

Group News



** June * 2017 * June **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

From the Moderator.....

Dear friends,

The next General Election, June 8th, is around the corner, and with it comes a responsibility to listen and draw our own conclusions regarding the various manifestos: what do we feel are the best policies for the long term common good of not just people within our own nation, but also the impact of our government's policies on the global scene, especially among the poorer and more vulnerable parts of the world?

We need to make the time as individuals to listen to all the policies being presented by all the political parties, not from the perspective of what personal benefit there might be for ourselves individually, but through the faith filter, or lens, of asking ourselves what will work best for the common good.

Engaging in the democratic process and discerning which policies help the most people is a very Christian process; for example, it is often ecumenical Churches Together groups who initiate hustings across our constituencies. It might not be very fashionable, but I happen to believe that politics is a high vocation, and that most politicians are motivated by their party's vision of a better future for all. Dismissing politicians, as many seem to, is corrosive, and leaves a vacuum that extremism will always be ready to fill.

The Methodist, Baptist, and United Reformed Churches speak with one voice through the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). Check out their website (www.jointpublicissues.org.uk) for a wealth of resources to help Christians both discern and exercise a prophetic voice in the political arena of current affairs.

If you have a chance to organise, or to simply attend hustings, ask the candidates about their party's policy on Overseas Aid, for example. As Church, let's play an active role in the coming weeks encouraging political reflection in a spirit of respect and open-mindedness.

Most importantly as well as casting a prayerful vote, this is a time when we can pray for all those who are prepared to serve us all through political service: that God will grant them the necessary wit and wisdom to help steer May / June 2017 us through a complex and needy world, where injustice and poverty, conflict, and environmental abuse will continue to create havoc without courageous and visionary leadership.

As ever, and in Christ,

David.

Moderator (Northern Synod)

Growing Leaders

Are you thinking about Local leadership?

- Are you being challenged to become a leader?
- Do you want to help your congregation embrace the Way Forward?
- Is there someone in your church who you think has the gifts and skills to lead? This course may be of interest!

Growing Leaders is a 10 month course (meeting once a month) exploring leadership within the local church. It's an exciting course which we will offer starting in September in three places across the synod—North, Central and South. We are holding three taster sessions in June:

3rd June 10.00-2.00 (with soup lunch) at Darlington

10th June 10.00-2.00 (with soup lunch) at Wooler

17th June 10.00-2.00 (sandwich lunch) at Synod Office

For more information and to book a place please contact Rev Jane Rowell (Synod Mission Enabler), (tel: 0191 232 1168 – Synod office)

Around Synod

Synod Prayer Diary

4th June: The proposed visit of members of PCM to our synod during this month and of some of our own folk to Mozambique thereafter that both trips will enrich both our visitors and us.

11th June: St Andrew's & St George's URC., Stockton; St Columba's URC, Billingham; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; St George's URC, Hartlepool

18th June: The Synod Pilgrimage (19-23 June) in the Whitby area focussing on St Hilda

25th June: South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA) (Methodist and URC), its president and officers.

Lindisfarne - Artist in Residence

Celebrated Durham artist Judy Hurst is again spending a week at the St Cuthbert's Centre on Holy Island. The Centre will be open each day from May 27th to June 3rd , and there will be opportunity to meet and talk with Judy, and see her work on vellum, paper and canvas.

News From Keld

The Upper Room at the Keld Resource Centre in the old Literary Institute was officially opened during a weekend festival held over the Mayday holiday weekend. The festival was rounded off with a concert in Keld Chapel given by the Muker Silver Band.



