

Group News



** July * 2019 * August **

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

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

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Pastoral Letter

The Turn Of The Tide

'Do not let the flood overwhelm me, or the deep swallow me, or the pit close over my head...'

Psalm 69

Have you ever stood and watched as the sea waves crashed against the walls that were put there for the defence of the land? Probably, - if you were sensible, you either stood very well back or contented yourselves to watching it on the television news. Watching them crash into the wall, and cascade high into the air, it's hard to believe that the defence could take it for very long, such was the remorseless ferocity and power of the tide. As the waters rose higher and higher they threatened to engulf the whole coastline, - and we might have wondered what destruction we might find were we to return the next day. And yet, - seeing the next day's news, nothing could have been more different. The waves were small now, breaking gently on the beach, and the rest of the sea was like a millpond, - a more peaceful scene would be hard to imagine. The tide had turned!

How often has life been like that for us, caught up in a storm, wave after wave beating against us and threatening to sweep us away? Like the psalmist there have probably been times when we've felt all at sea, looking back wistfully to better days and wondering why God doesn't seem to be there for us.

Yet, just as certainly as high tide follows low tide, and low follows high, so it will be for us too. After the storm there will come peace; after turmoil, quietness and after sorrow, joy. We might not be able to see it at the time, there seeming no prospect of any respite, or any sign of change, - but God will always be there alongside us, holding our head above the water, until, in the fullness of time the tide will turn, the waters recede and the storm abate. We just have to hang on and trust Him who has promised 'I am with you till the end of the age'.

Blessings

Jan

**Tees Swale URC Mission Partnership
ANNUAL PASTORATE SERVICE**

SATURDAY 22nd JUNE

NORTHGATE URC, DAP'

REVD JOHN

General Secretary of the United Church

2.30pm Possibilities:

'Luke's Gospel'

7pm Light Tea

Service with sermon entitled

'Turning out the light?'

ALL ARE WELCOME

CANCELLED

Holy Habits – Book Club

The next meeting of the Holy Habits Book Club will take place at Guisborough Church on Thursday 11th July at 7.15pm.

We will be discussing the chapters on Giving and Making New Disciples. The suggested bible passages are 2 Corinthians 9 and Matthew 28: 16-20.

Susan Griffiths

Synod Prayers

7 July:

Northumbrian Industrial Mission and Mrs Fiona Usher, Chaplain
Team Leader

14 July:

The work of Synod Executive Committee

21 July:

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

The work of LMMR (Local Mission and Ministry Review)

28 July:

PCM, their office staff at Church House, Khovo, Maputo

The Anglican Bishop of Jarrow, the Rt Revd Mark Bryant

4 August

The work of Pastoral Committee and Convenor, Revd Stephen
Collinson

The Anglican Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler

11 August:

Ponteland URC; St John's URC, Wideopen; St Aidan's URC, Hexham;
Horsley URC

18 August:

St George's URC, Morpeth; Great Bavington URC; Widdrington URC

25 August:

The RC Bishop of Middlesbrough, the Rt Revd Terry Drainey

Guisborough

As this article is for the July/August issue of Group News, it seems highly appropriate that I am writing this while on holiday. Hopefully, many of you will either have enjoyed a welcome break, or be eagerly looking forward to some time away. University students like my husband are already free, while school children are still counting down the days.

In these days of being in vacancy, preparing to call a minister, and waiting for the right person to answer that call, it is easy to become weary. The strain of trying to keep everything running smoothly is showing in our Elders, and we are all aware that, either we are being asked over and again to help with worship, or we are the ones asking the same people each time.

It becomes especially important to take time to rest, to get away for a while, to take turns, so the burdens don't always fall on the same people. After all, even Jesus needed help, from the twelve and the 70 sent out to heal and preach. He also took time out to rest and pray, to remember who all this activity is for, who is really in charge and in control and who to call on for help. We too need to set aside time for re-creation and prayer.

Jesus often chose a mountain top to retreat to, and from this lovely, Welsh cottage I can see the summit of Cadair Idris. We won't ascend this time, because we have done it before when we were younger and fitter. You can use the same phrase in Italian, I'm told, to go up a mountain as to go upstairs, so we can honestly say we went up to see the mountain this holiday, and no-one would know we cheated.

