



Group News

Minister

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** July * 2012 * August **

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

Dear Friends,

For some reason 2012 has been advertised a very important and significant year!!! And weren't the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations wonderful? And now we have the Olympics to look forward to... if you like that sport, that is!!! But 2012 is also significant for Rosa who will travel outside her native Mozambique for the very first time in her life!!! For her it will be a real adventure as she flies for the first time and meets Western culture head on. And for Rosa it may take as much time... or more... for her to acclimatise as it will for athletes coming early to London for the Games.

Wisely it has been said that we should not shower Rosa with too many material goods as perhaps that would overwhelm her. And yet we must offer good hospitality and ensure that we give her appropriate gifts, bearing in mind that she must carry whatever we give her back to Mozambique. And, knowing Rosa, she will no doubt travel the three hour journey from Maputo to Xai Xai on a very crowded bus after spending many long hours on planes!

I have an itinerary planned for her visit which will bring her to each and every church in our Group at some point during her stay. But she will also visit places of interest, like Durham, Tata Steel and Synod Office, etc. And I hope to take her to Beamish to show her that my father's generation grew up in similar conditions to those of her own children, albeit taking the different climates into account. Hopefully it will be a time for her to learn a great deal about this world as I did when I was in Mozambique. And it should also help her to see that people are the same the world over. Human beings, throughout the generations and the divides of rich and poor, have stood in need of God. Our lives here in Britain may be vastly different from Rosa's life back home and we may see ourselves as very fortunate. And yet she along with many of her neighbours is far richer in a spiritual sense since she knows that real fulfilment does not come from being rich in things of the world but in being rich in the things of God.

So I ask that you pray for Rosa's visit and for ourselves that we will in our giving not take her away from the things of God but bless her with our love and hospitality in ways that will enrich both her and us. And in so doing we can all then remember 2012 as being significant for her and for us.

Blessings,

Meg

Marton Manse Coffee Morning

Saturday, 14th July

from 10am – noon

Proceeds towards the Xai Xai Fund

Xai Xai is where Rosa lives in Mozambique and so the Xai Xai fund is administered through the East Cleveland Group to ensure that Rosa and Americo have an internet connection. When Rosa comes, we may discover there are items we can buy for her to take back to Mozambique.

Please put the date in your diary and come along and support

An Evening with Rosa

and our Synod Moderator

Saturday, 28th July

Redcar URC at 7.00pm

Come and meet Rosa and hear about Mozambique. Rowena, our Synod Moderator, will also be our guest and she will speak about her time in Mozambique when she goes out to visit the synod there in July. Rosa will travel back with Rowena.

All are welcome.

There will be a Bring and Share Supper

News from the Persecuted Church

Sharia Law is continuing to extend its reach in Western countries. In the UK thousands of Muslims are using Sharia councils to settle their civil disputes each year, and several of these bodies have reported a large increase in their case load. Under Sharia law a women's testimony is worth only half that of a man's and women suffer discrimination in divorce, inheritance, and compensation. The councils have no authority over criminal or family Law, but in practice; they carry great authority in the Muslim community. Pray that the Islamisation of Western societies will be checked and that the principle of equality under the law will be maintained.

Give thanks that Nadia Naira, a Christian woman in Pakistan who was kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam and married to her Muslim abductor, has escaped after nearly eleven years in captivity. She was just 15 years when she was seized at gunpoint on 11 February 2001. Her 'husband' who already had a wife and ten children, became violent towards her and was a drug addict. Nadia gave birth to five of his children. Following her escape on 30 November 2011, the family sort help from a Pakistani Christian legal organisation supported by Barnabus fund, which immediately provided shelter for Nadia. They also filed a criminal case against her husband and his accomplices. Pray that the offenders will be brought to justice and that Nadia will receive help and support to recover from her ordeal; and rebuild her life.

