



www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Group News

Minister

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** November * 2011 * November **

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

Dear Friends,

As we are about to move into November many children will don masks and fiendish outfits as they carry their pumpkins and threaten to trick if a treat is not forthcoming. Hallowe'en is now big business in Britain as seen in the aisles of Supermarkets up and down the land.

But how should we as Christians view Hallowe'en? Well, it is actually All Hallows Even... or the evening before All Saints or All Souls Day or the day before the holy ones or the hallowed are remembered. Traditionally it is thought that all the forces of evil are at large on Hallowe'en but not even all the forces of evil can thwart the work of Christ's people, his saints.

Traditionally the saints are those who have gone to glory and have been given the title of saints by the Church. And, yes, there are many saints in heaven but I believe all who find themselves in God's presence who worship and serve Him whether here on earth or in the life hereafter are saints. And those of us on earth live in days when the forces of evil are abroad as we see in the hatred and greed and violence around us. We live in a world where we Christians need to join forces with Jesus Christ and fight against the injustices and evils of this world in His name. This we can do through prayer and action and through spreading the message of God's self giving love in a world where many live for their own gain.

Perhaps when the 'little devils' knock on your door you will not only give them a treat but also pronounce God's blessing over them. The mere words 'God Bless you' may be enough to make them... and any parents with them... to think.

Oh, and enjoy All Saints day as well! And ask God to give you the grace to be more holy in your own life.

Every blessing,

Meg

Synod Prayers

This month Synod focuses on the Tyne Valley Mission Partnership

Week beginning 6th November

Ponteland URC, St. John's URC, Wideopen; Rev Philip Gray

Week Beginning 13th November

St Aidan's URC, Hexham; Rev Bill Ellerby;
Horsley Village Church, John Knox Memorial URC,
West Denton; Rev John Paul

Week beginning 20th November

Church on the Green, Stamfordham LEP (Methodist/
URC); Rev Les Dinning (Methodist)
Great Bavington URC; Rev Ron Forster

Week beginning 27th November

The Presbyterian Church in Mozambique, churches of
the northern provinces, including new congrega-
tions formed through evangelisation programmes.

Manse Prayers

Manse Prayers are held every Tuesday
at 8.45am Everyone is welcome.

1 st November	Marton
8 th November	Guisborough
15 th November	Marton
22 nd November	Guisborough
29 th November	Marton

Venues are as follows:

Guisborough: 31 Oakley Close;
Marton: 10 Farington Drive

From October Synod

Synod met at St. John's Wideopen, north of Newcastle. It was a strange welcome- no biscuits with the coffee and Nescafe at that! In the Church someone said 'I'll do the aircraft bit - there's the exits, use the one which is not on fire'. It was, in fact, the Minister, but we would not have known! At lunch time we were told very firmly that no food or drink could be brought into the church - because of the wonderful new carpet. Don't we all have to take risks when we invite others into our space?

The meditation based on images of Holy Island accompanied by gentle piano music written for the occasion helped to remind us of what we were there for - to enable the continuing work of the Kingdom and to listen to and support each other in our different places in the Synod. The new Ecumenical Officer in Andy Lie was inducted and paid tribute to the work of John Durell, his predecessor in the post. Andy will be employed for 14 hours per week.

In connection with the Olympics 2012 Phil Glover told us about More than Gold, the Churches initiative to involve people in Olympic themed events - fun days, holiday clubs, sports quizzes etc. The torch relay will be coming through the NE in June and in July there are 2000 young Scandinavians coming to the NE to meet us in our Churches.

We accepted the Mission and Evangelism Group report on deployment where our Mission Partnership which now has three Ministers can expect a reduction to two only, when one of the three retires. This has huge implications for church life in our MP.

The Radical Welcome campaign featuring the controversial posters is going ahead, starting in March 2012. Synod still needs someone to be the Companion in this region for those churches which have signed up.

For the first time ever we were presented with Summary Accounts for the last financial year. What a saving of paper and time! Alas the full accounts are now so complicated, by law, that few are able to make any sense of them at all. The Synod funds increased in 2010 by surplus income, investment revaluations and asset sales to £8.3m. When asked about policy the Trust Secretary stated that funds are being built up to support churches when needed. We approved the General Fund budget for 2012 amounting to expenditure of £287,543 with a Synod levy payable by the churches of £27 per member which meets about 30% of the costs of running the Synod.

With a DVD as illustration we were then addressed by Rev Susan Durber, Principal of Westminster College in support of the appeal for £7m needed for repairs and refurbishment of a building which the Church built in Cambridge 1899. Many of our Ministers have trained there but it has unfortunately been

very neglected. 19th Century plumbing does not attract the profitable Conferences. The Synod is giving £150k over five years. The fundraisers are hoping for local church members to make commitments too.

In the afternoon we looked at Synod's proposed response to 20/20Vision entitled Dying to live. The discussion group was rather fractious and it was difficult to see where Synod should go with this. The title itself was not liked by some and eventually the decision to accept the report as a the Ten Year vision for the Synod was deferred until March.

