

Group News



** May * 2018 * May **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

I often reflect that part of being human entails a hunger to belong, and a sense of purpose in life, rooted in feeling hopeful and confident. Our lives are quickly diminished without these core feelings.

Church, at its best, offers people all of these, to all comers, in an inclusive way. Our age, gender etc is immaterial: belonging, sense of purpose, hope and confidence are key to spiritual, mental, and physical wellbeing.

One of my wider family is in her mid-80's, and sustains an active engagement in the programmes of her local church throughout the week, which is great for those sisters and brothers in her congregation whose days are filled with demanding careers, looking after younger and older family members, etc. etc. - their capacity (time and energy) to engage with church is often severely limited to attendance at Sunday worship.

So although I appreciate that asking too much of our older members is akin to 'elder abuse', the opposite risk is not inviting people to do as much as they feel able. Looking at it from the other end of the age range, we appreciate how not allowing youngsters in our congregations to do things can alienate and eventually drive them out when we over-resist asking them to do anything among a bunch of older folk! At any age, within a group, we need our pegs to hang our presence on; we need to find a platform, a foothold, from which we can establish ourselves and become truly part of the collective. Without such a peg, we struggle to nurture that sense of belonging, a sense of purpose and a confidence that all of us have something unique, a God-given calling to fulfil a task within our capacity when moved by God's spirit as well as affirmed by our wider congregation as we seek to serve.

As it is with younger people in the life of our churches, so it is with older people too. Whether we are like the children blessed by Jesus (Matthew 19: 13-15; Mark 10: 13-16; Luke 18: 15-17), or at the other end of life like Simeon and Anna in the Temple (Luke 2: 22-38) who see who the infant Jesus is, as St Paul writes, "All of you

are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it". (1 Corinthians 12:27).

In Christ

David Herbert
Synod Moderator

Where is God calling the URC ...a growing conversation?

From March Mission Council An extract from the URC website

Healthy churches regularly examine their work to reduce ministry clutter. And the healthiest ones start reducing clutter, not *after* they find a great new idea, but *before*. It seems to us that three things have come together to help us feel something should be done across the denomination.

1. *Walking the Way* and its focus on discipleship.
2. The reality of the situation of local churches, and indeed the synods that we belong to, who have experienced a decline in numbers and capacity – and can identify with the need to declutter.
3. The mark of a healthy church 'that we should do a few things and do them well',

Food for thought?

The Borders Abbeys Way

22 July – 27 July 2018

Join fellow pilgrims, from across Northern Synod, for 5 days of spiritual and physical exercise. A time for worship, walking and dining together, as we explore the theme of New Monasticism.

Contact Linda Gowland for further information 01434 605 837 or linda.gowland@btopenworld.com

Christian Aid Week

13th - 19th May

Vilia's story

Vilia's new home provided a safe haven for her family and neighbours when they needed it most. Will you help build disaster-proof homes for vulnerable people like Vilia in Haiti?

Vilia sheltered 50 of her neighbours during Hurricane Matthew. surrounding homes, her house was barely damaged.

Vilia lost her mum and her home when the earthquake struck Port-au-Prince in 2010. Bereaved and homeless, she went back to her home town with her husband and children. But life was a struggle, and they had nowhere safe to live. Christian Aid partner KORAL built her a new home that was strong enough to stand up to natural disasters.

On the terrifying night when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours fled to shelter with her. As the storm raged, she shared her home with more than 50 of her neighbours for several days. Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, which swept away

Vilia allowed her home to become an emergency shelter when Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti. She is incredibly grateful for the help she's received but worries about those without a secure home. Will you Stand Together with your global neighbour Vilia and give a donation to help build hope in Haiti?

We know how to make it happen – of the 700 houses we built after the 2010 earthquake, just one needed to be repaired after Hurricane Matthew. But we're relying on the kindness of people like you to be able to do more, and reach more of our global neighbours in their hour of need.



'Finding Our Voice':

A Day with John Bell of the Iona Community

at

*Jesmond United Reformed Church,
Burdon Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AE
on*

Saturday 19th May 2018

10am – 4pm

(registration and refreshments from 9.30am)

Session titles:

- *Leadership by the Laity*
- *Limited or Limitless Resources?*
- *Colourful Congregational Song*
- *Songs for the Season*

£8 per person, payable on the day.

Bring a packed lunch, drinks provided.

If possible, please register by contacting Alison Shiel on

0191 281 3417 or alison.shiel@hotmail.co.uk

www.jesmond-urc.org.uk

Synod Prayers

- 6th May: Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner, Mrs Barbara Allen, and our resource of lay preachers across our synod
- 13th May: The work of Christian Aid and for generous giving during Christian Aid Week (13th – 19th May)
- 20th May: Grindon Mission Project; Boldon URC; St Bede URC; Stockton Road URC; Roker URC; Sunderland; Revd Dr David Whiting
- 27th May: Mrs Geraldine Sands, our safeguarding officer shared with Yorkshire Synod

Saturday 19th May 2018 ~ 10am to 4pm

A Day for Refreshment, Relaxation and Reflection
at The Sanctuary, Darlington

Cost £10 (includes 2 Course Lunch)

For more information or to Book, please contact Norma
Tel. 01642 481423 or 07528 828822
email. norma.johnson@talk21.com

Guisborough

Goodbye Easter – Hello Spring! That was the subject of an e-mail I received on 3 April just two days after Easter Day. Despite the fact no-one could hear me I was muttering at the computer that it was NOT Goodbye Easter, that Easter had only just begun and would

continue for another six weeks! It is all too easy to fall into the trap, as with Christmas, that Easter is just one day.