(From the Barnabus Fund Prayer diary)

Pray for a good judgement in the ongoing Indian Supreme Court case to ensure that Dalits who change faith do not lose their benefits, and pray that the government, which has stalled the case, would engage with it in a positive way

Pray that Iran would become an example of true religious tolerance and freedom for other countries in the region.

(From the Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer diary)

Modern

My great concern is not whether God is on our side; my great concern is to be on God's side.

Abraham Lincoln President of USA (!9th Century)

Synod Prayers

July Newcastle East & Coast

- 1 Church of the Good Shepherd LEP, Battle Hill; Rev Janet Appleby
- 8 St George's, High Heaton; Rev Peter Heckels; St Cuthbert's, Heaton LEP; Rev Margaret Johnson
- 15 St Columba's, North Shields; Rev Liz Blair; St Andrew's, Monkseaton; Rev Dr David Peel; TLS Students in the Synod; Synod Co-ordinator Mrs Chris Eddowes
- 22 The Churches' Theological Consultant, Fr Colin Carr; Rt Rev Martin Warner *Bishop of Whitby*; Rev John Claydon *Northern Baptist Association Regional Minister*
- 29 Presbyterian Church of Mozambique; Project work, including the Sewing Project

August Gateshead

- 5 Denewell Avenue; Cromer Avenue; Rev Gordon Brown; Front Street, Winlaton LEP; Rev Elaine Brown
- 12 Synod Committees and Groups
- 19 Rev Rowena Francis, Synod Moderator; Synod Clerk
- 26 The Presbyterian Church in Mozambique; All who work at Church House (Khovo) in Maputo, including Pastors Ernesto Langa and Jose Tovela (Presidents of the Synod and the Synod Council)

Please also pray for General Assembly which will be held at Scarborough from 6th – 9th July.

Manse Prayers

Manse Prayers are on Tuesday mornings at 8.45am. All Welcome.

3 rd July	Marton
10 th July	Lingdale
17 th July	Guisborough
24 th July	Marton
31 st July	Guisborough
7 th August	Marton
14 th August	Lingdale
21 st August	Guisborough
28 th August	Marton
4 th September	Lingdale

Guisborough: 31 Oakley Cl ~ Lingdale: 2 Stanghow Rd
Marton: 10 Farington Dr

Synod Retreat Day

You are invited to the second of two 'retreat' days. Bring paper and pencil, computer, camera, paints, sketch pads, needle and thread, knitting or anything that enables your creative juices to flow and have some space to be creative around the theme of:

Dying to Life—Vision 2020 in Northern Synod

**Saturday 8th September, St Cuthbert's Centre,
Holy Island 10.30am to 4.00pm.**

Drinks and lunch provided. Pop in for an hour or so or for the whole day.

Please book with Synod Office for catering. 0191 2321168 wendy.watson@urc-northernsynod.org.

Ancient

For where the Church is there is the spirit of God and where the spirit of God is, there is the church and all grace

Irenaeus Bishop of Lyons a theologian (2nd Century)

From Synod News

Dying to Live - Vision 2020 in Northern Synod

Have you ever calculated the number of days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day? Most people will be surprised that it is not 40 days but 46, because even in the depths of Lenten repentance the church cannot fail but celebrate the resurrection, life rising out of death, every Sunday. So I have been taken aback when several folk have said that 'Dying to Live' is a depressing title for the mission framework for the URC Northern Synod.

I have wondered why this response! Is it because so many churches are living in anticipation of death as numbers of committed folk decline? Or is it a result of a fear of our own personal death that this culture pretends can be put off indefinitely and that is unspoken of today? Or is it resistance to surrendering our lives to God? Or is it that the URC is 40 years old this year and there is disappointment that we are still here when the URC's identity has been that we were born to die into a greater uniting church? Therefore 'dying to live' triggers an identity crisis for the URC.

Yet still each Sunday we celebrate the risen life of Christ. Each spring we celebrate creation awaking from sleep into abundant fruitfulness. Each baptismal service we rejoice in the person dying and being raised to new life with Christ.

