

# *Group News*



*\* June \* 2016 \* June \**

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**

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

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Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that I am writing this letter at this time, following on from making the difficult decision to step back from active ministry and take some time to regather myself. These last few years have just been so incredibly difficult to cope with, with so many devastating events taking place within my family. The reality, therefore, is that I have now got to the point where I am emotionally in pieces, struggling with depression and stress, as well as struggling to cope with ongoing family issues. My family's needs are just so overwhelming that I have been forced off sick to gather myself together and get back on my feet, so that I can continue supporting my family and sort everything out for them.

At this point in time I do not know what the future holds. I do not know what I am going to end up doing work-wise, for I have not been able to figure out the future whilst busy working in the pastorate. But what I do know is that things cannot continue as they are. I have a lot of recovery ahead of me first, along with supporting the children through their own journeys of recovery, before I come to that realisation.

However, the reality has hit me that I cannot continue on as things are - with ministry and motherhood, as well as with my ongoing back troubles and health issues. I realise that I am now at a crossroads, and there does not appear to be a way ahead which leads me back into ministry within the Group. I will need time to recover and understand what is ahead.

I pray that you will all be able to understand my decision, and support me as I receive healing, and bring healing and support to my children in time. I would also value your prayer support as I work out the way ahead for me and my family, just as I will continue to pray for you all and pray for the direction of ministry and mission for all our churches.

At this time I am reminded by Proverbs 3:5-6 that at the heart of everything must be trust in God, for it says, *'Trust in the LORD*

*with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'*

Isaiah 41:10 in addition reminds us that our strength to overcome these events that we each must face in this life must come from God alone, who promises us help throughout all difficulty, especially when we feel we have nothing left to give within us. *'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'*

I know that God's will will prevail in all our lives, in all our grief, in all our difficulties, stresses and worries, for that is Jesus' promise. It is Paul's desire too that we should find help and hope, as he brings us encouragement through his letters, such as these words in his letter to the Romans. *'We boast in the hope of the glory of God... we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.'* (5:3-4). In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul goes on to share the word of God who says, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"*. Paul owns this for himself, stating, *'when I am weak, then I am strong'*.

May I thank you for journeying on with me over the last 10 years. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to know your faith and commitment to God as your Saviour and Redeemer, encourager and enabler. May you stay strong in faith and in hope, and may God bless you as you continue in your journey of faith following God and trusting in him for everything.

Revd Catey Morrison

## Where Now?

Over the last year, the Group Elders have worked with the our Synod Moderator, Lis Mullen, in supporting Catey to adjust to her changed circumstances. We have worked together across the elder-ship of all the churches to strengthen the role of the Group Elders Meeting in order to provide a single point of contact for the discus-sion of pastoral matters.

Last month the Group Elders met with Catey and Lis. This meeting included an exploration of our expectations of ministry. Catey has taken time to reflect on these discussions and reached the conclu-sion, with her doctor, that she should absent herself from work on health grounds. Her need to take time to reflect and rebuild is com-pletely understandable. At this stage both she and the Church will need to take some time to consider the future of her ministry. Until this has occurred it will not be possible to make any substantive decisions about future ministry in our pastorate.

This leaves us facing a period of significant change. Even if Catey does leave the pastorate, we should not assume that a vacancy will be declared in the current form. As a Group of churches we can make this an opportunity to develop in response to our changed circumstances; or alternatively, we can view it as the final nail in the coffin and allow our churches to die. Synod has already invited us to look at the life of our three churches through the process of Local Mission and Ministry Review: visits to the pastorate are planned to take place in July. If we embrace this process it may help us to reach decisions about the direction of travel for our churches.

Our Lord has always promised that as one door closes another will be opened but warned that the road may not be easy. We all have a part to play in the discerning of God's purpose for us as individu-als, as churches and as a pastorate over the coming weeks and months.