We visited the island of Anglesey on our way to the cottage and I was able to visit my uncle and aunt, who still live there. After a meal out we stopped off in Trearddur Bay where my uncle and mother grew up. It took me back to all those childhood holidays I had spent there, Easter and Summer, with my grandma and her sheepdog, Moss. I can hardly believe I used to swim in the bay at Easter. My uncle was telling me about my forefathers and where they had farmed nearby. I feel really rooted when I visit Anglesey, connected to the past, and I love the lilt of the Welsh language, even though I cannot speak it. It seems familiar to me, not threatening or excluding, as some other English people find it.

As we travel through North Wales we have seen many chapels; the one where I went to a Welsh service with my grandma, the one where my parents were married, one for sale in Pothmadog, so imposing and attractive, but no longer needed as a place of worship and in need of a lot of work, one in Dolgellau, The Ebenezer Chapel. This last example led us to wonder where that name came from? It was made famous, of course, by Charles Dickens as Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol.

The name comes from the Bible, 1 Samuel 7:12, and means ‘stone of help’. This was a monument set up by Samuel at a place where the Israelites, were first defeated by the Philistines, with the Ark of the Covenant stolen, and, many years later, defeated them in turn, gaining their freedom at last. As Samuel set up the stone he said, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.” So the name has come to be used to remind the faithful of how much God has done for us in the past and how much more he will do for us in the future. This reminds me of the hymn by Isaac Watts.

*“Oh God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.”*

The most common phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid.” So I hope this summer you find time to rest and pray, whether at home or away, so you can be refreshed and revived by the Spirit of the Living God. And may that same Spirit carry our call for help to one who has ears to hear and a heart to serve.

Donna Moore

Guisborough Calendar

25th August 10.00am Group Service with Revd Hilary Collinson.

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

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
7 July	D Moore		D Thompson	J Reynolds
14 July	M Houston		B Ward	M Baird
21 July	B Ward	J Basham	D Beattie	R Tunncliffe
28 July	S Verrill		M Ward	D Kane
4 August	P Etwell	M Baird	J Basham	M Houston
11 August	J Reynolds		P Etwell	S Verrill
18 August	J Basham		R Tunncliffe	D Moore
25 August	R Tunncliffe	Group Service	The children	A Thompson
1 Sept	D Beattie		D Houston	M Ward

St Andrew's

Shoe Box Appeal

Many people have been kindly remembering to donate their empty shoe boxes for which we are extremely grateful. However we still require more.

Last year we sent 64 filled boxes to the collection point which we were delighted with.

Already our knitters are hard at work knitting lots of hats and scarfs(even one family member not attached to our church is kindly busy knitting scarfs). Thank you everyone.

We start covering the empty shoe boxes with Christmas paper in September.

Help Required

Please come along and help us to clear the residual debris from Room 3 into a skip on

1st July 2019

All help welcome and refreshments will be provided.



Gladys Williams

Gladys who died on 10 June was born in Leith in 1924 and always considered herself to be a Scot. She married George, a merchant seaman and moved to Middlesbrough in 1948, living at first with his family in a house that was also home to other members of the family. She became a regular agitator at the Housing Office until she was granted one of the first post war Council houses for their ever growing family. There were six children, four of whom still in this area, and many *many* grandchildren and great grandchildren, all but one present at her funeral. The service was largely taken by members of the family, her brother, the eldest grand child and there was a poem from Lois, one of the great grandchildren.

Gladys and George were members of Park Presbyterian and were very active in the Scottish Dancing group there. At Linthorpe, she was renowned for her baking, and for taking part in the social events. The most important element of her life however was the pride in her ever growing family. There was so much love expressed by those who spoke at the service that we were left in no doubt that she was indeed very precious to all of them. Only recently she had said to a visitor 'I can't remember all their birthdays any more'

They all had so many memories of her - even to the invitation every time they saw her to 'help yourselves to sweets from the tin in the hall!'

She would have been 95 on 25 June. Rest in peace, Gladys.

Jane Tomlin

Diary Date

Coffee Morning on Thursday 26th September at 8, Towthorpe, Nunthorpe at 10.30am. Tickets £2.00 Raffle.

Instead of a Bring and Buy Stall we are hoping that the "coffee drinkers" will bring a food donation for Middlesbrough Food Bank.