The key biblical text of 'Dying to Live: Vision 2020 in Northern Synod' agreed by the Synod meeting in March 2012 is John 12.24: *Jesus said, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains a single grain but if it dies it bears much fruit.'* As Jesus died and brought forth through resurrection the fruit of reconciliation, new life for all creation in God, so we are to be prepared to die to self and rise in Christ as part of the body of the church today.

Alternatively think of the familiar parable of the sower who scatters seed that brings forth the harvest. Our identity and calling is to plant seeds of

God's kingdom that God may give growth. We are to plant seeds of nurturing people's spirituality and prayer life through different styles and times for worship and praying for our communities. We are to plant seeds of evangelism and growth – speaking of our faith to others, engaging with Back to Church Sunday and welcoming folk. We are to plant seeds that relate to the ten statements of Vision 2020, that is the mission of God in the world.

As a symbol of this call to plant seeds of the love of God each church has a gift of sunflower seeds. As the flowers grow the hope is that they will prompt reflection on what other more metaphorical seeds the churches of the synod can and are planting, often in partnership, so that God's harvest will be abundant in our generation. We are to plant and water seeds, that God may give growth (1 Corinthians 3.5-9).

Rowena Francis, Synod Moderator

White Gables Quiet Day July 4th 11am-2.30pm

You are invited to a Quiet Day at White Gables, Swainby for a gentle introduction to spending quiet time with God in a beautiful setting looking out onto the North Yorkshire Moors. Take stock with God while sitting in the garden; follow the prayer trail around the garden; or sit reading in the house; the time is yours to spend with God. Please bring a packed lunch and a Bible (also artist materials?!). The day will begin with coffee and some guidance on making the most of your time at White Gables and will end with prayers. There is no charge – donations can be given on the day for the Gardens Fellowship. Please let Catey know if you would like to go and if you need a lift.

Modern

The coming of the Holy spirit at Pentecost was the coming of a missionary Spirit....Those who received the Holy Spirit became witnesses.

Roland Allan British Anglican Missionary (early 20th Century)

Guisborough

It seems almost a privilege to be asked to write this month's newsletter after watching the glorious Regatta on the great River Thames in honour of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. So many people putting so much effort into the pageant and obviously enjoying it all in spite of the hypothermia and extreme weariness so many of them must have suffered. The service in St Paul's lifted my heart by its magnificence, sincerity and grandeur. Our country really can put on a splendid show on these big occasions. At the end of it all I found my admiration for the Queen renewed (and for the younger generation too). Long may she reign!

We have just returned from a very interesting and different holiday, sailing round Norway with the Coastal Ferry. In a land where high mountains rise straight up out of the sea, fjords are deep, and there are many thousands of inhabited islands, the most practical way of getting about is by boat. Ours called at three or four ports every day. Excursions involved leaving the ferry at one place and picking it up several ports later

At some ports we saw large buildings marked 'Gods Terminal'. I was beginning to wonder how many Port Chaplains there were. Then I realised Gods must be Norwegian for Goods

Our visit coincided with their National Day. At every town, no matter how small folk dressed up in their national costume and joined in the parade winding round the streets. With bands play-

ing and flags flying it was very noisy and everyone, including us, had a great time. The girl's national costumes were very elegant and beautifully embroidered. You must have seen the pictures. Apparently they usually get them on their first communion. Several people said it was a pity that in UK we have nothing equivalent. We are very good at the big occasions such as royal weddings and Jubilees. Wouldn't it be nice if we had celebrations where everybody joined in!

About half the trip was above the Arctic Circle. In the summer the sun does not set for about six or more weeks. But in the winter it doesn't rise for the same length of time. On the most northerly islands spring and summer are crammed into only about six weeks. Very spectacular, but not for me. I think I need the sun to lift my spirit and help me appreciate the joy of God's creation. I think of the many people, who are blind, and are not so lucky. I'm always impressed how blind people find so many other things to be grateful for.

