

# *Group News*



*\* July \* 2014 \* August \**

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

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

## **Minister**

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Dear Friends,

It's summer time!!! And hopefully a chance for some warm weather in the coming months.

For my family one of the highlights of the summer months is going down to the little seaside fishing port of Staithes for an afternoon of playing on the beach, fishing in the rock pools, walking out along the sea defences and finding some dead fish with which to while away an hour crabbing. All this is finished off with an ice-cream from the ice-cream van which sits on the pier until 5 o' clock everyday in the summer. My children have declared that this is their favourite place ever, and Josh even wrote an essay on his favourite memories in Staithes at school recently.

It is lovely to know that in a place so near to our home in Lingdale is giving our children some of the best memories of their childhoods, ones that they will be recalling well into adulthood. I can also imagine them bringing their own families back here in years to come and recalling those well worn stories of their childhood.

But I also hope they will be recalling memories of their lives in the churches of the Group in the same way, with fond recollections of people in church, of drama sketches they were involved in, of singing their favourite hymns, of church lunches and other times of social gatherings that occurred throughout their childhood. But more importantly I also hope they will have fond recollections of growing up with God, taking steps along their journeys of faith while in the Group.

Because I am often led to wondering whether we are doing the right things in our churches. Are we doing the things that are going to be making a difference to the lives of the people involved in our churches? Are we reaching out with the love and compassion of Jesus and letting people know that is the life source behind our actions as a church? That is not to say that we aren't doing what we are doing purely because of the motivation of our hearts, but also saying that at the core of our hearts is our faith in Jesus, our faith in God

Almighty, through the empowering of the Holy Spirit, and the reality that that does count for something. In fact, I would surmise, it counts for a lot for most of us in the church! Surely our faith is the inspiration for all we do. For without God being behind it all, whether in our prayer meetings or social gatherings or social outreach, we simply wouldn't be here as the church. God, through Jesus, is the reason for it all!

At our recent Group Anniversary service we explored together what it means to be the church. This is always a question that we need to be considering and even reconsidering as we face the changes in society and react to, or react against, those changes. But what I have come to view as most important is making sure that every time we meet together as the church, we truly are *being the church*. Thus a church always ready to reach out, a church always ready to welcome, a church always ready to share its faith, a church always ready to be an expression of the body of Christ here on earth carrying on the ministry of Christ in his absence through the power of the Holy Spirit, and a church always ready to love, to help, and to care about others.

But here is why! My children will have years of their childhoods to recall their time in church, but some people are only with us one time - coming to our churches for a baptism, or a wedding, or just on the off chance, popping in when they felt brave enough or in particular need. We need, therefore, to ensure that we are always the church at its best, or we could miss those opportune times. They won't miss out on time with God, because God, if necessary, will lead them to another opportunity another time, but we might miss out on the chance to serve a person, and share faith with them.

Let us remember to always be the church that God inspires - the body of Christ in Redcar, or Marton, or Lingdale, or Guisborough - always listening to God as to how to be the church. For it is a God's church, not ours, after all! Thank you God for what you have given us here, the opportunities, the resources, the worship, and each other!

God bless! Revd Catey Morrison

## Thank you from Catey

Can I just say a big thank you to everyone who has sent cards, telephoned me, or helped out in any way in recent weeks following breaking my foot at home last month. Following six weeks off work my foot is now more comfortable enabling me to return to work, however I will be hobbling on crutches for a further six weeks according to the consultant, because of the nature of the break and due to ligament damage, both meaning that it will take six more weeks to suitably heal. But it is great to be back!!! Thank you!

*Catey x*

## FAF Club

FAF Club will next meet on Sunday 20th July from 6.30-8.30pm at the Manse. Please ring Catey for more information or for a lift.

### Ampleforth Abbey Trip

Sign up sheets for the Ampleforth Abbey day trip will go up in church shortly including the costs of the day, which will be as reasonable as possible. Please add your name to the list if you would like to go. The trip will take place on Saturday 27th September.

### Blowing Your Cover

The Blowing Your Cover course material will now be used once a month in our church services from September onwards for six months. This delay is due to Catey's recent injury to her foot.

### Modern

Joy is never in our power, and pleasure is. I doubt whether anyone who has tasted joy would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasure in the world.

C. S. Lewis Irish-born writer and Christian Apologist (2nd half 20th Century)

# Congratulations



## **The Past, The Present and The Future**



For some time you may have been aware that Revd. Margaret Johnson has been in our area, and spent time preaching in some of our churches, which she has enjoyed very much.



Dorothy, Margaret and I remained great friends after my time in Blyth as minister was over, and Dorothy and I retired to Guisborough.



