

Group News



** July * 2018 * August **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

During our Group Elders meeting on Wednesday evening, the front page of our magazine was discussed, and it was felt that it needed something that said a little about who we are. Usually, church magazines have a minister's letter on the front page, or at least near the start, but of course, we are not in that position, - yet! Consequently, I volunteered to take on this piece of work, - with help from others during the year.

So, for this first letter to the churches, I thought I would say a little about the church services I have been involved with around the Northern Synod.

As a lay preacher it is my privilege to be invited to lead worship in a number of local churches, - and you would think that as all of them are members of the national URC, that the services would be virtually the same. Not so! It never ceases to amaze me how differently each church does things.

Some churches have the congregation stand as the Bible is brought in, - some have the Bible already on display. Some congregations sing as the person leading worship enters with the vestry elder, - whilst others don't. Some orders of services have the notices at the beginning of the service, whilst others place the notices midway through the service, alongside the freewill offering. Most churches have a vestry Elder say a prayer with the worship leader, and others don't. Personally, I am always thankful when a vestry prayer is said with me.

All these differences make sure I am kept on my toes, - the only danger that I can see, happens when congregations think that their way of conducting worship is the right way. I have known churches where the mere fact of putting the sermon before the prayers of intercession caused a major upset! here is nothing in the Bible that lays down the law on such matters as these and they are purely down to personal preference. The fact that 'we've always done it this way ', doesn't make it scriptural, - and surely the main thing is that we are focused on worshipping God.

We are reminded throughout the Bible that we are a people of change, - and are meant, as practicing Christians to be ready for such change. Small details of procedure should not cause divisions amongst us, - we are called to be united, to come together in unity - which doesn't mean uniformity. I am quite sure it doesn't matter to God how we order our services, - He will be more interested in our compassion towards each other, and our acceptance of other peoples' points of view.

May the Lord bless you and keep you all.

Jan

Holy Habits – Book Club

Would you like to discuss the ideas and issues raised in Andrew Roberts' Holy Habits in a bit more depth? If so would you like to join me in a Book Club?

If there is enough interest I am considering holding a book club every two months to look at two of the habits put forward by Andrew Roberts. I am thinking of holding it on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm, starting in September, with the meetings moving around the three churches. It is likely the sessions will last about an hour.

You don't have to come to them all, just whichever you can get to. It is not a theology class, just a chance for us to look more closely at the ideas put forward and consider how we can use them both as individuals and as Churches.

If you would like more information please give me a ring on 01287 654 093.

Susan Griffiths

The Quiet Garden Trust in Northallerton's Secret Garden.

A Quiet day on Friday 3rd August 2018

10.00am – 3.45pm. Donation £5.00

Context Jesus was fully human as well as fully divine. He would have appreciated all the senses - he was thirsty, hungry, tired, grief-stricken etc. Our gifts of 5 senses (and a 6th) are integral to our humanity. So here is a day to help us to reflect on our senses using the resources of scripture, the natural beauty of the garden, and silence.

People come to a day of silence with different experience and expectation, and this day is sensitively planned with such diversity in mind. After the opening worship and introduction, you will be offered Scripture resource for all the senses and promptings/suggestions, largely working/reflecting on your own, with support on hand if you would find that helpful.

As part of the invitation to 'Taste and See' (Psalm 34:8) we will gather for a shared silent lunch or there will be a space in the cottage if you have a packed lunch and wish to speak! Alternatively if the weather allows, enjoy a picnic in the garden! A cooked lunch is possible if enough people opt for that, for a suggested donation of £6.00. Choice would be Lasagne, Fish Pie or Asparagus Quiche, followed by Lemon Meringue Pie or Fresh Fruit salad.

There is seating in the garden, but bring your own chair if you have one which is portable and comfortable. Facilities of the church hall are available all day including helping yourself, freely to refreshments. There is disability access to all areas and a dropping off point for transport to and from the day. Please return booking slip by 16th July if you wish to attend. We look forward to welcoming you. Suggest you bring Bible, notebook, paints?

Name.....

Address.....

Phone number.....

A Cooked Lunch with choice... Yes please/No thank you/ own packed lunch.

A map for location of the garden and the car parks in the town. Yes/No

Enquiries to: Ann Bowes. 01423 360786. 07766733810 New Mills Cottage, Sessay, Thirsk, YO7 3NR E-mail ann.bowes@btinternet.com

Synod Prayers

1st July: South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA)
(Methodist and URC), its president and officers

8th July: Northumbrian Industrial Mission and Mrs Fiona Usher,
Chaplain Team Leader

15th July: The work of Synod Executive Committee

22nd July: Synod Pilgrimage – Borders Abbeys Way Walk 22nd –
27th July

St James's URC, Alnwick; Warkworth URC; Revd Joan Grindrod-
Helmn The work of LMMR (Local Mission and Ministry Re-
view)

29th July: PCM, their office staff at Church House, Khovo,
Maputo
The Anglican Bishop of Jarrow, the Rt Revd Mark Bryant

5th August: The work of Pastoral Committee and its convenor,
Revd Dr Grant Wilson The Anglican Bishop of Durham, the
Rt Revd Paul Butler

12th August: Ponteland URC; St John's URC, Wideopen

19th August: St George's URC, Morpeth; Great Bavington URC;
Widdrington URC

26th August: St Aidan's URC, Hexham; Horsley URC; West
Denton URC

Guisborough

I've recently completed a short devotional series entitled 'Choosing Each Day: God or Self?'

The aim was to help the believer choose God from the point of waking each morning, thanking Him for the new day and for the breath you breathe in it. Although many of us have been believers for a long time, each new day is an opportunity to believe afresh once more.