Along the way we saw many churches and two very fine Cathedrals. Most of the Churches in northern Norway are fairly new. The originals, plus the villages they served were systematically razed to the ground toward the end of war.

We attended a midnight concert at Tromso cathedral, a truly memorable occasion. Our boat was an hour late, but in the land of the midnight sun you hardly notice time. Indeed there was still enough light to illuminate the beautiful glowing colours of the East window above the altar.

Back home and we should now be in mid summer. I wonder if the good weather has forgotten us and much of Europe—there must be a good reason somewhere. Anyway, I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday time, whether at home or away

Maureen Houston

Guisborough Rotas

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
1 st July	R Tunnicliffe	J Basham	D Beattie	L Reeves
8 th July	J Reynolds		M Burrows	M Baird
15 th July	P Etwell		D Cross	J McGregor
22 nd July	D Moore		J Bulmer	D Collins
29 th July	J Basham		J Reynolds	M Houston
5 th August	P Etwell	D Cross	B Ward	M Sollett
12 th August	D Houston		M Burrows	C Robertson
19 th August	R Tunnicliffe		J Bulmer	P Etwell
26 th August	M Houston		D Houston	H Tucker
2 nd Sept	D Moore	D Beattie	J Basham	D Cross

Guisborough Calendar

Wed 4 th July	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting at 1 Nidderdale, Skelton
Sat 7 th July	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast for the work of Bridge at the Methodist Church
Tue 17 th July	2.00pm	Worship at Belmont View
Wed 1 st August	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting at 1 Nidderdale, Skelton
Tue 21 st August	2.00pm	Worship at Belmont View
Sat 1 st September	8.00am	Prayer breakfast for the work of Bridge at the URC.

Weekly

Thursdays 10.00am – 11.45am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays 11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken, Norma and others.

Redcar

Jack's Diary

April 28th

My beauty sleep is being disturbed, the noise goes on from the early hours VERY EARLY, seagulls lots of them screeching and flapping. My friend Wee Jack lives next door to all this pandemonium, he had to go to the vets.

April 29th

The noise goes on, the reason for all the disturbance and fuss? One young seagull will not take that jump into the unknown, it hops along the

roof top and slithers down the tiles but that is it, but it's amazing how precious this young bird is to it's mother and father plus aunts, uncles and neighbours, all of them encouraging it to fly.

April 30th

All is quiet, junior has taken flight.

Come to the edge, He said.

They said: We are afraid.

Come to the edge, He said.

They came, He pushed them and they flew.

Guillaume Apollinaire

Catherine Milburn

Redcar Calendar

Sun 1 st July		Church Meal out – details to follow
Tue 3 rd July	1pm - 3pm	Craft and Chatter
Sun 8 th July		Church meeting after morning service
Sat 23 rd July		Social evening with Rosa.
Tue 7 th August	1pm - 3pm	Craft and Chatter

Weekly

Thursday	9.30am	Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre

Puzzled and baffled? Perhaps.

On the back cover of the April Group News were the answers to a quiz. These puzzled me because the questions had been asked at the Quiz Night at Marton on the 10th March.

Looking at the answers it was easy to work out which topics had been covered except for the last ten which were baffling. So 1 - 10 were on works of fiction and their authors; 11 - 20 were on flowers, 21 - 30 were on food, 31 - 40 seemed to have been on songs, films, childrens' fiction and detective stories.

But as mentioned earlier the final ten couldn't

be put into a category. To balance things out I'd like to use some more of the clever anagrams which appeared in the January edition of the free 'Eye' magazine.

Have a go first and the one to which 'PRESBYTERIAN' is the answer which appeared in April Group News. All the answers are words in common usage although I wrote the story for a local magazine on Astronomy. Perhaps they could be used in a 'Church' or 'Christian' story if anyone would like to have a go at writing one.