This year I again took part in the Lent course, at All Saints Church at Skelton, once more following one of the York courses. One of the questions posed was do we do enough to carry the joy of the resurrection from Easter Day forward through Easter towards Pentecost?

Lent gives us weeks to prepare for Easter yet it is all too easy to celebrate on Easter Day and then go back to normal. We all lead such busy lives it can be difficult to hold on to that feeling of joy and awe of Easter morning and carry it with us through the weeks ahead.

One of the other points raised in the Lent course was how fundamental is a belief in the resurrection to being a Christian? It came about following a 2017 survey for the BBC, which found that a significant number of those who described themselves as Christian said that they did not believe in the Resurrection. It certainly got us all thinking! I have got to admit I cannot quite get my head around being a Christian and not believing in the resurrection.

It reminded me of the only time I have seen Andrew Lloyd Webber's Jesus Christ Superstar. I didn't get to see it live but I did see a recording of one of the arena performances. It was a brilliant production – the staging was spectacular and the singing powerful but, and what a but, it ends with the Crucifixion.

No Easter morning, no resurrection, no promise that sin has been conquered – just the death and despair and pain of Good Friday. I

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
6th May	J Reynolds	M Baird	M Houston	Helen Burrows
13th May	J Basham		J Reynolds	Vera Beattie
20th May	S Verrill		M Burrows	Andrea & Darren
27th May	D Beattie		D Thompson	D Collins
3rd June	M Burrows	J Reynolds	B Ward	Claire

could not believe that they had brought the story to a close without telling us the best bit! It's like ending Jane Eyre without the "Reader I married him" or Dirty Dancing without "no one puts Baby in the corner" - it just misses the whole point.

As I get older Easter means more and more to me. Each year the awe I feel at the great gift I have received grows. It is hard to comprehend that someone as insignificant as I could be given such a spectacular thing as the gift of being part of Easter and all its promises.

Susan Griffiths

Guisborough Calendar		
Wed 9 th May	2.00pm	Group Elders (Darlington URC)
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

<i>Redcar</i>

**Come and celebrate Pentecost at Redcar URC
Sunday 20th May**

Bring and Share Lunch and Lots more
You are welcome any time after 12.30 pm

Thank you

On Tuesday 17th April we enjoyed a lovely 'morning coffee' at the Dunes organised by Evelyn. It was a lovely atmosphere and good fellowship, thank you, Evelyn.

Thank you to all who organised, helped and supported the Easter Coffee morning. Despite the awful weather many people ventured out and helped us to raise just over £400. Well done!!!

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Wednesday	10:30am	Singing Group
Thursday	9.30am	Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre
	2.00pm	Prayers at Catherine's – all welcome

St Andrew's

Christian Aid Walk

Grant and Steven are taking part in an eight mile walk round Loftus with Redcar Walking Group on the 5th May in aid of Christian Aid.

There is a sponsor form on the church notice board for anyone interested in donating. Thank you.

News from Gladys

Gladys was delighted to receive the flowers, and was thrilled to announce the birth of her first great grandchild! Nova Rose weighed in at 8lbs 7oz last week

Jan

Coffee Morning

8 Towthorpe, Nunthorpe

Thursday 31st May 10.30am

Raffle, Bring and Buy Stall.

Tickets £2.00 available from Do-reen, Sheila and Joan.

Please come along for a relax and chat. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Date for your Diary

Strawberry Tea on Saturday
30th June 2.00pm.

Cake Stall and Raffle.

Tickets £3.00.

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Rejoicing for Rosemary

Maureen (her youngest niece) passed her final exams and what a sigh of relief, as she is now looking for a permanent post in nursing. We are so thankful for the support for her education.

My peptic udders are under control now and I am able to get the relevant drugs here.

On International Women's Day I have been nominated for recognition of distinguished service. They have not paid my gratuity but recognise my input in the development of health manpower. I will attend to receive the medal tomorrow (8th March).

We send Rosemary our well de-

Coffee for Charity

13th March	Rosemary Fund	£13.50
1st April	Rosemary Fund	£22.00
8th April	Boys' Brigade	£18.00
15th April	Teesside Hospice	£17.00



Join the global wave of prayer 10th to 20th May 2018!



‘Preparing for Thy Kingdom Come’

‘The Ark’ Worship Service at St Cuthberts Marton Parish centre

3pm Sunday 6th May

followed by refreshments

(Resources for the eleven days of prayer to be distributed at this service)



Nunthorpe and Marton Churches Together

‘Pentecost Songs of Praise’

With Lockwood Brass Band

Outdoor service at St Cuthbert’s, Marton

6pm Sunday 20th May

*followed by refreshments (melted marshmallows,
melted chocolate and fruit, summer drinks)*



Everyone is welcome!

www.thykingdomcome.global

St Andrew’s Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boys Brigade

Details available from ministers
and church elders

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 10.00am	Redcar 11.00am
6-May	MartonWT	Margaret Harris Communion	Jan Harper Communion
13-May	Dave Elliott Parade	Bill Reynolds	Brian Stephenson Meeting
20-May	Jane Rowell Communion	Guis Folk	K & M Harris
27-May	Ken Harris	Margaret Harris	Norma Johnson
3-Jun	Jan Harper	Rosemary Taylor Communion	Julie Martin

Material for the June Magazine to church editors by Sunday 13th
May please

Group Editor – R Wheeler, 2C Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe,

Middlesbrough, TS7 0DX.

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com