I recall in the early days of my 'walk in faith' that life just seemed to be an uphill struggle. To possess 'The Joy of the Lord' in our hearts as we go about our day when the world around us seemed to just want to take that joy away, redirecting your focus on the trivia matters that seem so intense at the time but in hindsight didn't really matter at all.

I reached a point where I had to stop counting the days or hoping that tomorrow would come sooner and just live that day in The Lord, whether it was a good day or a bad one, I could share that day in my walk with Jesus who more than often ended up carrying me and my load. What a difference it made. If today is the only

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

day that matters and Jesus is there with you then it brings a better understanding of what Jesus said when he taught us how to pray the prayer we all have written in our hearts, Our Father.

Back when I was a single young male I'd spend quite some time each day reflecting and praying from what I had read in the Bible. As you may be aware, I did some writing to help communicate better what was on my mind and in my heart so please enjoy the following as a piece which I hope will help each of us to fuel our faith afresh as if this moment was the first time we knelt in front of The Cross.

Come Holy One, in my life as my saviour
Come Holy One, be my shelter from all danger
Come Holy One, be my friend not a stranger
Come Holy One, bring your light into this world

Come Holy One, you were laid in a manger
Come Holy One, shepherds there stood and praised Yah
Come Holy One, cousin of the proclaimer
Come Holy One, Holy One, you have come

Came into a world overrun by sin, you conquered death within
Came and reconciled man to God, Jesus you're our Lord

Come Holy One, let your spirit dwell within me
Come Holy One, let your light shine on through me
Come Holy One, let your word whisper to me
Come Holy One, let your kingdom come

Come Holy One, be my strength and my rock
Come Holy One, be the way that I walk Lord
Come Holy One, be in every word I say Lord
Come Holy One, let your will be done

Come into the hearts of us this day, there in your love to stay
Jesus we accept you as our Lord, blessed Son of God

Darren

	Vestry	Communion	Door
1st July	P Etwell	J Basham	M Ward
8th July	D Moore		The children
15th July	J Reynolds		D Houston
22nd July	J Basham		M Houston
29th July	D Beattie		J Reynolds
5th August	M Burrows	B Ward	R Tunnicliffe
12th August	S Verrill		M Burrows
19th August	M Houston		D Thompson
26th August	R Tunnicliffe		B Ward

Flowers—see notice board

Redcar

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Wednesday	10.30am	Singing Group
Thursday	9.30am	Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre for Refreshments and a chat
	2.00pm	Thursday Prayers at Catherine's - all are welcome

The Longest day of the Year – 21st June

The cause is the 23½ degree tilt of the earth's axis then pointing at the sun's centre. As the earth continues on its orbit this slowly alters, and the days shorten again. 'A Child's Garden of Verse,' by Robert Louis Stevenson, tells us astronomical facts in a charming manner:

'In Winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle light.
In Summer, quite the other way
I have to go to bed by day.'

After 500 years Stevenson tells us the old folk memory of a fixed central earth. In this the obituary sun begins a slow upwards spiral beginning on the shortest day. After 21st June it reverses its course back to its mid-winter position.

'The sun is not a bed when I
At night upon my pillow lie,
Still round the earth His way He takes
And morning after morning makes.'

But we know that:

'This is the day which the Lord has made. (not the sun)
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.'

But the psalmist was wrong when he wrote:

'Thou hast made the round earth so fast that it cannot be moved.'

Winter-solstice

Late lies the wintry sun-a-bed,
A frosty fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.

So before the stars have left the skies, at morning in the dark arise.

John Crowther

St Andrew's

Una Sutherland

The celebration of Una's life was held at St. Andrew's on the 11th June. A lovely friend who will be sadly missed.. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.

Una, Mac, Shona and Grant joined our church in 1972 while we were still worshipping in the hut.. Una was a very active member helping in all the activities held in the church - the Ladies' Fellowship, the Thursday Club, the Bazaar, the Burn's Supper, the Youth Group, Quiz Nights, Lunches, Socials etc.

For many years Una arranged the flowers on display in the church for every Sunday service (they have never been as lovely since) and organised the Flower Rota. She became an Elder and was a helpful, supportive and caring pastoral visitor always the first to offer help.

Church life and routine were very important to Una. We give thanks for Una's Life and the privilege of knowing her and being her friend.

We do miss your lovely smile Una.

A very lovely lady.

Thank you

Coffee Morning at 8 Towthorpe on 31st May raised £145.00 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone who made this such an enjoyable morning.

Christian Aid Walk

Grant and Steven raised £160.00 for Christian Aid on their walk in May.

Well done to you both.

St Andrew's Strawberry Tea

Saturday 30th June

2.00pm

Raffle, Cake Stall.

Tickets £3.00

available from Doreen, Sheila or Joan.

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Coffee for Charity

20th May	Teesside Hospice	£16.50
27th May	Christian Aid	£23.50
3rd June	Teesside Hospice	£14.06
10th June	Rosemary Fund	£17.20

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boys Brigade

Details available from ministers
and church elders

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 10.00am	Redcar 11.00am
1-Jul	Margaret Harris	Ken Harris Communion	Jan Harper Communion
8-Jul	Jane Rowell	Guis Folk	Brian Stephenson
15-Jul	Jan Harper Communion	Donna Moore	Norma Johnson
22-Jul	Norma Johnson	Chris Eddowes	Jane Rowell
29-Jul	Donna Moore	Margaret Harris	Ken Harris
5-Aug	Jan Harper	Jane Rowell Communion	K & M Harris
12-Aug	K & M Harris	Norma Johnson	Brian Stephenson Meeting
19-Aug	Margaret Harris	Guis Folk	Ken Harris
26-Aug	Ken Harris	Margaret Harris	Jan Harper

Material for the September Magazine to church editors by
Sunday 19th August please

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