The friendship we shared has continued since Dorothy's passing, and indeed has grown, so it is our pleasure to tell you that Margaret and I will be married on 12<sup>th</sup> August, at St George's URC in High Heaton, Newcastle at 2.p.m. During 2012 and 2013, Margaret was minister at both St George's and St Cuthbert's at Heaton.



For those of you who already know this news, we have been delighted and often overwhelmed by your interest and support, and thank you for this sign of your friendship. The congregations of St George's and St Cuthbert's have kindly offered to give us a reception in the hall following the service and a kind invitation is offered to you if you would like to share in the celebrations with us.



*Revd. Ken Harris and Revd. Margaret Johnson*

# *Synod*

*6 July*

Oxclose LEP, Washington; Revd Sheelagh Aston;  
St Andrew's Dawson Street LEP, Crook;  
Revd Ray Anglesea; Revd Andrew Robinson

*13 July*

Summer School at Windermere Centre, this week;  
Ministries & Training Committee;  
Convenor Revd Dr David Whiting

*20 July*

St James's, Alnwick;  
Warkworth;  
Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn

*27 July*

PCM: The work of the central Administration & Finance department; Bartolomeu Langa and his colleagues; hopes for upgraded equipment and software;  
Newcastle Methodist District Chair Revd Leo Osborn

## **Prayers for General Assembly**

Please pray for the General Assembly of our church which will be taking place in Cardiff from 3rd to 6th July. It is always important to hold the meeting of our church in prayer, but even more so this year, when the church will be working out how to respond to government legislation regarding same sex marriages, amongst other issues. Please pray that the conversation might flow well, allowing for a range of views to be expressed, and for people to have ears to hear and not just eyes, and for the mind of Christ to be reached.

# Prayers

*3 August*

World War I – Pastoral Representatives' Committee;  
Convenor Revd Gordon Brown

*10 August*

St Columba's, North Shields; Revd Liz Blair;  
St Andrew's, Monkseaton; Revd David Peel;  
Children's & Youth Pastor Kevin Waller

*17 August*

Felton; Longframlington, Rothbury;  
St Andrew's, Glanton;  
Revd Edward Butlin

*24 August*

St Aidan's, Hexham; Horsley; John Knox, West Denton;  
Revd John Paul

*31 August*

PCM: The other central departments of the Church based at Khovo – Planning and Development; Evangelisation & Mission; Literature – and all who work from there;  
Bishop of Middlesbrough Rt Revd Terry Draine

## **Modern**

We accept the collapse of the fabrics of our old Churches, the thieving of lead and objects from them, the commandeering and butchering of our scenery by the services, the despoiling of landscaped parks and the abandonment to a fate worse than the workhouse of our country houses, because we are convinced we must save money.

John Betjeman English poet (late 20th Century)

## News from the Persecuted Church

Seven Egyptian Christians have been rounded up by suspected Islamist militants in Libya, taken away at gunpoint and shot dead. Their bodies were found, with their hands tied, on a beach on the outskirts of Benghazi on 24th February. The night before, a group of masked men had raided the building where they lived, going door to door identifying the Christians. They also spray-painted messages on buildings, offering a reward for anyone who turned a Christian over to them. This was the latest in a series of targeted attacks on Christians in Libya, where the government is struggling to control the activities of violent Islamist groups. Pray for comfort for the bereaved families and for the restoration of order in Libya.

*From the Barnabus Fund Prayer Diary*

Islamists from Boko Haram have been exploiting existing tensions in Northern Nigeria to encourage anti-Christian attacks by ethnic Fulani Muslims. Hundreds of Christians have been killed already this year in suspected Fulani raids. In just one instance, in Kaduna state, an entire Christian family in Manyekrun village was murdered; Abin Kaawai, his wife, Ruth Abin and their five children all died. The Christian Association of Nigeria in Kaduna criticised the deteriorating security there and called on security forces to go into the bush to hunt out those responsible for the violence from their hiding places. Pray for effective protection for Christians in the region.

*From the Barnabus Fund Prayer Diary*

Give thanks for new initiatives by courageous religious leaders inside Vietnam, drawing attention to human rights abuses.

*Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer diary; [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)*

Ask God to give wisdom to the international community in holding Iran to account on its treatment of religious and ethnic minorities

*Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer diary; [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)*

# Redcar

## Vintage Afternoon Tea      Commitment for Life

Despite dreadful weather our Vintage Afternoon Tea on 7<sup>th</sup> June was a wonderful success. The atmosphere and friendliness was commented by many. Many visitors enjoyed a lovely selection of homemade sandwiches, scones and cakes. A huge thank you to all who helped and supported this event which raised £192.