MEET THE MODS

Revd Kevin Watson

*(a current General Assembly Moderator and also
Moderator of Yorkshire Synod)*

and

Revd Dave Herbert

(Moderator of Northern Synod)

*will speak of their experience and reflections
across their Synods and the URC nationally*

Saturday, 1 July 2017

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

St Jame's United Reformed Church
Northumberland Road
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JF

Jeans & Coffee

In relaxed mode, come along and share freely about our dreams and hopes for the future as church. Jeans & Coffee are informal gatherings in garden centre cafés on the following Saturdays:

July 8th 10.30-12 noon @ Wyevale Garden Centre,
Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 3SQ

July 8th 1.30-3.00 pm @ Pity Me Garden Centre,
Stank Lane, Durham DH1 5GZ

Guisborough

We are nearly halfway through the year. The leaves are green and the flowers are showing us their many colours – how truly lovely is the progression of the seasons through the year. Right now it is bluebell time although I have to admit I can't tell an English bluebell from a Spanish one

At one time we lived in the tropics in an area sheltered from the monsoons. Most of the time the weather was similar from one month to another, broken only by spectacular thunderstorms.

But there were actually seasons if you knew what to look for. In 'autumn' the rubber trees changed colour and there was a leaf fall. I think Nature is wonderful and we must each do our bit to save it.

Every time we return home from holiday I say a quiet prayer of thanks for the privilege of living in such a beautiful area – I love mountains even if I cannot climb them now. The first sight of Roseberry Topping –the Yorkshire Matterhorn always makes my heart beat a little faster.

Jesus too needed to find secluded places where he could contemplate and pray go to his Father.

Synod Pilgrimage

The Synod Pilgrimage this year follows the route of St Hilda's Way, from Hinderwell to Whitby. On **Tuesday 20th June**, pilgrims, including myself, will be visiting St Hilda's church in Danby and I would like to invite church members to join us there. Bring along your own packed lunch and enjoy fellowship.

At the time of going to press, I cannot give a specific time – details to follow.

Barbara Ward

Guisborough Calendar

Tues 13 June 7.15pm Church Meeting

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.

When you get to my age (don't ask!) you find yourself looking back and thinking about all the times good and bad, the community has had live through. When we arrived in 1963, Guisborough had just become a joint pastorate with another struggling community at Lingdale. Erik Routley the Provincial Moderator (him of the latest edition of Congregational Praise) had a tough fight to get the two fiercely independent congregations to accept the inevitable. But at least he was able to get us a really good minister. Glyn Eatock who arrived on the same Sunday as we did. Glyn had a strong Lancastrian accent and a rare ability to get lost driving from Lingdale to Guisborough. But he and Mary were very likeable people. Anyone willing to bring a box of liquorice allsorts was always welcome to come and play scrabble at the Manse. And despite the tumbledown state of the church buildings, many of the new arrivals looked in and finding the natives friendly, decided to stay. Ourselves among them. Things started to look up. The congregation swelled and our finances became much healthier. Glynn's successor David Batchelor continued the recovery. And by the time he

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
4th June	P Etwell	M Baird	J Reynolds	Claire
11th June	D Moore		M Burrows	J Basham
18th June	J Reynolds		D Thompson	M Houston
25th June	J Basham		B Ward	Myra
2nd July	M Burrows		D Beattie	Moir

moved on, Guisborough was solvent and very lively. Together with our Anglican and Methodist friends we were well on the way to developing a scheme for a joint church financed by selling the URC and Methodist Buildings. The idea was we would do nothing apart that we could do together.

It was the high point. When it came to a vote in the URC it proved very divisive. D heard one member muttering 'I don't care what they say I'm voting against it.' We needed two thirds majority, we squeaked home by one vote. We should have heeded the warning. Those of us closely involved were much in favour. Those who were not involved had deep reservations. And then things started to fall apart. The Strongly Ecumenically minded Ministers of all three churches moved on and were replaced by men who were at best lukewarm. At the National level ecumenical ardour cooled considerably. An appeal for funds in the town produced no enthusiasm and very little money. The cost estimates soared while the estimated value of our sites did not. Indeed when it became clear that the Methodist site was subject to a 'no alcohol covenant' which would preclude selling to a supermarket it looked like 'all bets off'. Eventually the three churches decided to sell the site we had intended for the joint church to the Catholics. We accepted we would have to shelve the project pending more favourable times. Those like D and I who had been closely involved sighed and licked our wounds. For a while it had all been so exciting!