*Roger Wheeler (Elder, St Andrew's)*

# *Synod Prayers*

- For the churches of the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area and those who work in them (Ministers: Ian Farnsworth, Jim Magee, Greg Thompson, Lynda Coulthard, Ron Forster)
- For local church members in the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique
- For those who work for the Synod in the office and in wider ministries
- For the work of the Synod Trust meeting this month
- For the work of MPs and other political representatives in our region

## *Prayer*

As followers of the Christ who named workers as his disciples  
we pray for those who work hard in jobs we would rather not do  
we pray that they may know  
that God sees their grafting and honours it  
we pray for ourselves  
that when our work seems too much  
we may lean on the one who is alongside us day by day





# **Big Sing**

**Saturday 11 June**

**10.30 – 4.00**

**Jesmond United Reformed Church  
Burdon Terrace, Jesmond, NE2 3AE**

£5.00 per person, payable on the day

If you are coming please let us know

email [secretary@jesmond-urc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@jesmond-urc.org.uk) or phone 0191 2813417

Coffee from 10.00

Lunch from 12.30 – 1.30 (bring your own food, drinks provided)

Closing worship: 3.20

**Led by Alison Adam of the Iona Community**

**THE WHOLE BODY SINGS**

*Singing for all – come and enjoy the buzz of singing together,  
the joy of singing from your heart,  
the depth of songs which feed the soul!*

**WE BELONG TO A SINGING FAITH**

*In song we praise and pray, we sing about who we are and who God is.  
And we sing for the world and its people.  
BUT we also sing WITH the world,  
for we are the BODY of CHRIST and that body goes all around the world.*

*At the Big Sing we'll sing a wide variety of songs, enjoy harmony, percussion (if we fancy it)  
and new as well as ancient songs of the church.*

*There will be something for everyone, whether you're a secret singer, you just love to belt out a song  
or you are in a choir!*

*And, hopefully, just like the hokey cokey, you'll feel like you've put your whole self in  
and get a whole lot out of it!*

*The Big Sing will be led by Alison Adam of the Iona Community, a gifted song leader who works with all ages.  
She has led workshops here in the Synod before and loves to sing with people.*

# Guisborough

For some, Thursday 5th May 2016 was just another day to do ordinary things. To others, it could have been a day of great pondering and reflection. There could have been talk about the EU referendum, in, out or should we shake it all about as Mr Cameron tried with his list of changes. There could have been discussions about the local elections or voting for a police and crime commissioner but to others yet there could have been the focus of The Lord's Ascension.

*Luke 24:50-53. <sup>50</sup>And he led them out until [they were] over against Bethany: and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple, blessing God.*

Believing in their hearts that Jesus has returned to Heaven and will be 'making a place' for each and every one of them is a guarantee from Heaven sealed by The Ascension for believers. Other forward looking believers maybe awaiting the gift of The Helper, whom Jesus said would come down once He had ascended. The early followers certainly experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So awesome was that experience that those whom witnessed the effects couldn't quite understand what a significant event was unfolding before their eyes.

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Communion Door</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	
5th June	D Cross	B Ward	P Etwell	J Reynolds
12th June	M Burrows		D Moore	C Robertson
19th June	D Houston		J Basham	J Basham
26th June	Group Service			
July 3rd	P Etwell	J Basham	M Houston	M Ward

## Guisborough Calendar

Tue 14<sup>th</sup> June                      7.15pm Church Meeting  
Revd Ken and others

### Weekly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am Market Day Coffee Morning  
Thursdays                      11.30am Quiet Time – prayers and re-  
flections with Ken and others.

*Acts 2:1-4. <sup>1</sup>And when the day of Pentecost was now come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And there appeared unto them tongues parting asunder, like as of fire; and it sat upon each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

What would be the basis of our faith without the account of The Ascension? Where would a Risen Lord be now? Would there have been a Pentecost if there were no Ascension? How could a believer trust in His Word and the comfort of the Holy Spirit able to guide the believer on the right path home? Such was the magnitude of the Ascension that the early believers gave it a Feast Day. Now we all know any event that has a feast to celebrate and commemorate it must be of great importance. Ascension is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the orthodox liturgical year.

Celebrating the completed works of our redemption is a day to justify the hope we have for our eternal future with the Risen Lord. He was the first fruits and we are to fill that heavenly fruit bowl with Him for God the Father to delight in.

