

Group News



**** 2021 * June * 2021 ****

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

56 Westgate, Guisborough, TS14 6AY: Church Secretary 01287 637273

Redcar URC

Station Road, Redcar, TS10 1RQ: Contact 07742 720090

St Andrew's URC, Nunthorpe and Marton

Cypress Road, Marton, TS7 8PD: Church Secretary 01642 550854

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

'Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ' Galatians 6:2

I'm reminded of the time when I was due to start back at teacher training college after a long Summer break, and, of course, I had a suitcase full of 'stuff' to take back with me. To say it was heavy was an understatement; it was like a lead weight, - crammed to overflowing as I set off to the railway station to catch the train back to Eastbourne. Unsurprisingly the handle couldn't cope and a hundred yards up the road it came off in my hand, the suitcase crashing down and spilling its contents all over the pavement.. How glad I was, having stuffed everything back in again and wrestled with the load for the rest of the journey, to be offered a helping hand by a fellow student as I lugged it up to my room. Such a weight was really too much for one person, and I learned not to try it again!

There are few people who don't carry a burden of some sort. It might not be a physical load but it is no less difficult to bear. The weight of guilt, fear, sorrow, despair, anxiety and pain, to name but a few examples can be equally crushing, and far more so. We can't shoulder such burdens for others, even though we might wish we could, but we can share them, sometimes simply by being alongside them, and listening, - just showing we care. To be there to share the load in such a way means more than we might imagine.

How good it felt to be back worshipping face-to-face on Pentecost Sunday! It has been 19 weeks since we at Marton were able to worship in our building, and it has been longer than that for some. I wonder how many of us have been able to keep in touch with those we care about and help to bear their burdens. It hasn't been an easy year and a half, and perhaps some people have 'fallen through the cracks' of a support network. Hopefully, now that things are becoming more on an even keel, and moving to more of the normality we remember, we can pick up the threads of our caring and supporting networks.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. Shalom.

Jan

Synod Prayers

6 June:

Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Gosforth; Revd Peter Holwell (Methodist) retiring this summer; and Chair of the Newcastle Methodist District, Revd Stephen Lindridge

13 June:

PCM, the churches in the Limpopo presbyteries in and around Gaza Province
The Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Berwick, the Rt Revd Mark Wroe. Refugee Week 15-21 June.

20 June:

Revd David Haslam, Chaplain, RAF Boulmer; all military chaplains.
Congregations that have closed in the last year, and visions of new beginnings

27 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

Guisborough

I have just found a copy of Group News dated April/ May 2020, it's hard to believe it is only a year since our churches were closed, it seems much longer. Of course both Marton and Redcar were open for some of that time, and some Guisborough folk attended services there. And of course, during that time, some of us were sustained by URC Daily Devotions, and Services from Margaret and Ken and Norma.

Reading the words of hope and confidence written by these and others, can we look back over these months and see that the fervent prayers that were sent have been answered? Yes, in spite of it being a long and rather bleak road, we have managed to keep in touch with each other, by telephone mainly. Some of us have learnt new skills; For example I have managed to send out some Thursday prayers, albeit, with a few mistakes. I have not yet mastered Zoom, it is still a Magical Mystery Land I cannot reach!

It would be interesting to hear if any have developed new hobbies or interests during the last few months. Television seems full of people walking more, doing things like yoga to keep fit, and I believe jigsaw puzzles have become very popular. I was given a 1000 piece jigsaw for Christmas, which I began, but have not made any progress on! I just don't seem to have any more time, although I have done a fair bit of extra reading.

And so, on Sunday 23rd May, Pentecost, we will return to our buildings to worship God. (By the time you read this, this will be in the past)

Most of you will know that at Guisborough we will return to a very different Sanctuary, with chairs instead of pews, a new floor, and last, but by no means least, new heaters, which hopefully will make not only the main area warm in the winter, but hopefully will also penetrate up to the organ!!.

The new heaters were essential, not only because the heating was inadequate, but they were actually condemned just after Christmas necessitating having services in the hall.

The replacement of the pews by chairs will enable worship to be more 'fluid', and to accommodate small groups, or other events.

Fortunately, not many members caught coronavirus, although very sadly we lost two members, David Houston and Mary Robson from other causes.

I would like to end with some words from Paul's epistle to the Romans, Chapter 15 v13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This prayer focuses on a community of God's people which is hope-filled. Notice that here 'joy' and 'peace' assume an ongoing trust in God. The word 'hope' points towards the resurrection kingdom of God; future hope infuses our present lives. The power of the Holy Spirit sustains this hope which overflows to touch the lives of others.

Sentences by Emlyn & 'tricia Williams
from Scripture Union's 'Encounter with God'

Madge Baird

St Andrew's

Church Walk

Shirley invites us to join her on a walk to the new bench which commemorates life of John Moore.

Saturday 5th June 10.30am

Park at St Andrews and then catch the bus from Marton Shops to Nunthorpe Village before walking back via St Mary's church and playing fields, returning approx 12.30pm.

Thank you

Campbell and I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and good wishes during the time of Campbell's illness. It certainly helped us through a very difficult time. Thank you.

Joan

Flower List

The Flower List for 2021 is now on the notice board should anyone wish to add their name to.

Our Boiler

I am afraid the church boiler protested in very strong terms when told that lock down was coming to an end and has refused to work. Hopefully with a spare part and some tender loving care it will join the rest of us in coming back to life and provide us with some heat and hot water in the next week or so.

Roger

Redcar

Church Opening

We finally opened up for a service on Pentecost Sunday. It was a lovely communion service led by Rev. Norma with contributions from Andy and Dot's granddaughters.

We are still very small in numbers as some of our older members are still not coming out but we are determined to carry on.

AGM

We are having our AGM on June 6th which will be our first church meeting since the AGM in February 2020. We can then make some decisions about any future events. Watch this space!

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by Sunday 13th
June please

Group Editor – R Wheeler, 2C Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe,
Middlesbrough, TS7 0DX.

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com