"We wouldn't like to play Scrabble with this bloke!"

If you get the free local lifestyle magazine *The Eye* through your letter box, the title above will be familiar, as it's for the current issue.

I've managed to use nine out of the fourteen 'absolutely fantastic anagrams' for the magazine in an astronomer's tale. Can you fill in the blanks, each of which is an anagram of what follows or precedes it in capital letters in the same sentence? You can find the answer at the foot of the page.

I'm an _____⁽¹⁾, so I'm a MOONSTARER. When I'm ready to observe, THE EYES must become light adapted - then _____⁽²⁾. It's 3am and there's a lunar eclipse soon. So, earlier I set two _____⁽³⁾, and when I woke up it was ALAS NO MORE Z'S.

I brought a new telescope recently. To fund it, I went to the _____⁽⁴⁾ outside the bank, through at first they said CASH LOST IN ME. This was because they were not working properly because _____⁽⁵⁾, which caused THAT QUEER SHAKE? Or it might have been because _____⁽⁶⁾ was incorrect, so that it couldn't say, 'I'M A DOT IN PLACE'.

Before I finally got my money, I was full of _____⁽⁷⁾, and I even thought, 'A ROPE ENDS IT!'

'Oh, my!' I exclaim, 'Clouds are blocking out the lunar eclipse!' Note that I never add the G** word to that exclamation, because I'm a _____⁽⁸⁾, so I'm BEST IN PRAYER. Ah, my reward - the sky is now perfectly clear!

Back inside, I read an article about SETI, the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. If we used _____⁽⁹⁾ to send signals to alien civilisations, would they exclaim, 'HERE COME THE DOTS!''?

John Crowther

Answers

1. Astronomer, 2. They see, 3. Snooze alarms, 4. Slot machines, 5. The Earth quakes, 6. A decimal point, 7. Desperation, 8. Presbyterian, 9. The Morse Code.

Lingdale

Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club takes place on 4th July at 7pm when we will be discussing “Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day” by Winifred Watson. Extra copies are available if anyone one is interested or come along even if you haven’t read this months book. The books are provided and it isn’t an English lesson, meetings are very informal!

For further details contact Susan on 01287 654093.

Flower Rota

1st July – Mrs P Green

8th July – Mr A Thompson

15th July – Mrs H Dunstan

22nd July – Mrs P Griffiths

29th July – Miss S Griffiths

5th August – Mr B Dove

12th August – Mr A Thompson

19th August – Mrs M Saunders

26th August – Mr T Waller

(in memory of Miss J Scarth and Mrs B Waller)

2nd September – Mr T Waller

Jubilee Celebrations

What a weekend we had! Our celebrations started early on the Thursday with all the pupils from Lingdale Primary School attending Church for a Coronation service. The children had elected their monarch prior to the service and King Kieran was duly crowned. As well as hearing from Brian what Coronation Day was like the children also got the opportunity to see an original 1950’s TV with Bees & Bells providing the one that was built by Alan Bell at the time of the Coronation.

Sunday was our Songs of Praise. Although there was only a few of us the service and choice of hymns were lovely, the hymns sounding all the better for the wonderful singing of Eleanor and Christopher – Christopher please come back soon!!!

Monday saw some of us attend the beacon lighting on Birk Brow. Despite the cold singing God Save the Queen as the beacon lit up the moor was a unique experience.

Finally, Tuesday saw the Jubilee garden party. There was a good turnout (on my count about 45) including King Kieran himself! While the weather required coats it didn’t rain so we were able to sit in the garden to enjoy the food and drinks and watch the more energetic guests playing games.

F.A.F. Club (Fun and Faith Club)

F.A.F Club meets on the third Sunday in the month at the Lingdale Manse for young people aged 11 upwards from across the group and beyond from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Currently a dozen young people meet to eat pizza, play games, watch films, giggle a lot (the girls) and together grow in our faith and in our knowledge of the Bible in the informal setting of the Lingdale Manse. Lifts can be provided. Contact Catey.

