

# *Group News*



**\* 2020 \* *March* \* 2020 \***

The monthly magazine for:

**Guisborough URC**

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Part of the URC Northern Synod – [www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk](http://www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk)

[www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk)

# Pastoral Letter

*'Assess yourselves to check that you are living in the faith. Test yourselves to make sure'.*

The older we get the more it pays to keep a check on our health. That's not to say that we should become morbid hypochondriacs, - simply that we should keep an eye out for problems so that we can seek help and put them right before they can take hold. And if that is true medically speaking, it's also true when it comes to our spiritual health, for that can equally suffer as the years go by. Complacency, disillusionment or sheer weariness are all conditions that can steal up on us, sapping our faith of its natural vitality. Just as with our physical well-being, we need to be alert to the signs, regularly making time to examine ourselves.

Traditionally, Lent is such a time, calling us to reflect on our discipleship and to ask ourselves if everything is as it should be. None of us is perfect, of course, and the last thing God wants is to encourage a spirit of negative self-criticism. Rather He wants us to conduct an honest self-appraisal and then to seek His gracious help in bringing inner healing and renewal. The cure does not lie in us, any more than self-help remedies are the answer to every physical ailment. It lies in recognising that something is wrong and seeking help from the one who alone is able to give us wholeness. If we are willing to admit our need, He will do the rest.

So, whilst it is traditional to give up something we enjoy for Lent, - maybe this year we could take up something...maybe a daily time of reading, prayer and reflection. It doesn't have to be onerous, - just a time set aside to enable us to hear what God may be saying to us.

Blessings

Jan

# *Synod Prayers*

- 1 March: Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Bedlington; Elsdon Avenue LEP (Methodist/URC), Seaton Delaval; Blyth URC;  
World Day of Prayer (6 March), theme 'Rise! Take your mat and walk'
- 8 March: Synod Meeting at Roker URC, Sunderland (14 March)  
Our Synod Moderator, Revd Dave Herbert; Synod Clerk, Mrs Melanie Campbell; Synod Treasurer, Mr Gordon Wanless;  
Spring Synod Retreat at Shepherd's Dene Riding Mill (10-12 March)
- 15 March: St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island; Revd Rachel Poolman (Warden)
- 22 March: Waddington Street URC Durham; Bethel URC, Chester-le-Street; Christ Church URC, Stanley; Denewell Avenue and Cromer Avenue URC's, Gateshead; Revd Marcus Hargis
- 29 March: Mothering Sunday  
PCM, its congregations in and around the capital, Maputo  
Chair of the Darlington Methodist District, Revd Richard Andrew

# Guisborough

URC Newsletter March 2019. Guisborough

The damage that human beings are doing to the planet is immense and unprecedented. Environmental destruction continues unabated. Reaction to the problem, including that from the church, has been limited and ineffective. Every year levels of greenhouse gases continue to rise and plans for change are usually 10 + years ahead.

In his New Year message the Archbishop of Canterbury called for the UK to *"start healing some of the divisions that we've seen over recent years"*. *"I hold firm to the belief that we can create a society where mutual flourishing is possible, disagreeing well is central and respecting the difference is paramount."* Nothing here about the environmental crisis. He's more concerned about smoothing over the cracks most recently caused by the Brexit debate. Nothing here about the growing inequality between rich and poor in the UK or about famine and malnutrition in Africa. And social inequality cannot be separated from environmental issues.

Maybe this attitude explains why the church's influence and relevance is in sharp decline.

I am a supporter of Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion. Recently the Guardian newspaper (11 January 2020) carried the following report:

"Counter-terrorism police placed the non-violent group Extinction Rebellion (XR) on a list of extremist ideologies that should be reported to the authorities running the Prevent programme, which aims to catch those at risk of committing atrocities, the Guardian has learned.

The climate emergency campaign group was included in a 12-page guide produced by counter-terrorism police in the south-east titled Safeguarding young people and adults from ideological extremism, which is marked as 'official'.

XR featured alongside threats to national security such as neo-Nazi terrorism and a pro-terrorist Islamist group. The guide, aimed at police officers, government organisations and teachers who by law have to report concerns about radicalisation, was dated last November.

## Guisborough Calendar

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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. Details on church notice board

It says that issues to look out for include people who speak in ‘strong or emotive terms about environmental issues like climate change, ecology, species extinction, fracking, airport expansion or pollution’. “

I feel rather pleased to be a member of an extremist ideology. Once upon a time Christianity was an extremist ideology. The Old Testament prophets certainly didn’t stand back and paper over the cracks. When Jesus demolished the traders’ stalls in the temple he didn’t stop and preach a sermon about the importance of ‘disagreeing well’.

Imagine if the URC were placed on the list of extremist ideologies! It would spice things up a bit, we might get more notice taken of us, and ..... !

*James Robertson*

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
1st March	M Burrows	B Ward	J Reynolds	
8th March	R Tunncliffe		D Thompson	Moira
15th March	B Ward		D Beattie	Andrea
22th March	P Etwell		J Basham	Maureen & David
29th March	D Moore		M Ward	

# *St Andrew's*

## **Update**

Shona's husband, Paul, is doing very well after his recent kidney transplant and is now recovering at home.

## **Soup Lunch**

A Soup Lunch will be here at St. Andrew's on Saturday 29th February at 12 noon.

Cost £3.00 ~ Raffle

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Do come along and support us.

## **World Day of Prayer**

World Day of Prayer is to take place on Friday 6th March at 2.00pm at St Bernadette's RC Church, Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Everyone welcome.

## **Coffee for Charity**

19th Jan.	Daisy Chain	
26th Jan.	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£21.70
2nd Feb.	Flower Fund	£13.00
9th Feb.	Boys' Brigade.	£20.15

## **St Andrew's Calendar**

### **Weekly/Monthly**

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

# *Redcar*

## **Storm Ciara**

God frequently tests us, not least with the weather! Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February did not dawn bright, instead we had almost gale force winds and rain, rain and more rain. Rev Julie Martin felt it was not safe to try to get to us from Saltburn as she uses public transport. Cath Milburn kindly stepped in and Elaine gave us a lift to Church. What a sight awaited us. We were way overdressed as bathing costumes would have been more the order of the day. Instead of the usual couple of leaks, for which we leave buckets out permanently, there were at least four or five and the floor was flooded. While I was preparing the Church for worship with hymn boards, putting on heaters etc. Cath & Elaine mustered all the buckets and containers they could find and set about mopping up the floor and drying the pews. We were not expecting many to turn out but twelve hardy souls made it, so well done everybody. Cath used the red Wee Worship Book with a few readings and we used the hymns that Julie had chosen, which surprisingly fitted in with the rest of service. God certainly works in mysterious ways!

## **Redcar Calendar**

### **Weekly**

Thursday

9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30 Pop in Centre

## **Duty Rota**

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Door</b>
Mar 01	June	Brenda
Mar 08	Elaine	Brian
Mar 15	Cath	Brian
Mar 22	June	Brian
Mar 29	Elaine	Brian

# *Preachers*

	<b>Marion</b>	<b>Guisborough</b>	<b>Redcar</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
1-Mar	Jan Harper AGM	Norma Johnson Communion	K & M Harris
8-Mar	Marion WT Parade	Ken Harris	Jane Rowell
15-Mar	K & M Harris Communion	Ian Smith	Donna Moore
22-Mar	Jane Rowell	Bill Reynolds	Brian Stephenson
29-Mar	Ken Harris	Margaret Harris	Norma Johnson

Material for the April Magazine to church editors by Sunday 15th  
March please

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