Commitment for Life envelopes for the relief of Israel and the Palestine Occupied Territories will be available on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July.



## Redcar Calendar

Tue 1<sup>st</sup> July      2.00pm Craft and Chatter

Tue 5<sup>th</sup> August    2.00pm Craft and Chatter

### Weekly

Singing Group – on Wednesdays at 11am.

Thursday          9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

2.00pm Thursday People – at the home of Catherine Milburn for Bible Study

### Ancient

We may say that Christians are in the world what the soul is to the body.

Diognetus, Letter to an unknown recipient (2nd Century)

# Lingdale

## Church Open Day

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.00am to 4.00pm**

Advanced warning of our forthcoming open day. Refreshments will be available as well as a craft stall, book sale and cake stall. There will also be another chance to see some of the photographs from the Lingdale History web-site.

## Flower Rota

6 <sup>th</sup> July	Mrs P Griffiths
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Miss S Griffiths
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Mrs J Coulthard
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Mr B Dove
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Mrs M Saunders
10 <sup>th</sup> August	In memory of Miss J Scarth and Mrs B Waller
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Mr T Waller
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Mrs J Scott
31 <sup>st</sup> August	Mrs P Green
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Mrs H Dunstan

## Book Club

The next meeting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7pm when we will be discussing *The Hundred Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morais. The August meeting will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> at the same time when we will be discussing *The Woman Upstairs* by Claire Messud. New members welcome. Books are provided.

A big thank you to the “Reading Groups for Everyone” web-site who provided the copies of *The Hundred Foot Journey*. Once we have finished with the books they will be passed to the library service book club collection for other book clubs in the area to use.

### Community Café

**10.30 – 1.00 every Tuesday**

Please note the new time and don't forget if you have any donations for the food bank they can be dropped off at the Café.

## Lingdale Calendar

Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> July	1.30 - 3.30pm	Craft & Conversation
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	1.30 - 3.30pm	Craft & Conversation
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1.30 - 3.30pm	Craft & Conversation
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1.30 - 3.30pm	Craft & Conversation

### Weekly

Tuesday	10.00am – 10.30am	Prayers for our Community
	10.30am – 1.00pm	Community Café
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month	5.30pm	Family Service
	6.30-8.30pm	Fun & Faith Club in the Manse

## *St Andrew's*

### Coffee for Charity

18th May	Spinal Injuries Assoc.	£20.00
25th May	Christian Aid	£18.00
1st June	Rosemary Fund	£13.30
8th June	Zoë's Place	£15.50
15th June	Teesside Hospice	£17.00

### Christian Aid Fundraising

Sat. 10th May	Grant and Stevens' Charity Walk	£180.00
Sun. 25th May	Grace and Stevens' Coffee	£18.00

Many thanks to everyone who made donations to the above and to the "Walkers" who walked many miles!!

## Strawberry Tea

**Saturday 5th July 2.00pm**

**Tickets £3.00**

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

There will be a raffle, cake and bring and buy stalls.

Any donations will be gratefully received for these stalls.

## Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship ended their 2013/2014 session with a lovely lunch at the Wainstone Hotel.

The first meeting of our new 2014/15 session will be at the church on Tuesday 9th September from 1.30 to 3.00pm. We will have a shared afternoon tea and discuss the program for the new session.

## St Andrew's Calendar

Weds 23rd July 1.00 - 3.00pm Knit 'n Natter

Wed 27th Aug 1.00 - 3.00pm Knit 'n Natter

### Weekly/Monthly

Third Wednesday 9.30am Church Prayer Group

First Thursday 2.00pm Home Prayer group at 31 Roseberry Mews

Last Sunday After Worship Traid Craft Stall

Boys Brigade Details available from ministers and church elders

## Ancient

The glory of God is man fully alive; and the life of man consists in beholding God.

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon; a theologian (2nd century)

# Guisborough

It seems like only yesterday that I was enjoying my Lay Preacher Commissioning Service and I wanted to say thank you to everyone who came along to make it such a special day. Who would have thought that only a few weeks later Catey would break her foot/ankle and it would be all hands to the pumps to fill the gaps in the preaching plan?

As a GP I don't always see the outcome of the help I offer to patients. This was particularly true when I was a locum. It is always lovely when someone takes the trouble to approach me and tell me how much I have helped them in the past or I get a message from the receptionists to pass on the good news of a patient's improvement. So often I just have to have faith that I have done some good.