Lingdale Holiday Club 22nd to 24th August

All children of primary school age welcome to come along and have some fun together doing craft activities - including a huge mural, playing games, competing in Olympic races and getting messy doing baking, as well as learning to live as Jesus’ friends! With a family picnic service to finish on the final day! Everybody welcome, including CRB checked helpers! Speak to Catey for more information.

Ancient

In the beginning God fashioned Adam, not because he had need of human beings, but so that he might have beings on whom to bestow his benefits.

Irenaeus Bishop of Lyons a theologian (2nd Century)

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

Tuesday 10.00am – 11.30am Community Café followed by
 11.30am – 12noon Prayers for our Community
 3rd Sunday of the month 5.30pm Family Service followed by a Youth Meeting at the Manse

St Andrew's

Family News

Congratulations to **Gary and Suzanne** on the birth of their new son Noah Romeo. A baby brother for Joshua and Oscar and a new grandson for Bob and Jean. We send our best wishes and prayers to all the family.



Congratulations also go to **Ben Wheeler** who graduates from Newcastle University this summer with a first class honours degree in music.



Christian Aid Fundraising

Car Wash	£91.00
Grant's Walk	£152.00
Coffee 20 th May	£15.00
Una and Joan's Coffee Morning	£218.85
Christian Aid Envelopes	£30.00
Total	£506.85

Coffee for Charity

20 th May	Christian Aid	£ 15.00
27 th May	Children's Trust	£ 17.25
10 th June	Leprosy Mission	£ 16.00

Many thanks to everyone for donations to the above charities.

St Andrew's Calendar

Diary

Thu 5 th July	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting at 31 Roseberry Mews
Mon 16 th July	2.30pm	Worship at Elmridge
Wed 18 th July	2.30pm	Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge
Wed 25 th July	1-3pm	Knit 'n' Natter

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

Churches Together Prayer Diary

Week beginning:

1 st July	St Cuthbert's C of E
8 th July	St Mary's C of E
15 th July	Nunthorpe Methodist Church
22 nd July	St Bernadette's RC Church
29 th July	St Andrew's URC
5 th August	Marton Methodist Church
12 th August	St Cuthbert's C of E
19 th August	St Mary's C of E
26 th August	Nunthorpe Methodist Church
2 nd September	St Bernadette's RC Church

Steven has Returned

I set off on 9th May for Manchester Airport, flew to Heathrow, Hong Kong and then eventually arrived in Sydney. As you can imagine the flights are long but I just slept.

During my time in Australia I attended meetings, learnt life skills, went on boat tours, went to the beaches and climbed Sydney Harbour Bridge. Plus much more!

After two weeks I returned home.

I had a thoroughly good time and met some lovely people and made good friends.

Steven Etwell

Preachers

	1-Jul	8-Jul	15-Jul	22-Jul	29-Jul
Marton	10.00am K Harris	K Harris	M Robb Communion	J Harper	M Robb
Guisbo	9.30am M Robb Communion	C Morrison	K Harris	M Robb	N Johnson
Redcar	11.00am M Robb Communion	C Morrison Meeting	K Harris	M Robb	Redcar Folk and Lunch
Lingdale	5.30pm C Morrison	K Harris	M Robb Family Serv	K Harris	N Johnson
	5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	2-Sep
Marton	10.00am L Bustard	tba	C Morrison Communion	K Harris	M Robb Church Meet
Guisbo	9.30am K Harris Communion	M Robb	tba	C Morrison	K Harris Communion
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison	C Morrison United at Zetland	J Harper	C Morrison	K Harris Communion
Lingdale	5.30pm M Robb	C Morrison	C Morrison Family Serv	K Harris	M Robb

Material for the September Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th August please

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