

Group News



**** 2019 * June * 2019 ****

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

“Walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers casting a net into the lake, and he said to them, ‘Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of people’. Straightway they left their nets and followed Him.”

A friend reminded me some time ago that Jesus only talked one during His ministry about being born again, but He spoke of the need to follow Him on many many occasions. There is an important point behind those words because there is a danger sometimes of making the moment of conversion all-important and forgetting that discipleship is, - or should be - an unfolding journey. Peter and Andrew, together with the rest of the Apostles followed Jesus, not knowing that He was calling them to, or where their response might lead them. They responded in faith, trusting that He would guide them, and, apart from Judas, they kept on following even when it led to sacrifice, hostility, rejection and the death of their Master on a cross. I wonder how many of us would have followed through all of that? Would we still have been there, by His side after the first brush with the Pharisees? Would we have had second thoughts when Jesus spelt out the cost of discipleship?

Even the Apostles’ faith had its limits of course, on the night of Gethsemane, each briefly failing to follow. It needed the risen Christ to greet them once again, speaking His word of peace and reaffirming His call, before they felt able to resume their journey once more. I

I’m sure that we too will have moments when our faith is tested and we no longer follow as we one did, - but Jesus will always be there, calling us forward once again.

Committing ourselves to Christ is a necessary first step for all of us, whether that involves a dramatic Damascus Road experience, or a gradual coming to faith, - but it’s only a first step, - and we shouldn’t make the mistake of thinking that it’s more than that.

Blessings

Jan

Meg's Retirement:

On Sunday 5th May, a few of us were privileged to be present at the retirement of Rev. Meg Robb, our former Minister. It took place at Jesmond URC, a church almost unrecognisable from the one in which she was inducted 6 and half years ago. The sanctuary is a huge open space, with comfortable chairs, grand pianos, (yes, plural!), a magnificent organ and an excellent sound system.

As you might imagine, the church was packed, with folk from all the churches with which Meg has been involved since coming into ministry, a journey of some 22 years.

Meg introduced the service with a reference to her father, - and saying how it was to be a celebration of his life as well as her own life as a minister. It was a traditional service (sort of) with hymns and readings, prayers and a sermon given by Rev Ken Harris. The hymns were a mixture of old and new, - and even some for dancing! Jesmond has a music group, as well as a beautiful organ, and both were well used during the service.

Meg had devised a 'little play like wot I wrote...' and I had the honour of taking part in it with her. It outlined some of her ministry, why she felt it was the right time to retire, - and it had some very light-hearted moments.

It was wonderful to hear the volume of sound created by our hymn-singing, beautifully led by the music group and the organ.

Following the service there were some presentations made to Meg, including some large parcels, - which may, or may not, have included some painting materials, as Meg has always enjoyed creating works of art! And after the presentations there was a veritable feast of good food, to be enjoyed whilst we mixed with lots of different people from Meg's various ministries.

Meg is looking to move to a property in Newcastle, - and has promised to do nothing for 6 months....which knowing Meg as we do, she will find very hard! However, after that she is happy to take on preaching throughout the Synod, - so it may well be that we will meet her again in our worship times.

All in all it was a truly lovely occasion, - and I felt honoured to be there.

Blessings

Jan

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

SATURDAY 22nd JUNE

NORTHGATE URC, DARLINGTON

REVD JOHN PROCTOR

General Secretary of the United Reformed Church

**2.30pm 'Pictures and Possibilities:
parables in Luke's Gospel'**

4.00pm Light Tea

**4.45pm Service with sermon entitled
'Turning out the light?'**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Worship Academy

15 June 2019 10am-4pm

Trinity Methodist Church

Stainsby Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 4JS

Our Calling: Called to Worship

An opportunity for inspiration, celebration, consultation and sharing together open to anyone but particularly aimed at worship leaders, local preachers and ministers.

Bring lunch. Refreshments will be provided.