God Bless you all

Maureen Houston

The Church is not a gallery for the better exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.

Henry Ward Beecher, Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit

Redcar



Redcar United Reformed Church presents:-

Midsummer Afternoon Tea

Saturday, 17th June

from 2pm until 4pm

A Musical Evening

Saturday 3rd June

7.30pm

Tickets on the door £4.50 to include refreshments and entertainment.

Tickets £4 to include light refreshments

Please join us!



Redcar Calendar

Tues 6th June

Chatter Group to meet in the Church to discuss Afternoon Tea

Weekly

Wednesday 10.30am Singing Group meets in the Church

Thursday 9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

2.00pm Prayer meeting at the home of Catherine Milburn

St Andrew's

What is Moebius Syndrome?

Most people have never heard of it! We first became aware of it when a friend's grandson was born with this very distressing condition.

Named after the neurologist who first described the syndrome in 1888, it is an extremely rare congenital neurological disorder characterised by facial paralysis.

Advance Notice

Strawberry Tea to be held at St. Andrew's 2.00pm. on Saturday 15th July. Cake Stall, raffle. Tickets £3.00 available later. Proceeds in aid of church funds. Donations for cake stall and raffle and offers of help will be gratefully received.

Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship had a lovely lunch on 9th May at Scarlets, Guisborough to end the session before the summer.

Sufferers can not smile, show facial expression or move their eyes from side to side.. There are usually respiratory problems, speech and swallowing disorders and visual impairment. The inability to smile and show facial expression can lead to being misunderstood and thought to be unfriendly or unhappy.

Fortunately, sufferers have normal intelligence and can experience personal and professional success. Our friend's grandson is now in his first year at secondary school, and despite his many physical difficulties, he is astounding his teachers with his scholastic achievements and his amazing general knowledge.

Sadly, to date there is no cure but research has greatly increased in the last 10 years. To further this research donations to the Moebius Syndrome Foundation will be very much appreciated.

David and Elizabeth Middleton

Christian Aid Walk 2017

On the 6th May 2017 forty two of us set out on a cool but dry day in Loftus to start a Christian Aid Walk.

We began at St. Leonard's Church in the High Street going up the Brae and into Loftus Woods. There we saw a lot of wild flowers including some bluebells. Next we went up the dene where we saw a lot of horses galloping around.

At that point we walked through the grounds and walled gardens of Handale Abbey. We arrived at Liverton Village Hall at 1.00p.m. where refreshments were being served including tea, coffee, soup and cakes. We had such lovely hospitality from the waiters and waitresses.

After all that it was hard to start walking again but at 1.45p.m. we got motivated and started walking down the lane, through the village passed the church and across to Blue House Farm where we saw plenty of lambs.

Next into Rosecroft Forest and on to the steep plains above Gaskell Bridge where we saw some hens, chickens and even a turkey. We walked under the railway of the old Boulby Potash Mine and after that it was the homeward stretch.

We finished our walk at Loftus at 3.30p.m. and that was when the sun started shining!!

Grant Sutherland and Steven Etwell

Coffee for Charity

23rd April	Larchfield	£14.00
30th April	Teesside Hospice	£13.00
7th May	Embrace	£16.00
14th May	Coatham House	£20.00

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 9.30am	Redcar 11.00am
4-Jun	K Harris Meeting	M Harris Communion	D Moore
11-Jun	Songs of Praise	N Johnson	B Stephenson Meeting
18-Jun	J Harper Communion	K Harris	M Harris
25-Jun	M Locke	B Reynolds	N Johnson
2-Jul	M Harris	B Clare	K Harris Communion

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by
Sunday 11th June please

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