunday we all stop what we are doing and take a minute in silence to stand in solidarity with the bereaved. When someone they know loses a loved one, people often struggle to find the right words to say, but just their presence can be a comfort, even if they sit in silence. I hear funerals are being dispensed with by some families but I think this is a pity. They are a chance for people to come together to support each other at a time of loss. As followers of Christ we are called to stand in solidarity with those who mourn for they will be comforted. Who is to comfort them if we do not reach out to them?

There are many people today who are grieving over the state of the world, the situation in Syria, the earthquakes in Italy, the vote for exit from the European Union and the election of Donald Trump as President of the USA. How can they be comforted? It was Donald Trump himself who, on the night he was elected, said, “It is time for us to come together as one united people.” In a World where so many seem to be creating division it is good to remember that when we come together we are stronger. There is always more that unites us than that which divides us.

As Christians we need to develop the Fruits of the Spirit as set out by Paul in Galatians 5: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. Paul also urges us, in chapter 6, to “help to carry one another’s burdens and in this way obey the law of Christ. So let us not become tired of doing good; as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.” (Gal. 6:9-10)

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2017 be filled with Love, Joy and Peace.

Donna Moore

Church Rotas

	Vestry	Communion Door	Flowers
4th Dec	Group Service At Marton, St Andrews at 10.30am		
11th Dec	J Basham	J Reynolds	M Burrows
18th Dec	D Beattie		J Reynolds
25th Dec	M Burrows		D Thompson
1st Jan	D Houston	B Ward	D Beattie
8th Jan	M Houston		B Ward
15th Jan	R Tunncliffe		J Basham
22nd Jan	B Ward		P Etwell
29th Jan	P Etwell		M Ward

Ernest Dale 1929 – 2016

We remember Ernest, born on the 1st, March, 1929 at Wallsend. He was the only child of Ernest Dale and Jane Elizabeth Harrison. His parents were from Hartlepool which was, at that time, in County Durham. His mother was a school teacher, when she was younger, and his father worked at North East Marine on Tyneside. The family moved to the Broadway in Cullercoates and Ernest was educated at the Royal Grammar school from 1938 to 1947 - taking French, German, history and Latin to the highest level.

Ernest went to Kings College Newcastle, which at that time was a college of Durham University. He learnt French and German and passed with second class division one honours in both subjects. During this time at University he went on a vocation course in German run by the University of Lunaburg and spent a term at the University of Lyon in France.

In September 1950 he began a course at the Education Department of Kings College for a diploma in the theory and practice of education. During the course he spent three months in teaching practice at Burlington Grammar school, just up the road from October, (Blythe) 1951 to July 1952. He taught English to French students at the Ecole Institute in Rouen in France.

Then he returned home to begin his national service. He was sent further overseas. He served as a sergeant in the Royal Army Education Corps stationed in Malaya with the Gurkha Brigade. He was mainly employed to teach English to the Gurkhas helping them to learn the language up to the standard required so that they could go to England on courses. He also helped in the production of a series of graded text books teaching English to non UK troops. Here was one person whose skills were obviously of use for his county during this time of his National Service.

After doing his service he took up a post in the Hanson Grammar school. He taught French at O levels and German in the lower

school. He also taught music. Then he taught in the King Edwards High ways Grammar school until 1977. At one point Ernest would spend his free periods and lunch time in the woodwork department making a record player cabinet. He was always busy. He produced several Gilbert and Sullivan Operas for the school.

In 1977 he move to Guisborough to be closer to his elderly parents. He began teaching at the Laurence Jackson Secondary school as Head of First Year. He was involved in the town Twinning scheme, making exchange visits. His love of music led him to become a member of the Guisborough Choral Society and for a time he was the musical director. He was also involved in the Kirk-leatham Music Festival. Ernest appreciated a wide range of music from the quite traditional to the most modern and even the off the wall music.

He was also a member of Guisborough United Reformed Church and served as an elder, was church secretary for a number of years and played the organ. He had a strong Christian faith. He put his Christian faith into practice in a way that showed his concern for others. He was also involved in the local branch of the University of the Third Age.

He had many holidays in Germany, France the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Naples, Sicily and Katmandu. He visited his cousin Beryl, her husband Gus and son Peter in South Africa. He also visited his cousin in Canada. His last holiday was to Malta in 2013 and on return it was apparent that he was unwell.

