

# *Group News*



**\* 2020 \* February \* 2020 \***

The monthly magazine for:

**Guisborough URC**

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**Redcar URC**

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

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

# Pastoral Letter

*“Now tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to Jesus, and the Scribes and Pharisees were scandalised, muttering among themselves, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them’” Luke 15 v1-2*

Every New Year I make an effort to empty and tidy all my kitchen cupboards, - including all those tins and packets which have managed to get themselves pushed to the back and are hopelessly out of date! So, a couple of years ago I was doing just that when I came across a tin with no label! What was in it? Beans? Apricots? Cat food? There was only one way to find out of course, and that was to open it... It made me realise how important labels can be for without them we may not know what's hidden underneath. On the other hand labels can be misleading, - just because there's a brand name on the tin doesn't necessarily mean that it contains a superior product; the supermarket cheaper alternative may be just as good if not better.

So, if you're wondering where I'm going with this, - well, - when it comes to people, using labels can be a dangerous thing, - for none of us fit easily into neat categories, - each a complex mixture of good and bad, strong and weak, wise and foolish. Yet, as Jesus found out throughout His ministry, it is human nature to try and pigeonhole people, despite the misery and division this can cause.

Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Has a tax collector a right to see and speak with Jesus? Should a prostitute be forgiven? Is it possible to love a Samaritan? Could a young man from a carpenter's family possibly be the Messiah?

Today, I'm afraid it's no different: such prejudice all too easily finds a place in our own hearts. We are just as liable to label people according to their accent, their dress, their educational achievements, etc etc. The barriers that keep us apart are just as real as they have ever been.,

Jesus expects us to be different! He wants us to look, as He did, behind the label to the person beneath. Only then can we discover each individual's true worth, - and as well as theirs, discover our own.

I hope all of you have had a good New Year and that 2020 will be kind to you.

Blessings

Jan

# *Synod Prayers*

2 February: Christ Church LEP (Methodist/URC), North Broomhill; Revd Lynda Coulthard (Methodist)

Synod Mission Enabler, Revd Jane Rowell

9 February: Racial Justice Sunday; Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Ashington; St Andrew's & St Mark's LEP (Methodist/URC), Newbiggin-by-the-Sea; Revd Marie Attwood (Methodist)

16 February: St Andrew's Dawson Street, Crook LEP (Methodist/URC); Revd Ray Anglesea; Revd Christopher Humble (Methodist)

23 February: Church Action on Poverty Sunday. February 29<sup>th</sup>: Synod's 'Thinking Day'.

PCM, the four Presbyterian Societies: Men's, Women's, Youth and Activists Group (young marrieds) and for our own fund raising for PCM Fairtrade Fortnight: (24 February - 8 March) The Anglican Bishop of Newcastle Diocese, the Rt Revd Christine Hardman

## **Bible Book Club**

Following on from the Holy Habits book club we are going to continue with a Bible Book Club.

Meetings will be in the same format as before, so meeting on the second Thursday, every other month, starting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. The first meeting will be at Guisborough URC at 7.15pm.

The idea this time is to look at a book of the Bible, or a couple if we choose short ones, using the materials provided by the Bible Society. Their reading guides are available at [biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub](http://biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub), although I will make sure there are paper copies in each Church for those who prefer the old fashioned way.

The first book we are looking at is Acts. The guides provide some background information and gives suggested discussion questions.

If anyone has any difficulties with transport please let me know and we can try and sort out lifts etc. Any questions please get in touch.

*Susan*



## 'Re-Seeding and not Receding'



A Northern Synod Thinking Day



led by Jan Adamson

A day of consultation for all the Synod

St Columba's URC

Northumberland Square, North Shields NE30 1PW



Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020



10.30 am to 3.45 pm

Feeling a lack of capacity? Here's an opportunity to explore how we can garner the resources we need as local congregations from our wider Synod life together, based around the questions in circulation since our October Synod regarding our hopes and dreams, good news stories etc, and how the Synod Team might best help.



Bring Your Own lunch



Not many February 29<sup>th</sup>'s come along, so together let's make the most of this year's extra day!



## **A Training Opportunity for Lay Preachers, Elders, Worship, Messy Church Leaders and those working with Children in Church.**

### **‘All Together for Worship: You, Church and Me!’**

This training will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 10.30-4.30 at St James’ URC, Northumberland Road, Newcastle, NE1 8JF.

This is an exciting training opportunity to develop your skills in creating worship for children and young people with additional needs and adults with the onset of dementia. The training will be led by Lorraine Webb, Children’s and Youth Work Programme Officer Church House London and Rev. Fran Ruthven from the United Church of Christ in Edinburgh. Rev Ruthven has served in ministry focusing on worship for adults with dementia. Lunch will be provided.

Further details available from church secretaries or Synod Office.

### **Synod Retreat**

It’s that time of year when we plan for times ahead, and, the Synod Retreat will soon be here. The dates are **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**. We start with lunch on the Tuesday, and end after Communion and before lunch on the Thursday. The place is the lovely peaceful house of Shepherds Dene, near Riding Mill.

