

# *Group News*



*\* June \* 2015 \* June \**

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

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

## **Minister**

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

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Dear Friends,

We have a new Prime Minister and new hope for our nation. Oh right, no we don't! In fact, we have the same Prime Minister, David Cameron, but we can still have renewed hope.

So why should we be hopeful at this time, you may well ask? And my answer is that the very process of having the election raised a lot of feelings and opinions in people, feelings and opinions which people still need to put forward in order to bring about change that is still needed. After all, the government does still need to be challenged, and thus needs to hear these views. The government still needs to hear what is actually working in the nation and what is not working. Without people telling them just how life is in the communities in which we live, how can the government govern taking into account the needs of the communities? So my hope lies in people keeping on talking, keeping on speaking out, and keeping on pushing for, and hoping for change for the better.

Take bedroom tax for instance. I have to keep hopeful about this dreadful tax, which has only seemed to make life harder for those on benefits. I have to keep hopeful that the government will see sense and repeal this tax. I have to keep hopeful too, that more help will be given to those who are currently unemployed and seeking to find jobs, with better retraining opportunities etc. I have to keep hopeful that those needing help because they cannot work due to health issues will be understood and treated fairly when being assessed, and that professional opinions will be listened to about whether someone can work or not. I have to remain hopeful that those stuck in limbo waiting for their appeals to go through will be supported rather than rejected by the government while they wait. I have to keep hopeful that human life and dignity will be respected in the process of working out who should receive what, in terms of the variety of support that needs to be given to those who need it.

You may want to call me naive at this point and tell me not to hold my breath waiting and hoping like this. However, aren't we, as Christians, called to be hopeful, to live in hope?! As Christians don't we need to show the nation what it means to live in hope, to

live with the hope and strength and encouragement of Jesus, the divinely inspired human, who lived and died to challenge order and stand up for the lives of those who were in need on the edges of society in his day? Don't we need to do that today as part of our calling to live out our faith?

Hope is not therefore something which is naive, but rather it is something we do trusting in God and in his promise to act. As Christians we believe that God will act to answer prayers, and this in turn causes us to act, to pray and to bring about change in the lives of those who are struggling. Surely to be filled with hope and to push on in hope is also to play our part. Is it right, therefore, that we should just sit back and relax with the view that our part is accomplished in the general election? We have voted in the parliamentary elections, and there is nothing more we can do now? I believe that we must continue in our challenge to bring change in our society just like Jesus did, thus at exactly this moment when the parliamentary candidates campaigning is over, we need to push forward campaigning to ensure that the government we have chosen now acts through listening to those in need in our country.

If you ask me why I have hope, it is the hope which I have in my brothers and sisters in the church across the nation, hope that they, and we, will continue to act in his name for all!

God bless!

*Revd Catey Morrison*

## **Money Raised - A big thank you from Catey!**

£70 has been raised for the Synod's Mozambique Fund at Catey's Afternoon Tea at the Manse, which was held in April.

£219 has been raised in John's Surprise Abseil challenge down the Olympic Torch in London for Zoe's Place and for Palestine Medipacks.

Thank you for everyone's support in raising this money for such good causes!!!

# *For Our Prayers*

## **Northern Synod Prayer Diary**

- 7<sup>th</sup> June* Stockton; St Columba's, Billingham; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; St George's, Hartlepool; seeking ministry
- 14<sup>th</sup> June* Summer School at Windermere Centre, this week; Synod Executive Committee; Convenor Revd Lis Mullen
- 21<sup>st</sup> June* South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area; President Revd Ian Farnsworth; Secretary Mrs Joyce Calcraft; Treasurer Mr Jeff Owen
- 28<sup>th</sup> June* PCM (Church in Mozambique): The annual synod meeting in the coming weeks; hosts and representatives attending; safe journeys on perilous roads; Bishop of Durham Rt Revd Paul Butler; Bishop of Jarrow Rt Revd Mark Bryant.

## *Group Service*

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June - 10.30am**

**Redcar URC**

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### **Planning Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm**

Have ideas that you have always wanted to see happen in a church service? Would like to bring your creative skills to planning worship? Fancy helping to plan the next Group service over a cup of coffee with friends from around the Group? Then come along to the manse on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30pm to play your part in helping plan the next Group service which is to be held at our Redcar church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. No former involvement in worship planning needed, nor plans to take part in leading the worship required!

## Group Prayer Pointers

7<sup>th</sup> June Pray for Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby and Hartlepool following Colin's retirement last month. Pray as church members step up into new roles in the vacancy and pray for clear direction regarding their future.

14<sup>th</sup> June Pray for our Group. Pray that we will grow closer as a Group, knowing how to support one another and grow together in our spiritual life.

21<sup>st</sup> June Pray for the recalled *General Assembly* which will be meeting this Saturday to discuss how to move forward following the discussions on Same Sex Marriage which have been taking place in our churches these last nine months. Pray that they will know how to proceed keeping the unity of the church and following the mind of Christ.