Book by contacting Rebecca at dmd13office@gmail.com or 07484 886006

Synod Prayers

2 June: Environment Sunday

Green Apostle Revd Trevor Jamison

Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Gosforth; Revd Peter Holwell (Methodist) and Ms Mary Bellshaw (Community Worker) who are part of the ministry team there

Chair of the Newcastle Methodist District, Revd Stephen Lindridge

9 June:

PCM, the churches in the Limpopo presbyteries in and around Gaza Province

The Anglican Bishop of Berwick, the Rt Revd Mark Tanner

16 June:

Refugee Week (17-23 June)

23 June:

St Columba's URC, Billingham; Ms Ann Honey (Church Related Community Work Minister);

Stockton URC; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; St George's URC, Hartlepool; Revd Sue Fender

30 June:

South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA) (Methodist and URC) and President, Revd Marie Attwood



Guisborough

I happened to watch live on TV the dreadful fire in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. I watched with horror the collapse of the central spire, and though at one point the flames seemed to engulf one of the iconic towers, it stood strong and the flames were eventually brought under control. In the days that followed, there were references to the fire in York Minster in the 1980's, and practical help offered to Notre Dame in the restoration work in the future. All this made me think generally of the precious heritage we have in this country, and abroad, in the Cathedrals, Minsters and Abbeys, some of them in ruins, such as the Priory here in Guisborough. Some of them took hundreds of years to build and with the most rudimentary equipment. Many lives were lost in the process. Fortunately the craftsmanship used in the stonework and the woodwork has been passed down and is still in use today to keep these buildings in good condition.

Why were they built and why do we still maintain them? Of course they were supposed to be built for the glory of God, but I can't help feeling that the king or nobleman who ordered them to be built had his (or her) eye on a few years less in purgatory and keeping in God's good books.

Whatever the reason they were built, it's amazing how special they are to visit, and very special to attend a service there. I remember a Synod Day in the 80's which ended with a service in Durham Cathedral. We sang the 23rd Psalm to Crimond, but the poor organist obviously wasn't used to the speed we of the URC sang it and we ended up about a verse ahead! I have a friend who is a member of Chester Cathedral, and have been to a couple of services there, I think there is something special about worship in an ancient building – you get it in St Nicholas in Guisborough – the feeling that God has been worshipped there for centuries. In contrast, the feeling was quite different when I visited St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle and Westminster Abbey. Both were architecturally wonderful and historically interesting, but too crowded with tourists, especially the Abbey to have any 'worshipful' feeling.

Ever since I moved to this area, I have been intrigued by the sign for All Saints Church, at the bottom of the hill just before you come into Skelton from Guisborough. Last week at last I managed to go and explore. It's not particularly old, but was built on the site of a Saxon church, and has many

Guisborough Calendar

Tuesday 11th 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. Details on church notice board

interesting features, such as box pews. I don't think it's used regularly now, but there were signs of use, such as an open organ and hymn book.

I have been fortunate enough to visit some cathedrals and churches on the continent: Schleswig in the north has a particularly beautiful and intricately carved wooden screen which is a copy of a stone screen in Bordesholm a few miles to the south, and of course Cologne cathedral is very impressive. Some of us from Guisborough churches were taken there as part of an exchange visit to our twin town Troisdorf.

Further south, especially in Austria, the churches are very ornate. As part of a holiday to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, we were taken to the Hofkirche in Innsbruck where the decoration is stunning, but even in little village churches gold leaf features heavily. One wonders where the money came from, for the ordinary people were very poor, especially after World War 1, and they have only become more prosperous with the advent of tourism in the sixties.

So not only have we been left with a legacy of ancient buildings which have to be maintained, we have come to realise that these buildings must be relevant to the communities they are part of. More and more we see village schools, pubs and post offices closing, and the church is the only 'community' building left and in many cases, the space is being used for the community. Elsewhere church buildings are being altered to make them seem more open to the world. Some elders from the group went to Darlington URC a few months ago, and saw the improvements there, and a few of us on 5th May travelled up to Jesmond for Rev Meg Robb's farewell service and saw the improvements made there. As a result of these and the efforts of the congregation, Jesmond has become a favourite venue for all sorts of lectures and concerts.

I feel I must end by telling you about my home church, Libberton Church of Scotland. It is set in rural South Lanarkshire, in a farming community, and is a special place for me as I was married there, my two children were baptised there and I played the organ for 13 years. It is rather unusual being square, and was restored in the early 20th century with beautiful wood panels and stained glass windows. I feel at home when I go back, although I only know a few people nowadays.

So let us pray that we care for our buildings as best we can, both great cathedrals and small village churches, and help us to make the best use of them in praising God and following Jesus Christ.

Madge Baird

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

St Andrew's

Strawberry Tea

On Saturday 29th June at 2.30pm we will be holding our Strawberry Tea at St Andrew's. There will be a cake stall plus raffle. Donations gratefully received. Tickets (available from Doreen, Sheila or Joan) or admission £3.00.

