



Group News

Minister

Rev Meg Robb, 10 Farington Drive, Marton (01642 326343)

meg@eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

catey@eastclevelandurc.org.uk

** March * 2012 * March **

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

I was really glad to read the bible study in the February edition of REFORM. It is by Helen Garton, who works in Church House in London as administrator for ecumenical and world church relations. I met Helen almost a year ago when I attended the U.R.C.'s Ecumenical Review at Swanwick and it was Helen who sorted out my flights to and from Mozambique as well ensuring that I had appropriate insurance and contact details in case of emergency. She is a quiet, unassuming lady who works very efficiently in the background and from her study on Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-19, she also someone who is well versed in her bible.

Talking about Lent and how it relates to the time Jesus spent in the wilderness she considers how we should approach Lent. How many of us look to giving up chocolate hoping we'll shed a few of the extra pounds we accumulated at Christmas. But as Helen points out the wilderness experience for Jesus was one of preparation for the ministry that was to come. He was leaving his old life behind and embarking on the task his Father God had for him. It was a time spent in denying himself comfort and a time spent in prayer. Helen suggests that the wilderness experience for Jesus was about stripping away all that could distract Jesus from engaging in God's work. And Lent for us ought to be the same, a time of preparation for the work that God will put before us in the year ahead.

As the dates for our Annual General Meetings approach it makes sense for us to be prayerful and not only look at the year gone by but also look at the future. Hopefully we will each come to our AGMs having prepared ourselves in prayer to look to our future ministries and mission. Are we able to set aside all the distractions that would keep us from God's work and with the help of His Spirit remembering that Jesus came out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit? And God will equip us for whatever he has in store for us; He will provide the resources that we will need.

Ministry and mission is about other people and how we can work with God's help to share God's love with them with our words and actions. Helen believes that we can do this during Lent as well as afterwards. She suggests that anyone giving up chocolate for Lent should put aside the money that would have been spent on the sweets and then give it to charity. You may choose a different way to help others. But whatever you do during Lent, remember that it ought to echo the preparation and prayer of Jesus in the wilderness. And as a result of our prayer and preparation may it be that each our churches will move into the work that God has planned for us each in our own communities and contexts.

Blessings, Meg

Synod Prayers

South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area

Week beginning 4th March

Trinity, Ashington LEP; St. Mark's, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea LEP; Rev Barry Welch

Week beginning 11th March

Trinity, Bedlington LEP; Rev Heegon Moon (Methodist); Blyth URC, Rev Yvonne Tracey; Rev Ann Shepherdson (Methodist)

Week beginning 18th March

Christ Church, North Broomhill LEP; Rev Lynda Coulthard (Methodist); Seaton Delaval LEP; Rev Malcolm Sellers (Methodist); St. George's URC, Morpeth; Rev Ron Forster

Week beginning 25th March

Mark Bonnington and Brian Howell, *Independent Churches*

South East Ecumenical Area (SENEA) is not a Mission Partnership nor is it a Methodist Circuit but it is a group of churches, some Methodist, some URC and others joint Methodist/URC. The churches support each other as would happen within a Methodist Circuit and a URC Mission Partnership.

Manse Prayers

Tuesday, 6th March Guisborough
Tuesday, 13th March Lingdale
Tuesday, 20th March Marton
Tuesday, 27th March Guisborough
Tuesday, 3rd April Lingdale

Manse Prayers are held each week at 8.45am at the following venues. Everyone is welcome.

Guisborough: 31 Oakley Cl Lingdale: 2 Stanghow Rd
Marton: 10 Farington Dr

Remember in Prayer

Pray for Faryal Bhatti (aged about 13) and her family, who have been forced to leave their home in Havelian, Pakistan, after she accidentally misspelled a word at her school on 22 September 2011. When answering a question, Faryal inadvertently misplaced a single dot in one word. This turned the word *naat*, which refers to praise of Muhammad, to *laanat*, which means "curse". Enraged Muslims demanded that she be brought before a court for violating the country's "blasphemy laws". Despite her explanation that the mistake was without malicious intent, and some Muslim leaders speaking out in her defence, Faryal was expelled from her school and her family threatened and evicted from their home. Ask for the Lord's blessing and protection of Faryal's family as they rebuild their lives elsewhere. Pray that the government of Pakistan will abolish the controversial blasphemy laws.