Our leader is to be Rt Rev John Pritchard, retired Bishop of Oxford, formerly Bishop of Jarrow. His title is: **‘Let him easter in us’: letting resurrection loose in our lives**. John says: “The quote is from Gerard Manley Hopkins and I love the idea of easter being a verb. We would explore resurrection through the biblical accounts, stories, poetry, art and music”.

The Retreat is open to all in Northern Synod – ordained or lay, active or retired. The cost of the Retreat is £160 per person – most of you will be able to obtain funding from the Synod for this. If you would like to book a place, or find out more, please email peter.rand65@gmail.com.

### **Synod Meeting**

The next Synod Meeting will be held on **Saturday 14 March 2020** at Roker United Reformed Church, Side Cliff Road, Roker, Sunderland, SR6 9JP.

# Group Accounts 2019

## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 Dec 2019

Designated Funds	General Fund	Manse Fund	Reserve Fund	Malkinson Fund	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>						
Contributions from Churches:						
Guisborough	1280				1280	2323
Redcar (note 1)	1224		500		1724	1358
St.Andrews	<u>2825</u>				<u>2825</u>	<u>3138</u>
	5329		500		5829	6819
Bank Interest	188				188	185
Bank Compensation	0				0	150
Sales 'History of Linthorpe URC'	<u>20</u>				<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>5537</u>		<u>500</u>		<u>6037</u>	<u>7163</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Ministers expenses:						
Revs Ken and Mgt Harris	417					323
Rev Hilary Collinson	287					351
Preaching Fees	3357					3245
Preachers' support (Roots)	312					84
Group News	376					285
Church and Worship costs	175					464
Clustering costs	0					53
Accounts Examiner	192					192
Salary Service	190					242
Administration costs	125					151
Grants	0			133		1282
Synod Mozambique Fund	<u>20</u>					<u>9</u>
	<u>5451</u>			<u>133</u>		<u>6681</u>
Surplus (deficits) for year	86		500	-133	453	482
Capital distribution (note 2)			-24000		-24000	
Funds 1 January 2019 b/fwd	8254	5000	35292	4816	53362	52880
Funds 31 December 2019	8340	5000	11792	4683	29815	53362

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis

## Balance Sheet 31 Dec 2019

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
TSB Current Account	9234		16836
Affirmative Deposit for Charities	21323		37315
	30557		53971
Less Creditors (note 4)	-742		-609
		29815	53362
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Designated (as on page 1)			
General	8340		8254
Manse	5000		5000
Reserve (net of Loans)	11792		35292
Malkinson	4683		4816
		29815	53362

### Purpose of Funds:

**General Fund** pays all the normal running expenses of the Group

**Manse Fund** has been reduced to £5000 as allowed by Synod

**Reserve Fund** is used for Grants, Loans and support to Churches

**Malkinson Fund** is used for making Grants for Training Events and church based conferences

### Notes to the Accounts 31 December 2019

<b>Note 1. Reserve Fund Loans</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Owing at 1 January 2019	2500	3400
Repaid by Guisborough Church	0	-900
Repaid by Redcar Church	<u>-500</u>	<u>        </u>
Owing at 31 December 2019	2000	2500

### Note 2. Capital Distribution

It was agreed that the level of Reserves was unnecessarily high and that the money would be of more use to the local churches. A sum of £24000 was divided equally between the Churches, to be added to free reserves or spent as required.

### Note 3. Nunthorpe & Marton Manse Fund

The Market Value of the Fund at 30 June 2019, held by the Synod Trust, was £202,842

*Jane Tomlin (Group Treasurer)*

# Guisborough

Way back at the beginning of the 20th, century the Guisborough church elders saw a great need to improve the appearance of the church building and its facilities. This didn't go according to plan with several failed attempts to complete this project until the Rev. Wardle Ridley accepted a call to the pastorate in 1901 and this changed everything.

He was a man of great drive and energy and came to Guisborough on the condition that the proposed building plans were pushed through. On arrival he visited towns throughout Yorkshire, on behalf of the project, and in six months raised sufficient money to build a Sunday School, vestry and effect other alterations.

At that time the church sanctuary consisted of an old harmonium, to accompany the singing, and a collection of what were described as very uncomfortable broken down chairs.

So in 1904/5 the church was substantially reconstructed, given a new front, gable, pews to replace the chairs, new windows, gas fittings, a pipe organ and stained glass window in memory of Joseph Wright 45 years a member and elder. This was all done at a cost of £1,100 – a substantial sum at this time. (£130,000 at 2018 prices.) Needless to say the congregation were sadly disappointed when the Rev Ridley soon decided to move on to Burley-in-Warfedale, Yorkshire in 1906.