28<sup>th</sup> June Pray for young people who have now completed their exams in schools, colleges and universities all over the country. Pray that they may have hopeful ambition regarding further training or moving into the world of work.

### **Lingdale 4C's Cuppa, Chat, Cake & Communion'**

Following the closure of our church at Lingdale, a monthly gathering of church members and village friends is now taking place at the manse on the last Sunday in the month from 5pm onwards. 4C's stands for 'Cuppa, Chat, Cake & Communion', communion being offered at the end for those who would like to stay on for it.

### **FAF Club**

FAF Club will next meet on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June from 6.30-8.30pm, which this month will include a BBQ at the Manse. Please ring Catey for more information or for a lift.

Any young person wanting to go to the Upward Challenge Youth Camp this summer (10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August), needs to get their booking form and fee to Catey asap. Please speak to Catey if you need a booking form.

## Same Sex Marriage Update

Following on from the nationwide discussions throughout the URC regarding Same Sex Marriage, Mission Council has now decided to recall last year's General Assembly meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June to further move forward the thinking of the URC on this subject. It is hoped that some sort of decision will be made, following all the conversations across the church and at Mission Council, however, the decision may not be a strict "Yes" or "No" but may be some form of compromise in order to protect the diverse views within the church. Catey will be attending the meeting Catey as one of our Synod's representatives, and will update us on her return.

## Policy Planning - A request for help

The Group Elders have decided that now is the time to review our policies and ensure that we are more properly covered by way of the various policies which are needed, including Health & Safety, Good Practice etc. If anyone in the Group has particular skills in creating or reviewing policies and would like to be involved in creating a good package of policies for use across the Group then please contact the Group Secretary, Dot McSherry. It is hoped that this piece of work will be progressed throughout June and July.

## *Guisborough*

It would have been hard not to notice the politicians during their campaign to gain your vote in the 2015 general election. Door to door canvassing, leaflet dropping, utilising social media outlets, tv interviews plus radio broadcasts and any other means they can to achieve their goals. They were even stood outside the school gates one day handing out leaflets to the parents and balloons to the children.

Door to door canvassing, leaflet dropping, utilising social media outlets, tv interviews plus radio broadcasts and any other means they can to achieve their goals. They were even stood outside the school gates one day handing out leaflets to the parents and balloons to the children.

"It's the only time you'll get a visit from them, when there's an election", stated my wife later that evening when I shared the details of my earlier encounter with our

local M.P. who had paid a visit with a member of his campaign team to our neighbourhood.

It got me thinking about how the church in this day and age goes about 'campaigning for the gospel'. Do we share the 'Good News' at any given opportunity or just occasionally mention it if asked by an interested party? Do we even bother sharing our faith or just leave that to the evangelists amongst us?

It got me into reading about 'The Great Commission' and other church campaigns. What exactly is the agenda of the gospel? What is the difference between 'The Great Commission' and 'The Great Commandment'?

Some scholars over the years have stated that the 'commission commandment' had already been fulfilled by the early church whilst

others state it is for every generation of believers to reach out and spread the Good News until the return of The Lord.

The Bible teaches us that the apostles waited until Pentecost, when The Holy Spirit came and equipped them with gifts to help carry out the task. I sometimes fool myself by not having shared that same kind of experience that the early disciples had 'in the upper room' or by convincing myself that it's 'the wrong season in life' for an adventure like that. But the truth be known is that 'any season in life' is a gift to be thankful for and to share the source of that gift, God's Saving Grace.

And as for gifts; I could take a note or two from the campaigning M.P.s. In this day and age of modern technology and our spo-

## Guisborough Calendar

Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> June	2.30pm	Belmont Care Home service
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> June	7.15pm	Church Meeting at

### Weekly

Thursdays	9.00am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Ken, Norma and others.

ken language been communicated by many different ‘tongues’ or translated at the touch of a button, the gifts may be of a slightly different kind but can be used for the same effect.

Social and digital media are been used well by some parts of the church to share the Gospel. Television and radio stations such as UCB, God TV, Revelation TV, The Gospel Channel, Inspiration TV to name a few could provide Christian viewing and listening alternatives to the secular schedule that has a dominance on the airways. Webpages, Christian blogs and streaming services are on the increase. My children even have ‘an app’ based on Bible stories and Christian education that they often are encouraged to use instead of ‘Angry Birds’ or ‘Clash of Clans’.

Coming from a background of education and media, it is pleasing to see that we are utilising these mediums within the church.

Could we use them to better effect especially for our children and young people? How often do you read the church newsletter online via the website rather than by the paper handout in church? Both have their benefits.

If we are carrying out ‘The Great Commandment’ of “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” along with the following “Love your neighbour as yourself” then this can be a great witness to our faith without requiring great evangelistic qualities, both online and in the real world.

Where there is a will there is a way and God’s Will is to share The Way we have come to know and love as Jesus, God’s Saving Grace.

Let’s hope our agenda can be seen and heard far more often than once every election year.