*Darren Thompson*

# Redcar

## A Royal Thank You

A huge thank you for all the support and help given for our Afternoon Tea to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The amount of food which was donated was truly amazing so thank you for all your contributions. It was wonderful to see so many people support our event and enjoy the afternoon. A wonderful £374 was raised for Church funds.

## Organ Recital Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June

Rita is organizing an Organ Recital by Mr Bob Chicken to take place on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> June in our Church.

Tickets are £3 to include tea and biscuits. Please contact Rita Roseburgh for further details or tickets.

## Redcar Calendar

Tue 7<sup>th</sup> June      2.00pm Craft and Chatter in Church.

### Weekly

Wednesday      10.30am Singing Group in the Church

Thursday      9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

2.00pm Prayers at the home of Catherine Milburn

# *St Andrew's*

## **Strawberry Tea**

The Strawberry Tea will be held on Saturday 25th June at 2.00pm. There will be a cake stall and raffle (donations for both gratefully accepted).

Tickets £3.00 available from Sheila, Doreen or Joan. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

## **Ladies' Fellowship**

The Ladies' Fellowship ended their session with a lovely lunch at the Wainstones Hotel.

The new session will resume on Tuesday 13th September 2016 at St Andrews at 1.30pm when we will discuss our program for 2016/2017.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Christopher and Sarah Wheeler on the birth of their lovely son, Jacob. Also to proud grandparents Eleanor and Roger. We send them our very best wishes for the future.

## **Thank You**

The Quiz, held on the 23rd April, raised £305.70 for church funds. Thanks to the quiz compiler, quiz compere and many helpers we had a wonderful evening and look forward to the next one.

## **Coffee for Charity**

17th April	Teesside Hospice	£26.00
24th April	Riding for the Disabled	£30.00
1st May	Christian Aid	£ 8.50
8th May	Boys' Brigade	£22.72
15th May	Rosemary Fund	£12.00

## News form Rosemary

Snippets from a recent letter:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ... I am pleased you had a warm winter free from floods, but in my village people weren't so lucky, the strong winds in late January left all banana plantations down. People are now feeding only on millet and cassava but no 'matooke'!

... I almost missed out on the New Year 2016: I was rushed to hospital early morning on 29/12/15 in a critical condition with severe oesophagitis, vomiting blood and high blood pressure. I was in ICU for 12 hours but I improved dramatically and was discharged on 31/12. We give praise to God for his plans and perfect timing. Grace (niece) and her youngest son Louis 8 months had come to visit me in the village on 27th December last year and we had a good time but when she was preparing to go back on 29th things went bad and she was the one at hand to rush me to hospital. She stayed on to look after me until I was discharged. Had she not been home that day God only knows it could have been a different story! Since then I have never got my strength back. I only move and work in the strength which God supplies.

... My terminal benefits from Public Service have not yet been worked on (she retired at 60 in November 2015!) so I am still trying to make ends meet by doing short term contracts in the city and Jinja which is not easy. Pray that God works miracles on the processing of my pension and gratuity, otherwise I wouldn't want to be in Kampala next year. . . . I haven't planned anything for my old age though I am not getting any younger. I realise now I can no longer wash my clothes properly, especially beddings and towels: it is useless now to regret why I never saved enough to buy a small washing machine; I only bothered for school fees and the well-being of the children. . . . On Easter Day I went to our local church (St. John) in the village and we had wonderful fellowship, praise and worship. Church service takes 2 hours and the people love it so much. Eastertime the church is always overflowing with people of all ages, tents have to be erected outside to accommodate the congregation. The day is set apart for fellowship and not any other business is allowed for most people.

Greet all my brothers and sisters at St. Andrews URC in Marton. God loves them and so do I. Stay safe in the Lord Jesus Christ,

*Rosemary*

# *Preachers*

	<b>Marton</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Guisborough</b> <b>9.30am</b>	<b>Redcar</b> <b>11.00am</b>
5-Jun	M Harris	K Harris Communion	J Coulthard
12-Jun	J Harper Meeting	tba	L Mullen
19-Jun	tba Communion	M Harris	K Harris
26-Jun	***	Group Service 10.30am at St Andrew's	***
3-Jul	J Harper	tba Communion	K Harris Communion

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by  
Sunday 12th June please

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