From the Barnabus Fund Prayer diary

The Different Leaders

'Sunday Plus' a weekly teaching leaflet from the Roman Catholic Church had an illustration on the 15th January the Sunday which tells us about the Baptism of Christ. The picture shows a flock of plump little birds in a 'V' shape formation.

The leader of a new part of Judaism was John the Baptist who met Jesus and baptised Him. John stressed the importance of repentance whilst Jesus placed an emphasis on living life which showed God's love for all.

The idea of allowing a new leader to take over a responsible position is used by birds usually wild geese which these birds in the illustration don't resemble.

A leader helps to lessen the air resistance and the rest of the flock follow in a 'V' shaped formation. But after a time the leader tires and so a new one is needed. People who are keen cyclists use the same idea when they tailgate each other.

As Churches prepare for their AGMs perhaps there is a message here for some of us. For it certainly shouldn't be 'Here am I but send her or him!'

John Crowther

Forgotten last month

WHEN a knight won his spurs, in the stories of old,
He was gentle and brave, he was gallant and bold;
With a shield on his arm and a lance in his hand
For God and for valour he rode through the land.

Redcar

Craft and Chatter

The Craft and Chatter Group will meet on Tuesday 6th March at 1pm in the Church.

The Singing Group

The Singing Group meet every Wednesday at 11am – all are welcome.

A.G.M. Reports

Please could all reports for the A.G.M., which is to be held on the 22nd April, be handed to Elaine by 31st March – thank you.

Redcar Calendar

Sun 11th Mar

Parade Service

Sun 25th Mar

A special Passion Day Service followed by soup and pudding – more details later.

Wed 7th Mar

1.30pm

An 'Event' meeting at the home of Elaine Robinson to discuss the May Fayre.

Wed 14th Mar

Elders meeting at the home of Catherine Milburn.

Weekly

Thursday

9.30am

Prayers

10.00-11.30am

Pop-in Centre

A Eulogy for the late Charles James Hales

They say that the measure of a man is the legacy that he leaves behind. Charles was loved, regarded with affection and respected by many by the end of his life. Our presence here today in celebration of his life is testament to that. The loving family which has gathered around you: This is part of that legacy. For family that legacy is indeed deep and precious.

Charles James Hales was born on 5th July 1929 at Floriana, Malta where his father was serving in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Incidentally perhaps this explains his love of warm weather because whenever the sun shone he could always be found sitting out in the garden, bottle of Ambre Solaire by his side, soaking up those rays. He was the third child born to John William and Gertrude Hales. Bet being twelve years older and Jack ten years he always considered himself to be something of a surprise addition to the family! As Charles grew older he was able to exploit his status as "baby" of family. Whenever Jack brought his latest girlfriend home little brother Charles would happily accept money from Jack to go out to buy sweets.

Charles left Malta in 1934. His journey to England was on a P&O liner called Rajapatana, which was later sunk during World War Two. His family settled in Aldershot, an army base in South East England where Jack followed his father's wishes and joined the army as a boy soldier. Charles for his part started work at fourteen mending bicycles for a local bike shop. Aged sixteen he started a five year apprenticeship as a plumber. At twenty one Charles started his National Service, joining the Royal Engineers. He trained at Aldershot and then moved overseas to Osnabrück, Germany. He enjoyed army life being pleased to be serving abroad and seeing a bit of the world. After completing his National Service Charles returned to working in his trade as a plumber.

In 1954 Charles married. A year later he became the proud father of a son he named Charles but always known to family members as 'young' Charles. In order to spend time with his son, Charles would come home at lunchtimes to take him, on the cross bar of his bike, to go to see the local trains. At other times he would take 'young' Charles into the military heart of Aldershot where he worked as the resi-

dential plumber for the Camp, even having a shingle on the wall of the bungalow where the family lived with his name and status - how cool was that? Not so cool was the fact that Charles could be and indeed frequently was called out at all hours of the night to attend emergency "call outs"; something which undoubtedly contributed to Charles's "night owl" reputation. Indeed Charles never had a regular 9 to 5 job.