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Coffee for Charity

21 Apr	Moebus Research	£25.00	5th May	Christian Aid	£14.00
28 Apr	Christian Aid	£15.00	12th May	Boys's Brigade	£23.40

Christian Aid Walk 2019

On the 4th May Steven and I set off on our mission to complete the task of doing a walk for Christian Aid. The walk was to be around East Cleveland starting at Loftus Town Hall and St. Leonard's Church. Twenty nine people were walking together.

The morning started off as a very cool but dry morning. We walked down Water Lane into South Loftus Farm where we saw a hedgehog and quite a few other similar creatures lurking beneath the undergrowth. Then we marched on passed Holywell Farm and into Loftus Woods and into a pool of bluebells which were springing up everywhere.

Next we went along the stream at the back of the woods and into the walled gardens and ruins of Handale Abbey which is steeped in history. A few of us had a look around the walled gardens then we walked over Tickhill Farm and Waupley Wood.

By this time it was 12.15pm and we arrived at Liverton Village Hall where a group of ladies had bowls of lovely hot soup waiting for us to warm us up. They also had some homemade strawberry dessert which set us up for the final stage of our walk.

A lot of horses were in the fields and some kept coming up to our backs to see if we has any food to give them. Next we walked along Liverton Road passed the church at Church Farm and into Blue House Farm where we saw some hens. It was all downhill from here-into Rosecroft Woods where a lot of spring flowers were in bloom and along Middle Gill. Lastly into Station Road and on to Gaskell Bridge which was the end of the walk!!!!

A good time was had by all.

Grant and Steven

Grant and Steven raised £218.00 for their sponsored walk for Christian Aid.

Well done to you both and many thanks.

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Redcar

Joint Service

We recently had a joint service at our church with the two Methodist churches in Redcar (Newcomen and Zetland Park) which was led by their Minister Rev. Arthur Harbottle. It was very nice for us to see a full church for a change and the singing was wonderful. Members of all 3 congregations took part in the service and communion was served URC style.

Our next joint service is at Newcomen Methodists on 16th June at 10.45am.

Roof Fund

I recently banked the first round of full Smartie tubes which came from churchgoers and the Scouts and the total came to £58+. Not bad for loose change! Keep saving everyone.

Easter Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who baked, served, sold and helped on Easter Saturday.

It was a lovely day and we raised £409.36, which was then rounded up on the Sunday with a “whip-round” of loose change to £410.

Easter Monday Surplus Sale

On Easter Monday Krysia, Linda and Mary set up a stall outside church to sell off the remaining Tombola prizes and books.

As it was such a lovely day the footfall past the church was very good and they raised a magnificent £70, which has gone towards our roof fund.

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Thursday

9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30 Pop in Centre

“Do we Believe what we (say) and believe”

Ray’s letter made me stop and think. We could add “say” before the last two words so we take our time and seriously consider that spoken words are important. For we use them when we make a promise, when we commit ourselves perhaps in a legal way.

The course ‘Breaking Cover’ sounded interesting. First we must prepare for muddy ground and for the thorns and briars that will hinder us. Global Warming is the big problem of this century. Following David Attenborough, people are thinking and beginning to consider the work of the Green Party, for to sit back and ignore warnings about rapid change on the land and in the oceans will cause bigger problems.

In the past nations grew strong and in time lost their power and influences and faded away. But now much affects the whole world. The danger of our extinction through atomic war may be less but we must not neglect our planet's well being and drift into destruction, as we see such things as the death of much of the coral in the Great Barrier Reef. Warning signs must be heeded and action taken. It is a **“Just Do It”** situation as a well known advert tells us.

John Crowther

Duty Rota

	Vestry	Door
June 2	Cath	Brenda
June 9	June	Brian
June 16	Service @ Newcomen Methodist @ 10.45	
June 23	Elaine	Brian
June 30	June	Brenda

Preachers

	Marion	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
2-Jun	Jan Harper Meeting	Margaret Harris Communion	Donna Moore
9-Jun	MarionWT	Chris Eddowes	Jan Harper
16-Jun	Jane Rowell Communion	Donna Moore	Newcomen Methodist Joint Service - 10.45am
23-Jun	Margaret Harris	Brian Stephenson	Ken Harris
30-Jun	Ken Harris	Bill Reynolds	Songs of Praise

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by Sunday
16th June please

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