After some residential care in Guisborough he subsequently moved to Northumberland to be nearer to his cousin, Ena. The Beacon Hill Farm staff were very fond of Ernest - nothing was too much trouble for them. Even when he reverted to speaking to them in French and German on more than one occasion. When the farm closed the residents were transferred to the sister home at North Fleet. Ernest was well spoken and courteous and that generally would remain so even though his dementia caused occasions when he was not so polite.

When he was in hospital he decline to eat his main course. The nurse had asked if he would like jam and bread and he replied that he would. When he was eating the jam sandwiches he kept mentioning the consistency of the bread as opposed to the normal German bread. Ernest had misheard the nurse. He must thought that she had offered him German bread not jam and bread. The difficulty of a local accent.

Many of Ernest's ex-students remembered him. They always say how much they respected him and had fond memories. They say how much he had inspired them to make successes of their lives. He will always be remembered as a very caring person – always thought about others and his sense of humour was legendary. Thanks be to God for the life of Ernest.

(The funeral eulogy.) Ray Tunnicliffe

Guisborough Choir Celebrates Christmas

Guisborough Choral Society's ever-popular Christmas Celebration takes place in Guisborough Methodist Church in Westgate on Saturday 10th December at 7.30pm. With a lively mix of traditional carols, readings and a selection of wonderful Christmas songs from around Europe, there's sure to be something for everyone. The Guisborough Citadel Salvation Army Band will again be bringing their stirring and joyous sound to the evening. Tickets are £6 adults, £5 concessions, £1 under-19s from Guisborough Bookshop and Greensleeves Music (both in Chaloner Street), www.wegotickets.com, or on the door.

Redcar

Memorial Service

The Memorial Service organised by Stanway and Garnett will take place on Saturday 3rd, December at 10:30am followed by tea / coffee and mince pie.

Festive Services

As decided at the Church meeting there will be no Christmas Day service at our Church.

On Sunday 1st January Rev Norma will lead Communion.

To the Poppy makers

Thank you each and everyone who helped us to remember, the loved ones who gave their lives so we would never surrender to the men who wished to rule us all and claim their victory. No we never must forget.

Thank God for Liberty.

Norma Creek

Thank you to all the poppy makers who contributed to the lovely cascade of poppies in the foyer, co-ordinated by Krysia, it is stunning – so many people have passed very positive comments. Thank you.

Covenant Service

On Sunday 29th January the Covenant Service with St. Peter's and Zetland Methodist Church will be held in our Church followed by tea and coffee.

Thank you

The Annual Bazaar

Thank you also to the Angel makers! Rev. Norma used some of the Angels to make a lovely display on the Christmas tree at the Bazaar and so many people seemed delighted to be able to take one home with its special message. More available at the Service on the 4th Decem-ber.

Once again a huge thank you to all who supported this event in any way: by donating, by helping or by visiting on Saturday, 12th November. It was a very busy event but one which had a wonderful atmosphere and was well attended. Many of the craftspeople commented on the fellowship they encountered. The Bazaar raised an amazing £800 for Church funds!!

THANK YOU!

Redcar Calendar

Tues 6th Dec 2.00pm Chatter Group in the Church
Tue 3rd Jan 2.00pm Chatter Group in the Church

Weekly

Wednesday 10:30am Singing Group in the Church
Thursday 9.30am Prayers
10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre for coffee / tea, cakes and fellowship in the Church Hall – all are welcome.
2.00pm Thursday Prayers – at the home of Catherine Milburn

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 9.30am	Redcar 11.00am
4-Dec	Group Service led by H Collinson 10.30am at St Andrews, Marton		
11-Dec	MartonWT Toy Serv/Parade	K Harris Communion	J Harper
18-Dec	J Harper Communion	M Harris	N Johnson
25-Dec	M&K Harris 10.00am	Lessons & Carols 10.00am	No Service
1-Jan	J Harper	D Moore Communion	N Johnson Communion
8-Jan	D Elliott Parade	M Harris	K Harris
15-Jan	C Eddowes Communion	K Harris	N Johnson
22-Jan	M Harris	R Tunnicliffe	J Harper
29-Jan	K Harris	K Martin	H Collinson Covenant Service

Material for the February Magazine to church editors by Sunday
15th January please

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