

Group News



** June * 2013 * June **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Minister

Rev Catey Morrison, 2 Stanghow Road, Lingdale (01287 651926)

catey@eastclevelandurc.org.uk

As a GP, patients often consult me when they are worried about forgetting things. They are anxious that they may have Alzheimer's disease, and sadly, after testing, some will have the early signs. Just as often, I find their memory problems are no worse than my own, and I am able to reassure them. I show them my notebook where I have to write everything down. Memory problems have become particularly personal to me now, as my father is in the early stages of a less common form of dementia. We cannot take our memory for granted.

The Bible is full of references to remembering. In the Old Testament God remembers his promise to Noah and sends a rainbow. He remembers his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and sends Moses to lead the captives out of Egypt. The people are urged, to remember God's commands as they are handed down to them, never to forget that they were slaves in Egypt and it was the LORD who delivered them. The psalmist urges, the LORD to remember his kindness towards him, and us to remember the wonderful things He has done. By the rivers of Babylon, the exiles of Judah wept when they remembered Zion, but they still tried to keep their traditions alive. Proverbs, and the writer of Ecclesiastes, urge us to remember the LORD in everything we do, and to remember our Creator while we are young. In the New Testament Mary, is remembered by God and, remembers all the circumstances of the birth of Jesus. The disciples remember the things that Jesus told them and a thief asks Jesus, on the cross, to remember him when he comes into his kingdom. At the last supper, Jesus asks the disciples to continue to break bread in memory of me. Paul, in his letters, remembers people in his prayers, and the writer of Hebrews urges his hearers to remember those who are suffering within the family of faith.

Remembering and tradition have always played an important part in the life of the church but we must not let this turn into stagnation. It is equally important not to let a 'craze for the new' lead us away from the important traditions that form the basis of our faith.

When my father retired from his job, as an agricultural botanist and university lecturer, his discipline of plant breeding was becoming unfashionable and being replaced by genetic engineering. This was all very new, but there are concerns about the undesirable results of genetic modification. It was also obvious that developing countries would not be able to afford the technology. Today, I discovered that British agricultural botanists have developed a new 'super wheat', with an increased productivity of 30%. This was developed by the old fashioned method of plant breeding, combined with some new technology, but avoiding genetic modification. This may help us to feed a hungry world more effectively.

This news seems to be a celebration of the combination of the best of the old and the new. It is a pattern we could benefit from following, within our churches and our denomination. We must remember all that the Bible teaches and learn from our past, but also look forward to the future. God will still remember us with kindness, as we continue to break bread in memory of Jesus, whose teaching is still relevant to the problems of our time.

Donna Moore

Marton Manse

The good news is that the house is now let, at £700 per month for two years, (less Commission which brings it down to £616) through Manners and Harrison.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out on the property: the main roof, garage roof, porch roof, outside painting, garden etc. The loft and garage also had to be cleared which filled two skips! Many small maintenance jobs have been done and

the tenant is currently doing the internal decoration.

The-not-so-good-news is that as there are outstanding fees due to the Agents, the Group will not receive anything until the end of July. Under the Synod rules the Group has to keep the net income separate in the Manse Fund and can only spend it on the Manses, to ensure that they are both kept in good condition.

Jane Tomlin Group Treasurer

Synod Prayers

This year's Prayer Diary takes as its theme the United Reformed Church's Vision 2020 mission strategy, focusing on each of the 10 statements during the year. This month the theme is 'Hospitality and Diversity'.

2nd June Welcoming visitors to our churches

9th June Stockton; Billingham; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby;
Rev Colin Offor

16th June Summer School at Wydale Hall, Scarborough, this
week

23rd June St James's, Alnwick; Warkworth; Rev Joan Grindrod-
Helmn

30th June West End Refugee Service; Project Director Mrs Lind-
say Cross

Prayers for the IPM Church in Mozambique

Pray for the two presbyteries of Incomati South and North, stretched out along the main road out of Maputo to Gaza and the North. Antioch at Magude was the first preaching station in the country of the Swiss Mission, and will host the commemorative Synod in July.

Manse Prayers

Join Ken, Dorothy, Norma and Catey for a time of prayer and bible reading at 31, Oakley Close, Guisborough every Tuesday at 8.30am. All welcome.

