

Group News



**** 2019 * March * 2019 ****

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

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

Redcar URC

Station Road, Redcar, TS10 1RQ: Contact 07742 720 090

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

'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip answered 'Come and see.'

If I were to tell you that I can tear a telephone directory in half with my bare hands, or that I can run a mile in under three minutes, would you believe me? Of course not. You'd either think I'm the most bigheaded or misguided person in the country, or that I was the worst liar you'd ever met! If you could see me doing these things, however, it would be different, - you could believe your own eyes! There could be no question, - seeing is believing after all. sadly, I can lay claim to no such extraordinary feats! Let me put another scenario to you. If someone arrived claiming to be the Messiah, able to heal the sick, forgive sins and raise the dead, would you believe them? I doubt it. And neither did Nathaniel when his friend Philip told him that he had found the deliverer they had all long been waiting for. After all those barren years of waiting and expectation, could it be true, - and if it was, could he have come from Nazareth of all places?

Philip's reply was the best possible, 'Come and see' he said. His words remind us that the gospel is not about speculation, or philosophy, but is a testimony to the experience of innumerable people whose lives were directly touched by the Ministry of Jesus Christ. It includes eyewitness accounts of concrete events and a flesh-and-blood person. Most important of all it invites us to put our faith in Jesus, to respond to His promises and so to see for ourselves the truth of who he is and all He means.

We don't have to quote long passages of scripture, or preach dogma when people ask us about our faith, - and I'm fairly sure no-one was ever argued into faith...all we need to say is 'Come and see'!

Blessings

Jan

Synod Prayers

3 March:

Church Action on Poverty Sunday

Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Bedlington; Elsdon Avenue
LEP (Methodist/URC), Seaton Delaval; Blyth URC

10 March:

Synod Meeting at Kingston Park (16 March)

Our Synod Moderator, Revd Dave Herbert; Synod Clerk,
Mrs Melanie Campbell; Synod Treasurer, Revd Dr Tony
Haws

17 March:

St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island; Revd Rachel Poolman
(Warden)

24 March:

St Andrew's URC, Blackhill; Bethel URC, Chester-le-Street;
Christ Church URC, Stanley

31 March:

Mothering Sunday

PCM, its congregations in and around the capital, Maputo

Chair of the Darlington Methodist District, Revd Richard
Andrew



“The Son of God”

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter, and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven, and living off bread and water and the occasional fish while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star,

in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition.

The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God. They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain denied on more than one occasion that he'd ever been a member of his team.

When he died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, he'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand, or spin doctors to sharpen his image.

And he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So how can one explain that over two thousand years later Jesus Christ is still the best known celebrity on earth?

Could it just be that He was the Son of God?

by Jeffrey Archer (Reproduced from Daily Mail)



Changing Places ... and the people within them!

A joint conference with Northern Synod
to look at transforming our churches!

at the Keld Resource Centre in Swaledale

Monday 25th March –
Friday 29th March 2019

Cost: Free (we just ask you to get yourselves there!)

Places are limited so booking early is recommended!

Please contact Jane Rowell for more details:

jane.rowell@urc-northernsynod.org

**Walking
the Way**
Living the life of Jesus today

Guisborough

At our last Church Meeting in 2018 we discussed a number of ideas for improving the church – interesting ideas such as a side entrance to make disabled access easier, replacing pews by chairs giving flexibility in seating arrangements for worship and other activities. We also enter 2019 with some expectation that the Group is closer to having a minister. In the service on 6 January Ray Tunnicliffe reflected on 'Great Expectations' - potentially positive ways forward. Against this background the URC Daily Devotion for 13 January 2019 (written by the Reverend Jenny Mills, Minister at Newport Pagnell URC) made me pause to think.

'So often we think, in churches, that if we changed the music, and made it a bit more upbeat and modern, that our problems would be solved; people would come flocking to Sunday worship. Would that it were so simple! The honest answer to our churches' dilemmas over attracting people to Sunday worship is that it struggles to have any relevance to many. It is out of the normal experience of so many: sitting for an hour and listening, singing, sharing a text - often with no explanation or context - and having to learn how to behave in a strange setting.'

'Today's reading (Psalm 81) reminds the people that they have chosen a path that separates them from God and calls them to turn back. As churches we are encouraged to share the Gospel, sing

	Vestry	Communion Door		Flowers
3rd March	M Houston	P Etwell	J Basham	M Ward
10th March	RTunnicliffe		P Etwell	P Etwell
17th March	B Ward		M Ward	J Reynolds
24th March	P Etwell		RTunnicliffe	M Houston
31st March	S Verrill		D Houston	M Baird
April 7 th	D Moore	J Basham	M Houston	Hilary

God's praises and help people to hear God's call on their lives. So often our solutions are to tinker around the edges trying to make worship appealing to those who currently do not attend. The world has changed and moved on and people still need to hear the Gospel message of love, but we need to be brave, radical and authentic, making it audible and accessible to those we walk with in life. We need to ask ourselves: What is it we believe? Why? How does that affect how we live? How can we more effectively communicate what Church is (not just a place where we have to fit in, hoop jump or sing the right songs)? How can our actions and words speak of Jesus and his radical and transformational ministry? Then the Kingdom comes and all of creation sings!

All difficult questions.

As I write this I came across two stories – one in Reform Magazine, the other on BBC News. In Reform magazine a foodbank user describes living on £1.86 a day. BBC News reports that the number of rough sleepers in England has risen from 1,768 in 2010 to 4,677 in 2018.. These raise even more difficult questions about the values and priorities of today's society.

James Robertson

Guisborough Calendar

Tuesday 12th March 7.15pm Church meeting AGM

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.

Redcar

R.I.P. Jack

Sadly since his last diary, Jack passed away peacefully towards the end of January. He will be sadly missed by all who visited the home of Catherine as he was always there with a friendly tail wag and pleading eyes if we were sampling some of her delicious home baking. Our thoughts are with his “human family” as they come to terms with the loss of a beloved pet, companion and most of all friend.

June

Sadly two days later Polly, Jack's best doggy friend, passed away, which was strangely comforting to think of them playing together again.

Cath

Duty Rota		
	Vestry	Door
Mar 3	Elaine	Brian
Mar 10	June	Brenda
Mar 17	Cath	Brian
Mar 24	Elaine	Brian
Mar 31	June	Brian

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Thursday

9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30 Pop in Centre

St Andrew's

Forthcoming Social Events

A Soup Lunch with “entertainment” will be held at St. Andrews on Saturday 23rd March 2019 at 12.00 noon. A raffle will also be held. Tickets will be available £3.00 from Doreen, Sheila, Eleanor or Joan or just come along.

On Wednesday 17th April at 10.00am there will be a Coffee Morning at St. Andrews with chocolate tombola. Tickets £2.00 available soon.

Women's Day of Prayer

is to take place on

Friday 1st March - 2.00pm

at St. Andrew's.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Coffee for Charity

20th Jan	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£25.00
27th Jan	Embrace	£23.00
3rd Feb	Alzheimer's Society	£20.00
8th Feb	Boys'Brigade	£22.70

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 10.00am	Redcar 11.00am
3-Mar	Jan Harper AGM	K & M Harris	Jane Rowell Communion
10-Mar	Dave Elliott Parade	Donna Moore	Norma Johnson
17-Mar	Ken Harris Communion	Dave Elliott	Margaret Harris
24-Mar	K Williamson	Norma Johnson	Jan Harper
31-Mar	Brian Stephenson	Jane Rowell	Ken Harris

Material for the April Magazine to church editors by Sunday 17
March please

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

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com