I always buy the Big Issue. I usually buy from the lady with a headscarf at Guisborough when I am there for coffee and Quiet Time. A few weeks ago I was in Middlesbrough shopping when I saw the big issue seller but put

off buying until I had visited one or two more shops. When I caught up with him, he had a lovely dog with him. I couldn't resist giving the dog a fuss and meanwhile his owner was telling me about his housing problems. Letting agencies always charge a fee for finding someone a flat, even when they are on the streets. I had already read about this somewhere and thought it was very wrong so I gave him something extra towards the fee.

I don't usually give money to people in the street as I know too often it goes on drink or drugs but for some reason I did this time and just hoped I had done the right thing.

You can imagine my surprise when I saw the same seller featured in the back of this week's magazine with a photo of his lovely dog. I was able to read a bit more about his background as an ex-soldier with PTSD and his struggles to find a home. I was very moved to read his story and comforted to think that I might have done some good.

## Guisborough Calendar

Thu 8th Jul	7.30pm	Group Elders meet in the Hall.
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> July	2.30pm	Belmont Care Home service
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2.30pm	Belmont Care Home service

### Weekly

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

As Christians we don't always see the outcome of our actions. We give money to charity but cannot visit every project to see how it is spent. We send our prayers heavenwards but may not see how they are answered. We may talk of our faith to a stranger and never know the effect on their lives. Teachers often tell me they are surprised, when they meet their pupils years later, to find how significant an effect they have had.

We live our lives by faith because we cannot always see the consequence of our actions. Whether it is putting money into a pension or giving up our time to help someone in need we cannot know what the outcome will be. The Bible reminds us not to

worry but to put our trust in God. As Jesus puts it "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34)

We have reached holiday time and I am going to Albania the day after tomorrow, Maureen and David Houston have just got back from Croatia and are warning me it will be hot. I won't worry about it, because we can't change the weather by worrying, but I will go prepared for anything. I hope when your turn comes that you can put your worries aside and enjoy a peaceful, blessed time whether you are going away or holidaying at home.

*Donna Moore*

## Guisborough Rota

	<b>Vestry Elder</b>	<b>Server</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
6th July	R Tunnicliffe	J Basham	D Beattie	M Ward
13th July	J Reynolds		M Burrows	C Robertson
20th July	D Moore		J Basham	D Moore
27th July	J Basham		J Reynolds	P Etwell
3rd Aug	P Etwell	D Cross	B Ward	M Sollett
10th Aug	D Houston		M Burrows	B Ward
17th Aug	R Tunnicliffe		M Ward	M Baird
24th Aug	M Houston		D Houston	M Houston
31st Aug	D Moore		J Basham	D Cross

## Christian Aid - Iraq Crisis Appeal: left with nothing

More than 500,000 men, women and children have fled Mosul and other cities in the north-west in recent days, in fear for their lives. They do not know what fate awaits them, or when they will be able to return home. They urgently need your help now.. Terrified and homeless, families are exposed to searing heat, often without anything to eat or drink. They are heading for a region already severely stretched by refugees escaping the civil war in Syria.

We are one of the few major agencies already working in Iraq, but we need to urgently step up our response. Hero Anwar is from our partner REACH. She told the BBC: 'People cannot stay in a place where they are under threat. They have to flee their homes with nothing. They have nothing and they need basic items just to survive. 'Because of donors such as Christian Aid we are able to respond.'

Material for the September Magazine to church editors by Sunday 17th August please

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# Preachers

	<b>6-Jul</b>	<b>13-Jul</b>	<b>20-Jul</b>	<b>27-Jul</b>	<b>3-Aug</b>
<b>Marton</b>	10.00am M Johnson	L Bustard	C Morrison Comunion	J Harper	L Bustard
<b>Guisbo</b>	9.30am D Moore Comunion	C Morrison	N Johnson	K Harris	D Moore Comunion
<b>Redcar</b>	11.00am J Martin Comunion	C Morrison United at URC	J Harper	N Johnson	C Milburn
<b>Lingdale</b>	5.30pm K Harris	J Coulthard Comunion	C Morrison plus FAF	N Johnson	J Coulthard
	<b>3-Aug</b>	<b>10-Aug</b>	<b>17-Aug</b>	<b>24-Aug</b>	<b>31-Aug</b>
<b>Marton</b>	10.00am L Bustard	C Eddowes	C Morrison Comunion	N Johnson	C Morrison
<b>Guisbo</b>	9.30am D Moore Comunion	C Morrison	D Moore	C Morrison	D Moore
<b>Redcar</b>	11.00am C Milburn	C Morrison	N Johnson	C Morrison	
<b>Lingdale</b>	5.30pm J Coulthard	J Coulthard Comunion	C Morrison plus FAF	J Morrison	C Morrison