

Group News



**** 2019 * May * 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

Dear friends,

'It was there in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians'

Acts 11v 26b

Have you ever thought about what your name means? I'm sure at least some of you will have, indeed some of you will have looked it up on the internet... which is what I did!' Apparently my name, Janet, means 'God is merciful'. It's a medieval diminutive of the Hebrew name Jane. I only checked it out recently, and yet all my life, - before I was ever a Christian, I carried 'God is merciful' with me! How amazing is that!

The fact is, of course, that our names don't signify very much because our parents chose those that they liked the sound of, rather than because the name said anything about us. A nickname, on the other hand, says something about a person, - a name designed to highlight a distinguishing feature.

So it was for believers in Jesus who had fled to Antioch following persecution for their faith. Once there, they proclaimed and lived out the gospel with such resounding success that they earned a nickname that has stuck ever since,

- *'Christians'*.

It wasn't just an empty label: it said something about them, highlighting the fact that these were people who followed the way of Christ.

Would anyone today, I wonder, looking at us and at our lives, think to label us as 'Christians'? Does it stick out a mile that we are followers of Jesus? Many still call themselves Christian but they don't see that as having any bearing on the way they live, So, maybe it's up to us to show how much of a difference being a Christian makes.

Blessings

Jan

Holy Habits – Book Club

The next meeting of the Holy Habits Book Club will take place at Marton Church on Thursday 9th May at 7.15pm.

We will be discussing the chapters on Prayer and Worship. The suggested bible passages are Luke 11: 1 – 13 and Deuteronomy 6: 4 – 9.

Susan Griffiths

Christian Aid Week

12th to 19th May 2019

We stand together. For dignity. For equality. For justice.

Tenneh's story

Tenneh plays with her precious baby Ansumana. She blows raspberries on his belly. Lifting her baby up high she beams with joy. Tenneh gave birth to Ansumana three months ago. Thankfully, he's a happy, bouncy baby. But Tenneh has lost and loved another baby before.

When Tenneh's labour started during her first pregnancy, there was no health centre in the village. Her mum took her to a traditional birth attendant. For the two days of her labour, Tenneh was in agony. She fell unconscious and was bleeding heavily. With very little medical training, the birth attendant was way out of her depth.

In the days and months after her labour, Tenneh felt very weak and her baby wouldn't breastfeed. Tragically, her baby died when he was three months old.

'That day I will never forget,' she recalls. 'I felt sick like I've never been sick before.

'If God would not have saved me, I would not be alive today.'

New hope

Through our partner RADA (Rehabilitation and Development Agency), Christian Aid saw how difficult the situation in Sawula village was and began working to ensure that mums and babies have fullness of life.

RADA has been working locally to help vulnerable women access healthcare, improve hygiene with simple interventions like handwashing and, with your support, build a bigger, better health care centre.

Thankfully, when Tenneh was pregnant a second time, things had changed for good. This time, she had nurse Judith by her side. With her expert love and care, Judith helped Tenneh deliver her baby safely.

Tenneh said: 'During my second labour, I was scared. But nurse Judith was with me, assuring me of everything. When I delivered, I felt so good.'

‘With the coming of Judith, so many lives have changed,’ Tenneh continued. ‘We know that with Judith, as long as we see the light at the end of the tunnel, we’ll be OK.’ Thanks to nurse Judith and the medical training you helped provide, Tenneh could hold her beautiful baby boy in her arms.

A health centre for all

The community in Sawula dream of having a health centre that can meet their needs. The current health centre is the size of a small bedroom. Operations, deliveries and baby checkups all happen in one single room with only two delivery beds.

Nurse Judith works around the clock to meet the needs of mums and young children who come to the clinic. But the need is great, and sometimes she’s forced to send people away.

When women come to the clinic at night, there’s no light for Judith to use. So she has to ask her patients to bring a torch to see by.

In addition to this, there are often not enough drugs at the clinic. Judith sees diseases like malaria and typhoid, especially in children. She has to go on a motorbike or sometimes walk for three hours to collect drugs.

‘I need help,’ nurse Judith says. ‘Women are dying from childbirth, children under five are dying, because of poverty. Please help us.’

For Tenneh, and many mums like her, a new health centre would be like a dream come true:

‘We’ll dance for three days when we have the new health centre,’ she says.

With your support today, we could work alongside Judith’s community to build a bigger, better health centre to help more mums like Tenneh give birth safely.

Christian Aid Week brings Christians together with a common purpose to achieve something incredible. Can your church come together to raise £300 this Christian Aid Week?

A gift of £300 could provide a delivery bed for a new health centre giving mums a safe place to deliver their babies. We need your support now, more than ever.

With every envelope, every Big Brekkie, every click. Every one of us can help deliver babies safely.

Bi-Centenary of Zion URC

In 1796 a small group of independently-minded Christians began to meet in homes and in the open air around the Market Cross in Northallerton. The seed grew and flourished until a permanent building project was called for. A large church (and eventually associated minister's dwelling) was established down a short driveway halfway along the High Street. It is now a Grade 2 listed building, known as Zion URC.

2019 marks the 200th anniversary of its dedication. A special open weekend is planned for June 8/9. Saturday 10 till 4, Sunday, after the service at 10, from 11 till 3, with light refreshments. On the first day a new outside mural will be unveiled and blessed at 10.30. Throughout, an exhibition of historic information and pictures will be displayed in the church hall, and full access will be available to the award-winning Secret Garden alongside.

A new church history booklet is planned for the end of the year, for which extra information is still sought if you know of any!

Meanwhile you are warmly welcome in June.