In the 1960's Charles left the South; moving up to North Yorkshire. In 1974 'young' Charles also moved north and was reunited with his father. A happy and lasting by-product of this reunion for 'young' Charles was meeting and later marrying Dorothy, Charles's daughter-in-law. In 'young' Charles's words:

"What a legacy Dad, thank you."

On January 29th 1977 Charles and Margaret met for the first time. After a successful evening they arranged to meet again. At that time Charles was living and working in Darlington which meant dates were limited to the weekend. This usually involved being invited for Sunday lunch with Margaret and her girls Christine and Pauline. Fortunately, everybody enjoyed each other's company and the girls could see how happy Margaret and Charles were together. A year after their first meeting Charles proposed to Margaret and she accepted. On 29 July 1978 Charles and Margaret were married, in this very Church, by Reverend Ron Lewis.

Charles had a great love for cats. Indeed it became the family joke that when Charles arrived for a visit to Westfield Avenue when he was courting

Margaret it was guaranteed that within half an hour a cat would show up and therefore he must have brought it with him from Darlington, although they knew he never actually did! Charles's love of cats and his seemingly magnetic attraction for them meant it was only a matter of time before cats moved in once Margaret and Charles had settled into their happy married life together. So it was that the two cats Maggie and Casey soon became an integral part of the family for many years.

Something Charles will always be remembered for is his great sense of humour and quick wit, which had many of us laughing, whenever we were in his company. One of Charles's favourite comedians was the late Spike Milligan. Charles once had a chance meeting with Spike Milligan in an airport lounge. Charles couldn't resist the opportunity to go over to Mr Milligan and speak to him. Charles told Spike how he had been a fan for many years and true to form

Spike replied: "You must be b****y mad!" This reaction was rather a disappointment for Charles but he enjoyed regaling us with the story.

In fact airports became a regular part of the holiday experience for Charles, Margaret, Margaret's sister Enid and her husband Neville as they spent many a holiday in Charles's birthplace of Malta and they also enjoyed three visits to Tenerife. In addition to holidays abroad Charles and Margaret would make an annual trip to Aldershot and the surrounding area to visit Charles's late sister Bet and the rest of the family, some of whom are here today.

In 1990 Charles retired but a good rest was not on the cards! In July of the same year Charles and Margaret were blessed with the birth of their first grandchildren, the twins Sarah and Christopher. Life was never the same again and a great new happiness and joy filled their lives. In 1995 their third grandchild, Bethany was born and, finally, in 1998, Paul.

Grandchildren meant many a happy day out for Charles and the family visiting such places as Lightwater Valley, where he learned to ride the mini rollercoaster, Flamingoland, Newby Hall and Whitby to mention but a few. Family picnics, birthday parties and Christmastime hold many happy memories for all the family of Charles. Lumley Castle was another favourite visited with 'young' Charles and Dorothy. The Riverside Stadium restaurant became the venue for notable family birthdays including Charles's 80th and the twins' 21st.

As has been mentioned above if the sun was shining Charles would be out in it. He would don his shades and remove his shirt in the privacy of the garden and settle down to read the daily newspaper or a good book. Charles had a great love of reading and in particular those concerning the subject of History, especially the World Wars. The knowledge he gained over his lifetime would be sure to put many an Oxford don to shame! Sadly the opportunity to study at university was denied Charles. He undoubtedly had the ability and intelligence to do so but because of personal circumstances he was unable to continue his schooling beyond the age of 14. However this love of History was passed down to 'young' Charles who has had the privilege of earning his living, teaching History. Another great pastime for Charles was painting and many of his works hang in the family's homes for all to enjoy. Charles also loved classical music and up to the end of his days still enjoyed listening to and naming the pieces that were being played.

They say the acorn never falls far from the tree and in the case of Charles this is very true. For like father like son ‘young’ Charles shares the same love of classical music, art and the zany humour of Charles’s idol Spike Milligan (despite that meeting!) and the Goons lives on. The legacy is there.

Let us conclude with some words written by his son, Charles who surely speaks for all the family:

“I treasured the last few years we had with you. Your legacy is indeed a powerful one for all sorts of reasons and for those whom you loved and who loved you.”