Saturday 29th June - 7.30pm
Middlesbrough Town Hall

Coronation Celebration

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir

The Mowbray Orchestra

Conductor John Forsyth MBE

Walton: Crown Imperial, Orb and Sceptre, Coronation Te Deum
Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance Marches
Handel: Coronation Anthems
Parry: I was glad
Works by Bliss, Howells and Butterworth

Tickets £14adult, £12 concession, £2 child/student

From: Denis Rigg tel 01642 782009
www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com
Town Hall Box Office tel 01642 729729

Guisborough

Now that some sign of spring appears to be emerging my thoughts turn to walks in the countryside. It is always a great pleasure to get out into the open air to enjoy the great outdoors. For the past 15 years or so my wife, Norma, and I have been using a series of guide books for both town and country walks to this end. These have taken us to a whole variety of places, mostly in North Yorkshire and some in Durham. Routes taken from such familiar local places such as Osmotherly, Rosedale, Hole of Horcum, Helmsley, for an extended trek or something near at hand, for that Sunday afternoon stroll, like Great Ayton, Hutton Rudby, Faceby, Skelton and others. How good it is to see the unusually wide variety of fields, pastures,

Guisborough Calendar

Wed 5 th Jun	7.00pm	Monthly Prayers at 1 Nidderdale Skelton.
Thu 13 th Jun	6.30pm	Group Elders' Meeting at Lingdale
Tue 18 th Jun	2.30pm	Service at Belmont View Care Home.
	7.15pm	Church Meeting

Weekly

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

woods and moors of our country side. The challenge is not just the exercise and ensuing fitness, but the wit, intelligence and common sense to navigate the instructions accurately. So getting lost is also part of the adventure. And so what arguments arise, with my companion, when this happens, like: 'we should have gone that way' or 'we must have missed the marker' – or 'you obviously can't read a map!' All good fun – well most of the time anyway.

Recently, Norma has thought about walking St Cuthbert's Way – a long 63 mile trek from Melrose, where the saint started his

religious life, onto Holy Island where he was to become bishop for the Kingdom of Northumbria. This idea prompted the thought of how often being out perhaps alone in the big wide open spaces seems to create in us that strong feeling of, not only being close to nature, but more importantly being close to God. So in the solitude we can have such an opportunity to more hear more clearly that that call from the Lord. In the Bible we have various examples of this: Moses on Mount Sinai, Jesus forty days in the wilderness: both encountering God face to face and coming out so much stronger for the experience.

I think we need moments like this away from the busyness of day to day life to reflect and perhaps to listen for what God is saying to us. Following the walking guide I have often got lost - and so it is with faith. Did we get the right message from the Sunday Bible reading or sermon - or did we pick out the bits that appealed to our desires or wants of that time. So perhaps a lonely reflection on Roseberry Topping or the chilly wind swept sand dunes of Tees-mouth may help to sweep aside present distractions – to help us to hear something we really need to know?

Last month I mentioned about the course on evangelism: Blowing your Cover. By a strange coincidence I now learn that we have a new convenor for the Synod’s Mission and Evangelism Group, the Rev John Paul of West Denton Church, who succeeds Julie Martin. It is only September last year since John led a presentation about evangelism

for the East Cleveland Group in St Andrew’s Church at Marton. It is good to know that we have a person, so committed to evangelism, who is able to take on this work.

In his opening letter John Paul points out the importance of the role that the M & E Group has in the life of the URC; with the aim of halting the decline in our churches and working together in our churches to share the Good News and to become growing and vibrant centres of faith in the community. He reminds us of M&E’s remit: *“to encourage churches to consider their mission and to engage in evangelism.”*

As a starting point each link person has been given a questionnaire to complete. In essence he asks questions related to a church’s commitment to evangelism and offers to help in terms of planning to set up the means by which may be achieved in the

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
2nd June	J Reynolds	B Ward	P Etwell	D Moore
9th June	D Cross		D Moore	P Etwell
16th June	M Burrows		J Basham	Lydia R
23rd June	D Houston		M Houston	J Basham
30th June	P Etwell		M Ward	M Houston

different circumstances of each local fellowship.

This can be quite a task but one we need to take on if we are to fulfil Christ's Great Commission, as found at the end of Matthew's Gospel: "*Jesus came near and said to them: 'Full authority in heaven and upon earth has been committed to me. Go therefore to all nations and make them my disciples' baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. I will be with you always, to the end of time.*"

Ray Tunnicliffe

Guisborough Choral Society

MIDSUMMER MELODIES

From Rodgers and Hammerstein to Les Mis, with some tuneful stops around the world on the way! Great songs and great singing are promised by our summer concert on Saturday 22nd June, 7.30 pm, at St. Nicholas Church Hall, Bow Street, Guisborough. The choir is presenting a light and varied programme of numbers for a summer evening and there'll be something for everyone to enjoy. Including, as an added attraction, a glass of wine and strawberries and cream to make a delicious end to the evening.