All proceeds will go to the Food Bank.

Donations for this needy charity seem to decline in the summer months so they are always very pleased to accept our donations.

Coffee for Charity

19th May	Leprosy Mission.	£16.50
26th May	Shoe Box Appeal	£18.25
2nd June	Rosemary Fund	£18.61
9th June	Zoe's Place	£11.00
16th June	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£20.00

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Redcar

To Cruise Or Not To Cruise, A Moral Dilemma?

Anyone who knows me knows that I love to travel (I was born on a Thursday). I was brought up in a household where holidays were very important, even if they were only days out to Runswick Bay when the train went to Whitby from Redcar. When I was very small we spent a week at Runswick Bay but returned home every night to sleep as my parents could not afford a B&B.

I was introduced to holidays abroad (particularly Italy) when I was 12 and my father received compensation following a car accident that changed his life as his badly broken leg prevented him from returning to his job as a plumber. I spent many a beach holiday in Rimini and went on to learn Italian as a consequence and in 1971 had the pleasure of spending almost 5 weeks on Lake Garda on an Italian Course as part of my college Diploma.

In the 90s I discovered touring in the USA, which I thoroughly enjoyed for several years. When I reached my 60s I decided to try cruising and opted for a Saga Cruise in a relatively small ship (just over 440 passengers). This was

luxury touring indeed, unpack once but seeing several different places and countries. I never felt an intrusion on the places we visited as being a small ship we were able to dock in different places. I then did a cruise through the Panama Canal and although this ship was much bigger with more than 2000 passengers we never seemed to intrude on the places we visited. My third cruise was in the late winter to Norway and once again was a small saga ship and we were the only ship at most places. However I have just returned from a cruise to the Baltic aboard the Magellan. By modern standards the Magellan is quite a small ship with just over 1200 passengers, however in most of the ports we visited we were surrounded by at least 4 other very large ships with the consequent invasion of tourists and tourist buses at the venues. Most of the places we visited seemed to be overwhelmed with tourists. It made me wonder if in our desire to see these places we are spoiling the very thing which makes them desirable! The accident in Venice with the MSC cruise ship just reinforces this.

June Haverson

Redcar Market Stall

Once again the intrepid trio of Krysia, Linda and Mary braved the weather on a bleak Friday (31st May) to have a tombola on Redcar Market. A grand total of over £130 was raised towards our roof fund. Well done girls.

July 7
July 14
July 21
July 28

Duty Rota

Vestry

Elaine
Cath
June
Elaine

Door

Brian
Brian
Brenda
Brian

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Thursday

9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30 Pop in Centre

A True Story which has a Connection with a Hymn

The hymn is “Teach me my God and King in all things Thee to see”

The story is told by an elderly lady who died some years ago and who belonged to a Redcar Church. It also involves her window cleaner. She became concerned when he became interested in her antiques. He wanted to buy some of them but she did not want to sell any. His attitude brought a line from a hymn to her mind:-

“The man (person) who looks through glass, on it may stay his eye or if it pleaseth through it pass and then all heaven espy” (Lots of stars)

It may be significant that this was written at the time of the invention of the telescope, which can be seen as an accidental invention. It was placing of certain lenses at a critical distance from each other.

One of the commandments tells us not to covet, not to want another's possessions. Covet is a word used in the popular television game “Pointless”. A tall glass vase is apparently coveted by the players according to Alexander Armstrong, the organiser of the game. Luckily I am not tempted to own one of these square vases, so here ends the short article.

John Crowther



Preachers

	Marion	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
7-Jul	Jan Harper	Dave Elliott	Jane Rowell Communion
14-Jul	Donna Moore	Guis Folk	Brian Stephenson
21-Jul	Margaret Harris Communion	Ken Harris	Julie Martin
28-Jul	MarionWT	Jane Rowell	Catherine Milburn
4-Aug	Ken Harris	Margaret Harris Communion	Jane Rowell
11-Aug	Jan Harper	Guis Folk	Brian Stephenson Meeting
18-Aug	Jan Harper Communion	Donna Moore	Julie Martin
25-Aug	No Service	Hilary Collinson Group Service	No Service

Material for the September Magazine to church editors by Sunday 11th
August please

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