Guisborough

The first Sunday in February saw an overnight snow fall – but although it was cold outside it was warm in the church because, after a long absence through illness, Catey was back - such a welcome return for us all; and in the tradition of the Gospel – Good News. And to start off Catey threw out a challenge to us all with a salutary quotation referring to a Christian as: “What you are is more than your words.” What a challenge in these words and if only this could be said of each one of us. So that rather than say we have faith in Christ – others can see it in us in our actions and as we are. I felt that this message was a good starting point for mission as we look forward to our various goals for Vision 2020.

In Guisborough, this year’s Lent Bible Studies, for the Churches Together, cover a period of five weeks in which The York Course of studies “Handing on the Torch” is being used. Each week the issues of having faith in a largely secular society are tackled. Christianity can claim to be the largest movement our world has ever seen. It continues to grow at an immense pace – especially in Asia (including China), Africa and Latin America. At the same time, Christianity in the West struggles to grow and – perhaps – even to survive. The course considers some of the reasons for this and what it might mean for individual Christians, for churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer. Such themes being dis-

cussed are: A Christian country; a secular society; a beleaguered church; competing creeds and most importantly how do we effectively hand on the torch to future. This is something for us all to think about and consider how we can make an effective contribution to faith in the community today.

This year sees twenty years since the start of Commitment for Life – supported by the United Reformed Church. Much has been done during this time, and it is good that so many local churches have been able to help and raise money for this important project. Month by month our national representative, Linda Mead, through the articles: Moving Stories has made us aware of the difficulties experienced by people living in Palestine. In our prayers we must remember the suffering of the people in this area where our Lord Jesus preached, taught, healed and made the final sacrifice.

At the present time I am hoping to revive the Guisborough Church after service walks – last done in 2009. Norma and I had a pleasant afternoon reconnoitring one possible route through Guisborough woods. It is described as a leisurely walk of 4.2 miles from the Market Cross, in Westgate, up Belmangate to a high point just on the outskirts of the Guisborough Forest. Saw a great view from here looking down on the town and the priory. This was the hard part, toiling up a short stretch of winding pathway. But it was worth it. After this it is mostly down hill so really quite an easy stroll. Hope to do this in early June when the weather should be so much warmer.

Ray Tunnicliffe.

Guisborough Rotas				
Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
4th Mar	D Beattie	D Houston	J Basham	M Ward/D Kane
11th Mar	J Reynolds		D Moore	M Sollett
18th Mar	M Houston		D Houston	D Cross
25th Mar	R Tunnicliffe		B Ward	D Harris

Consequence Psalms

Here are some of the consequence psalms written together during a Thursday morning prayer time.

Merciful God, thank you for your wonderful care.
I come to you each day for your love
You are the source of power.

Your care for creation and humankind is beyond understanding.

You know me and love me as I am.

I trust you, Jesus, because even though I fall time after time you are always there to lift me up, forgive my sins and to send me out again.

Therefore I will rejoice and share my joy with others.

We praise thee, O Lord, for the love you have shown through forgiveness and because you are just and fair.

How vast is your creation, beyond even our imaginings.

Yet you are concerned even for the least of your creatures.

You are always there when I forget you.

I love you, Jesus, because you have set me a perfect example.

Therefore I will rejoice and try to spread the good news.

O Lord, thank you for your love and faithfulness each day and for your mighty works.

Your love we find even in our failures.

Your flowers are works of art and your stars are a shining delight.

When I am oppressed by evil, your word comforts me and assures me that you will prevail.

I love you, Jesus, because you came among us and shared our humanity.

Therefore I will follow you all the days of my life.

Guisborough Calendar

Mon 27 Feb to 30 Mar		Guisborough Churches Together Lent Bible Study Courses in various locations – consult the church notice board.
Fri 2 Mar		The Womens' World Day of Prayer
	2.00pm	Methodist Church. Speaker: Rev. Betty Bell.
	7.00pm	United Reformed Church. Speaker: Rev Isobel Stuart.
Sat 3 Mar	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Salvation Army, the Citadel, Westgate, for the Bridge Association and the Churches in Guisborough.
Tue 6 Mar	7.15pm	Finance and Property Committee meeting.
Sun 18 Mar	9.30am	Gift Day Service – Mothering Sunday
Tue 20 Mar	7.15pm	Annual General Meeting

Weekly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.45am Coffee Morning

Thursdays 11.30am Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and others.