Tickets are £5, £4 concessions, £1 under-19s, from Guisborough Bookshop, Greensleeves Music, wegottickets.com or at the door.

St Andrew's

Quiz, Pie & Pea Supper

Many thanks to Doreen and Jack for organising the Quiz, all who helped in the kitchen and to Malcolm for his invaluable help in setting up the hall for the quiz held on Sat. 12th May. Thanks also to everyone who came and supported this event. We raised £276.00 for church funds and had a very enjoyable evening.

Strawberry Tea

Strawberry Tea is to be held at St Andrew's on Saturday 29th June at 2.00pm. There will be a cake stall, tombola and bric a brac stall. Donations will be gratefully received.

Tickets £3.00 will be available from Doreen, Sheila or Joan S in the near future. Proceeds are in aid of church funds.

Request for Accommodation

For the past 20 years Rosemary, our partner in Uganda, has benefited from a visit to the UK every 3 years for a period of refreshment and fellowship. Now we have moved into an apartment block we are dependent upon using the guest room at Roseberry Mews for visitors and can only book it for a maximum of 2 weeks. Is there anyone in St. Andrew's congregation who would agree to give Rosemary B & B for a third week to extend her holiday? (Dates negotiable dependent upon visa and travel arrangements)

Shirley and John Moorse

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship members met for lunch on Wednesday 1st May at the Mill in Stokesley being the last meeting of the session. We intend to meet again on Wednesday 4th Sep-

tember 2013 when we will organise our programme for the next session.

Coffee for Charity

28th April	Mary Thompson Fund	£24.00
5th May	Riding for the Disabled	£15.57
12th May	Boy's Brigade	£25.37

St Andrew's Calendar

Thu 13 th Jun	6.30pm	Group Elders' at Lingdale
Wed 26th Jun	1.00-3.00pm	Knit and 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 minister and church elders

Lingdale

Aubrey Hill

It is with sadness that we note the death of Aubrey Hill. Aubrey was a Member and Elder of the Church for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Flower Rota

2nd June – Mr A Thompson
9th June – Mrs H Dunstan
16th June – Mrs P Griffiths
23rd June – Miss S Griffiths
30th June – Mrs J Coulthard
7th July – Mr B Dove

Book Club

The next meeting will be on 4th June at 7.00pm when we will be discussing *Black Diamonds* by Catherine Bailey. The story of the rise and fall of an English Dynasty.

Lingdale Calendar

Thu 13th Jun 6.30pm Group Elders' Meeting at Lingdale

Weekly

Tuesday 10.00am – 10.30am Prayers for our Community
10.30am – 12noon Community Café

3rd Sunday of the month 5.30pm Family Service followed by a FAF (Youth Meeting) at the Manse

Redcar

Dear Friends,

‘Spring’ is here and many of you will be clearing out your cupboards. So maybe, if you have any spare bedding – eg, fitted sheets, duvets, pillows etc you could pass them on to Coatham House – Hostel for young Homeless People – 16-25years old.

Duvets especially are wanted as the young people often take them when they move on, keeping that little bit of comfort with them.

Many things are wanted and anything will be appreciated. Krysia will be happy to pass things on please leave them or see her at Redcar URC.

Thank you.

Commitment for Life

Envelopes will be available on 16th and 23rd June to support the Israeli and Palestinian Occupied Territories.

Redcar Calendar

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| Tue | 4 th Jun | 2.00pm | Craft and Chatter in the Church. |
| Thu | 13 th Jun | 6.30pm | Group Elders’ Meeting at Lingdale |
| Tue | 18 th Jun | 2.00pm | Welcome at Wins – meet for an informal chat and cuppa. |
| Sun | 16 th Jun | 11.45am | Church Annual General meeting. |

Weekly

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

Preachers

	2-Jun	9-Jun	16-Jun	23-Jun	30-Jun
Marton	10.00am L Bustard	C Morrison Meeting	J Harper Communion	K Harris	M Locke
Guisbo	9.30am N Johnson Communion	B Clare	D Moore	C Morrison	D Harris
Redcar	11.00am P Supply	K Harris	C Morrison	C Morrison	J Harper
Lingdale	5.30pm K Harris	C Morrison Communion	C Morrison	C Morrison	P Supply

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by Sunday 16th June please
 Group Editor – R Wheeler, 2C Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0DX.
 Telephone: 01642 300546.
 Email: roger.wheelers5@virginmedia.com