Paul Bowes, Zion URC

Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Day Conference St John's Church, Sharow, Ripon, 11th May 2019

Perhaps now more than ever before, our country needs the church at its best. Unfortunately, sometimes churches are not serving as effectively as they could. A church split, a failed leader, changing economics, stretched resources or an ageing congregation; there are many reasons for rural churches to be struggling and in decline.

Rural Ministries does not believe that God has finished with His church in the countryside; indeed we see many encouraging signs of growth. If you are a church leader or a member of the congregation with a heart for mission and think that your church has great potential to impact your community, but lacks the resources, then you need to attend our Regional Conference 'Re:Generate', in Sharow, nr Ripon on the 11th May 2019.

Tickets £20. For full details and tickets see www.ruralministries.org.uk.

Synod Prayers

5 May:

Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner, Dr Ann Sinclair, and our resource of lay preachers across our Synod

12 May:

The work of Christian Aid and for generous giving during Christian Aid Week (12-18 May)

19 May:

Grindon Mission Project; Boldon URC; St Bede URC, Sunderland; Stockton Road URC, Sunderland; Roker URC; Revd Dr David Whiting

26 May:

Mrs Geraldine Sands, our Safeguarding Advisor shared with Yorkshire Synod

Guisborough

Dear friends,

I was rather surprised when Peter Etwell asked if I would write a piece for the 'Group News'.

Now that I have completed my work with the churches in Stockton, I thought that the time had come when I would no longer be asked to write a newsletter! But it is my pleasure to undertake this pleasant task.

I am fully aware that by the time this letter is read, we shall all have journeyed once again through Holy Week, and remembered the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and of course the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Day.

I wonder if in recalling the events of those days, each of us has reshaped our own personal faith in God and why today belief in God is questioned by so many people. We can so easily overlook the struggles that the disciples themselves had during the time immediately after the Resurrection, and how they came to terms not only with the events they witnessed, but also the things that Jesus shared with them, during that period of time. The early followers of Jesus were both Jews and Gentiles, and many struggled to understand this new understanding of God and God's purpose for humankind.

For ourselves, this period after Easter is a time when we must examine our own faith journey, to see in what way we are called to share the message of Jesus Christ, both in the church and in the communities that we are part of.

Following the Resurrection, Jesus made a promise to the disciples that those who were ready to follow him and believe that he was truly 'The Way, The Truth and The Life', would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift promised to them was received at Pentecost, and is also a gift that we too can receive, if and when we are ready to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The coming of the Holy Spirit enlivened the disciples, and those who were new followers of Jesus, guiding them into new ways of worship and service. They changed from being afraid, into people filled with a zeal to share all they knew and believed – that Jesus Christ was alive in the world and would go ahead of them.

In our own time, we too believe he goes ahead of us, guiding us on our journey of faith into an uncertain future and an uncertain world, which needs to know the message more than ever. This is the great adventure of faith we have inherited.

Such guidance is central for the future of our witness in today's world, and in the life of the Christian faith. As churches in a time of change and challenge,

Guisborough Calendar

Wed 15th May 10.30am Group Elders meet at Marton,

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

we have a particular reason to search for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we seek to discover what will be the future ministry of the churches that make up our partnership.

The time has arrived for Christians again to stand up and be counted.

Pentecost is Sunday 9th June 2019.

Will it be a day of rediscovery for us all?

Good wishes to everyone.

Ken Harris

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
5th May	M Burrows		B Ward	Annette
12th May	M Houston		D Beattie	Vera
19th May	B Ward	J Reynolds	J Basham	Andrea
26th May	P Etwell		The children	Dorothy

Redcar

If Stuck, Don't Worry

This is advice which now and again editors of monthly magazines may need. There is a pool of articles called "The Parish Pump" to be used if needed.

Some churches have a different magazine cover page each month as they move through the seasons and the lectionary. Perhaps there is a stack of these somewhere, and isn't there also one of sermons?

I was especially interested in the cover of a current April Magazine and so I wrote some comments for it made me "stop and think" which was its purpose. The numbers three and twelve were there, which reminded us of the Holy Trinity and of the tribes of Israel and of other links to the Bible. There were 3 crucifixes, Jesus' in front. Each one had three nails, so it is 3 x 3 +3. The final

3 nails secure His cross to His world. It wedges its base into the ground and all directions are observed from a moving earth.

Do I see this with too much imagination? That is up to you to decide. As our TV presenters say after the news, “thanks for listening”, so “**thanks for reading**”.

John Crowther



Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Thursday

9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30 Pop in Centre

Duty Rota

Vestry Door

05 May	Cath	Brenda
12 May	June	Brian
19 May	Cath	Brian
26 May	Elaine	Brian

St Andrew's

Soup Lunch

The Soup Lunch held on 23rd March raised £115.00 for church funds. Thank you to all "Soup makers" and everyone who helped to make this an enjoyable lunch time.

Christian Aid

On Saturday 4th May Grant and Steven are doing a walk for Christian Aid. Should anyone wish to sponsor them there is a form on the church notice board.

Thank you.

Diary Date

On Saturday 29th June we will be holding our Strawberry Tea here at St Andrew's Church at 2.30pm. Cake stall, raffle.

Tickets or admission £3.00.

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Coffee for Charity

24th March.	Teesside Hospice	£21.00
31st March.	Zoe's Place.	£23.60
7th April.	Cyclone Idai Appeal.	£21.00
14th April.	Boys' Brigade.	£16.35

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Preachers

	Marton	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
5-May	Donna Moore	John Horbury	Arthur Harbottle Joint, Comm
12-May	Ray Tunicliffe Parade	Bill Reynolds	Jane Rowell
19-May	Jan Harper Communion	Maranny Jones Communion	Brian Stephenson Meeting
26-May	Mollie Locke	Guis Folk	Julie Martin

Material for the June Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th May please

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

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com