Ancient

When Plato says that it is “difficult to see the maker and Father of the universe”, we Christians agree with him. And yet He can be seen; for it is written. ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God’. Moreover, he who is the image of the invisible God has said “He who has seen me has seen the Father”

Origen Alexandrian biblical Scholar and theologian (Third century)

St Andrew's

Churches Together Prayer Diary

Week beginning:

4 th March	St. Mary's Church of England
11 th March	Nunthorpe Methodist Church
18 th March	St. Bernadette's RC Church
25 th March	St. Andrew's URC
1 st April	Marion Methodist Church

Please pray for these churches in Marion & Nunthorpe as we develop our relationships and for our work in schools and residential homes, etc.

Ladies Fellowship

Peter Sothorn gave us a most thought provoking talk at our last meeting. He told us about a clinic in Kenya run by the Rotary Club and manned by overseas volunteers. This ran for a week to help, predominately women and children, who suffered from Aids. Now hopefully the Kenyan Government are going to help run a permanent clinic.

Please note our next meeting will be on 14th March at 7.30pm when we will have as our speaker Mr J. Roughley of the Leprosy Mission.

Quiz Night

Quiz Night with Pie and Pea Supper will be held at St Andrew's on Saturday 10th March, 2012 at 7.30pm. Raffle.

Tickets £5.00 available from Una, Doreen, Sheila or Joan S. Proceeds in aid of church funds. Please come along and enjoy the fun.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This service will be held at Marion Methodist Church, on Friday 2nd March, 2012 at 2.00pm. The Christian Women of Malaysia have prepared the service and the speaker will be Mrs Mollie Locke.

All are welcome and refreshments will be served after the service.

Coffee for Charity

22nd Jan	Age UK	£14.00
29th Jan	Teesside Hospice	£14.00
5th Feb	Leprosy Mission	£24.20
12th Feb.	Elmridge	£18.00

Many thanks for the above donations.

St Andrew's Calendar

Thu 1 st Mar	2.00pm	Prayer meeting at 31 Roseberry Court
Sat 10 th Mar:	7.30pm	Quiz and Pie & Pea Supper
Mon 19 th Mar	2.30pm	Service at Elmridge
Wed 21 st Mar	2.30pm	Service at Kirkley Lodge
Wed 28 th Mar		Knit 'n' Natter
Fri 2 nd Mar:	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer, Marion Methodist Church

Weekly

Wednesday	9.30am	Short Informal Worship & Prayer
Sunday	After Worship	Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)
Boys Brigade		Details available from ministers and church elders

Modern

If people knew how much ill-feeling Unselfishness occasions, it would not be so often recommended from the pulpit.

C. S. Lewis Christian Apologist (2nd half 20th Century)

Lingdale

New - Weekly

Starting Tuesday 6th March

Community Café

10.00am – 11.30am

Followed by

Prayers for our Community

11.30am – 12noon

Service Times to be 5.30pm

Please note that from 4th March our weekly service will begin at 5.30pm NOT 6pm.

Flower Rota

4 th March	Mr B Dove
11 th March	Mr A Thompson
18 th March	Mrs M Saunders
25 th March	Mr T Waller
1 st April	Mrs J Scott

Lingdale Calendar

Wed 21 Mar 7.00pm Elders Meeting

Wed 16 May 7.00pm Annual General Meeting

Weekly

Tuesday 10.00am-11.30am Community Café

11.30am-12noon Prayers for our Community

3rd Sunday of the month 5.30pm Family Service followed by a Youth Meeting at the Manse

4th Tuesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Preachers

		4-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	25-Mar	1-Apr
Marion	9.30am	M Robb Church Meet	M Robb Parade	C Offor Communion	K Harris	C Morrison
Guisbo	9.30am	C Morrison Communion	L Bustard	M Robb	M Robb Baptism	M Robb
Redcar	11.00am	N Johnson Communion	C Morrison Parade	M Robb	C Morrison	M Robb
Lingdale	5.30pm	M Robb	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Family Serv	M Robb	C Morrison

Material for the April Magazine to church editors by Sunday 11th March please

Group Editor – R Wheeler, 5 Muirfield, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0JN. 01642 300546. rwhe106500@aol.com