This story, from our forbears of the past, can be a source of encouragement as we of the present congregation set out to revamp the sanctuary of our church building. Last year it was agreed that the pews in the sanctuary be removed and replaced with chairs, the flooring refurbished and new windows

## Guisborough Calendar

### Weekly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am Market Day Coffee Morning

Thursdays 11.30am Quiet Time in Church. Prayers and reflections with Maureen, Madge, Ken and others. Details on church notice board

installed. The purpose of these changes is to allow the sanctuary area to more flexible in the way it is used. All of this has been made possible by a generous donation to the church from the late Ernest Dale, a former member of the church.

With greater flexibility comes more options for activities, not only for the church fellowship but for community work and accommodation for other charitable organisations.

When alterations were first discussed the wider issue of outreach into the community was raised - an idea which will need to be developed in practical ways. At the present time we hold a public coffee morning on the Thursdays, which is a Guisborough market day, along with an open, well advertised, prayer meeting. In addition, the Bridge Association have an office and food bank located in the church house - from where volunteers work in the local community. From this existing base there such be opportunities for new developments.

When, in 1905, the church elders made big changes to the church building what was their motivation, beyond simply improving the facilities? This is not clear, but when the place was opened in 1811, the fellowship was officially designated as 'A Religious Society' not a church. So with the passage of time it may have been thought that they needed to move from being 'Dissenters' against the established Church of England to something more into the mainstream of Christian faith. Today practicing Christians represent a small proportion of the population, so for us going out into the community and making the public more aware of our presence must be an important step forward in faith.

*Ray Tunncliffe.*

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
2nd Feb	J Basham	M Baird	P Etwell	Donna
9th Feb	R Tunncliffe		M Ward	Annette
16th Feb	P Etwell		D Beattie	Jenny
23rd Feb	J Reynolds		R Tunncliffe	Madge
1st March	M Reynolds		J Reynolds	

# *St Andrew's*

## **Condolences**

It is with sadness that we announce the recent death of Richard Harris. Richard was a long standing member of our Linthorpe Church before coming to worship at St. Andrew's. Our prayers and thoughts are with Betty and family.

## **For our Prayers**

Please remember Shona's husband Paul who is currently recovering after a kidney transplant.

Also remember the donor and their family for their generosity which has enabled the transplant to take place.

## **Fund Raising**

Our annual Bazaar on the 16th November raised £415.00 for church fund. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this so successful.

The Christmas Social on the 18th December made £39.00 for Christian Aid. We enjoyed a lovely evening of music, carols, singing and a little quiz. The evening ended with coffee and mince pies. A great way to start the Christmas festivities.

## **Coffee for Charity**

17th Nov.	Sanctuary	£18.40
24th Nov.	Food Bank	£20.00
8th Dec.	Boys' Brigade	
18th Dec.	Rosemary Fund	£ 7.10
22nd Dec.	Leprosy Mission	£20.10
29th Dec.	Christian Aid	£24.15
5th Jan.	Alzheimer's Soc.	£13.50
12th Jan.	Boys' Brigade	£23.20

## **Flower Fund**

There are still a few places empty on the 2020 Flower List for anyone who is interested

## **Soup Lunch**

There will be a Soup Lunch, at St. Andrew's, on Saturday 29th February at noon. Cost £3.00

Raffle. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

# Redcar

## What We Have Been Up To

December is quite a busy month for us and this year we had the Group Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> December with Meg Robb, which was very well attended. The following Saturday (7<sup>th</sup>) we had our annual Memorial Service hosted by Stanway and Garnet, one of the local Funeral Directors. On the 16<sup>th</sup> December was the annual Scout Christingle Service, which once again was well attended. This year, with health and safety in mind, we replaced the traditional candles with glow sticks.

January 19<sup>th</sup> we hosted the annual Covenant Service with Zetland Park Methodists and St. Peters Church of England Service. Once again Jane Rowell helped compile the Service with Rev. Norma Johnson taking part.

### Scone Coffee Morning

We are holding a Scone Coffee Morning on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 10 – 12.

It will cost £2 for a mug of Coffee (or tea) and a scone.

Please come and sample some of the varieties of scones that our ladies provide. There will also be a raffle.

### Duty Rota

#### Vestry

Cath

June

Joint Service @ Newcomen

Cath

June

#### Door

Brenda

Brian

Brian

Brenda

## Redcar Calendar

Sun 16 Feb

10.30am Joint Service at Newcomen @ 10.30am  
(please note new time)

### Weekly

Thursday

9.30am Prayers  
10.00-11.30 Pop in Centre

# *Preachers*

## **Marthon**

**10.00am**

2-Feb Donna Moore

9-Feb Norma Johnson  
Parade

16-Feb Jane Rowell  
Communion

23-Feb Ken Harris

## **Guisborough**

**10.00am**

Norma Johnson  
Communion

Chris Eddowes

Guis Folk

Margaret Harris

## **Redcar**

**11.00am**

Jan Harper

Julie Martin

Arthur Harbottle  
Joint 10.30am Newcomen

Brian Stephenson  
Meeting

Material for the March Magazine to church editors by Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
please

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