*Darren Thompson*

<b>Guisborough Rota</b>				
	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> June	D Cross	B Ward	D Moore	D Collins
14 <sup>th</sup> June	M Burrows		J Basham	J Reynolds
21 <sup>st</sup> June	D Houston		M Houston	R Tunncliffe
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Group Service			
5 <sup>th</sup> July	R Tunncliffe	J Basham	D Beattie	L Reeves

# Redcar

## **Stay Awake 7<sup>th</sup> Redcar Scout Group**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 22 Cubs and Scouts joined me (Akela) and a few other leaders in raising money for a charity call Teenage Cancer Trust; a charity very close to my heart. The approximate total at the moment is just over £550 which is a big achievement to all children and adults who took part.

Throughout the night the children were involved in different activities such as playing games, creative activities, building with lego, use of table tennis and pool tables. They took part in baking cakes and selling them to their parents/

carers when they were collected. They also rode the equivalent distance of the coast to coast bike ride on an exercise bike. The children had to take it in turns to pedal and this goal was achieved at 3am.

I am so thankful to the Church for letting us use the hall to help us raise this fantastic amount of money. Well done to all who participated.

## **Afternoon Tea**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2 - 4pm**

More details will follow but donations of cakes will be greatly appreciated.

## **Redcar Calendar**

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2.00pm Craft and Chatter Group in the Church

### **Weekly**

Wednesday 10.45am Singing Group in the Church

Thursday 9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

2.00pm Prayer meeting at the home of Catherine Milburn.

## **Charity Coffee Morning**

A coffee morning was held at Redcar on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to raise funds to buy supplies for the people that Health and Social Care Students will be helping in Romania.

The Church asked for half the normal hall hiring fee as a token towards their funds. The total amount raised was £210.00.

We wish all involved well on their journey to help the Romanian orphanages, schools and homeless shelters.

## **Redcar Church in supporting charities.**

At an event meeting a short while ago it was mentioned that should all our events be used to raise money for charity.

As I was at the meeting and my husband and I are the people who take care of hall hire, I was able to inform the group that although we do not always run events for charity as sometimes we need money to help improve the fabric of the building, we do support all groups who hire the hall for charity events.

We do this by either allowing the hall to be used free of charge, we did for the cubs and scouts stay awake, or by only charging half the normal fee for hall hire. This we do on a regular basis for Philip Noble who runs a fitness class and every August he donates all monies to Zoe's Place.

A coffee morning was also held to raise funds for the Phillipines to support medical staff, medical packs and food.

The Redcar Dance Studio have also used the hall to raise funds for travel so they can compete in competitions. They have in return entertained us with a sample of their talents.

The Church has also for quite a long time supported the young people of Coatham house by providing food, bedding and money towards food vouchers.

These are just a few of the people and groups that we as a congregation support on an on going basis.

I would like to thank all people who are involved in running events and supporting them on a regular basis.

*Dot*

## G.P.S D.I.Y

Over the last 2 years Redcar Church has required some repair or renewal of its fixtures and fittings. For example: Plumbing, building and electric equipment as well as some other basic items such as keys, locks and other products.

The staff at this shop have been courteous, helpful and very generous in their time and prices given to us over this time. They have at times been able to beat prices of the larger DIY stores.

We would like to say thank you to all at GPS DIY store for the help and support over this period.

*Andy and the fabric team*

# St Andrew's

## Congratulations

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ian and Norris Robertson who celebrate their Diamond Wedding (60 years!!) on the 11<sup>th</sup> June.

## Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship met for the final meeting of the session on 12<sup>th</sup> May with a lovely Afternoon Tea at Bexters in Stokesley.

The first meeting of our 2015/2016 session will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

## Knit-'n'- Natter

The next Knit-'n'- Natter will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 1.00pm to 3.00pm. All welcome.

## Strawberry Tea

Our Strawberry Tea is to be held at St Andrew's on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm. There will be cake, bring and buy stalls plus a raffle. We would be grateful for donations for these stalls and any help. Proceeds are in aid of church funds. Tickets £3.00

## Coffee for Charity

19 <sup>th</sup> April	Teesside Hospice	£18.00
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Leprosy Mission	£15.45
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	RNLI	£21.00
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Daisy Chain	£14.00

# St Andrew's Calendar

## Weekly/Monthly

First Thursday	2.00pm	Home Prayer group at 31 Roseberry Mews
Boys Brigade		Details available from ministers and church elders

## *Preachers*

	<b>Marton</b> 10.00am	<b>Guisborough</b> 9.30am	<b>Redcar</b> 11.00am
7-Jun	C Morrison Church Meeting	J Martin Communion	K & M Harris
14-Jun	K Harris	C Morrison	C Morrison Church Meeting
21-Jun	C Morrison Communion	D Moore	J Martin
<b>28-Jun</b>	***	<b>GROUP SERVICE</b>	***
	<b>Hosted by Redcar URC, 10.30am</b>		
5-Jul	N Johnson	C Morrison Communion	C Morrison Communion

Material for the July and August Magazine to church editors by  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June please

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