In the Church & Society report we heard an impassioned case made for supporting Commitment for Life given by Chris Eddowes. Under World Church,

with slides, John and Hillyan Durell and Meg told us about our partner church in Mozambique and the warm welcome they received there. The Church there would like to be able to raise funds to send a Minister to train in Brazil - where they speak Portuguese.

The fun time started with the closing worship when the young people who had been meeting separately came in and gave out badges, danced, did a power point presentation about the Bible, and brought our day to a close.

Next Synod is at St Marks, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea on Saturday 17 March 2012.

Jane Tomlin

The Porridge is 'Just right.'

At the beginning of October, National T.V. News featured a new telescope built on the top of a mountain in the Atacama Dessert in Northern Chile. It sits on a very dry, very clear, very high place with no vegetation although there is a scattering of old, yet new looking snow. Visitors must take a medical and become acclimatised to stay there for any length of time. The new telescope is a V.L.A which is a 'Very Large Array' of steerable radio dishes which are still being added to. They must also work with an optical telescope, for a colour enhanced photograph of two galaxies colliding was shown on the News. This isn't a collision as we might imagine it for usually only the tenuous gas between the stars meets, changes its temperature and colour. Galaxies the largest objects in the Universe are made up of stars light years apart. From ours the Milky Way Galaxy their star lights blend and blur together as the street lights of Hartlepool do when viewed from Hinderwell, Brotton or Saltburn.

Certain questions enter our minds. Are there any thinking creatures out there? Do they worship a loving Creator? Are they thinking similar thoughts as their telescopes point in our direction? If we are not alone is it planned for their and for our good that time and distance must forever separate us? Whether we read Science Fiction or not we know that the cost of manned space travel is prohibitive. This has stopped the only nation able to take that small step to the moon from repeating it. Most records once broken are repeated and improved upon but not that jump onto the lunar surface.

So where has my title come from? The Goldilocks effect is shown by the earth being in just the right orbit. It's not too hot and it's not too cold. It has gravity which is just right for keeping an atmosphere which

sustains life. So the mystery of life began as the Book of Genesis tells us. Just as we are in the right orbit in the Solar System so it is in the outer reaches of our galaxy. For at our galaxy's centre there is a large black hole which holds the slowly spinning system together yet periodically pulls in and destroys nearby stars, but our sun is safe in this respect. The whole of creation seems to be finely tuned and balanced. To us who believe in a caring Creator this strengthens our faith, yet sadly to some it's all just a matter of luck and chance.

I'm ending with a poem I wrote some years ago, poetry from me is rare, a fact that may be fortunate for the reader!

A Modern Creation Myth

God was, but time, energy and matter did not exist
God took a balloon made from these three things.
The matter was to develop over millions of years into
countless stars which were to make up the uncountable
islands of the galaxies.
These He dotted all over this flat unformed balloon.
The cosmic egg was hatched;
The Big Bang was;
The universe expands with the breath of God;
Space and time begin to fill the unimaginable emptiness.
In one of the galaxies was an ordinary star
Round that star God created a planetary system,
One of these planets is of a size and composition that
none of the other possess.
Its distance from the star make it neither too hot nor
too cold;
Its gravity enables it to hold a life sustaining atmosphere;
All was prepared for that which we know from the first
chapter of Genesis.
God saw that everything was ready and that it was very
good.

John Crowther

News from the Wider Church
(From the Barnabus Fund Prayer diary)

A Christian teacher in the UK was ordered by her school not to talk about religion after answering a child's question. She had been asked by a girl in her class whether the Christian God and the god of Islam were the same. She had replied that they were not, and was then asked to explain how they were different. When the child's Muslim parents complained, the school

defended her actions, but subsequently asked her not to discuss any religious matter with the children.

This incident follows the recent reprimanding of a Christian doctor by the General Medical Council for talking about God to a patient. This kind of treatment is being replicated in various other countries.

Pray that Christian professionals will not be gagged in the workplace but will have the freedom to share their faith.

Guisborough

Those of you who know about my day job will not be surprised that I have been thinking about suffering recently. There seems to be a lot of it about. Here at Guisborough, Ernest is not well again and may have to go to hospital for tests, Mary Sollett is recovering from recent surgery and Madge is improving slowly after her treat-

ment. Some of our members are worried about mother, sister or friends who are unwell and I find myself worrying about my Dad who until now has always seemed so fit and well. I recently attended my first Elders meeting at my attachment church in Hartlepool and again the news about people included many attending hos-

Guisborough Calendar

Tue	1 Nov	7.30pm	Mission Partnership – reps from churches to discuss: <i>Future Ministry in the Mission Partnership</i> at Queens Park, Stockton.
Thu	3 Nov	12.15pm	Looking to the future course
Sat	5 Nov	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast - for the Bridge - Methodists.
Thu	10 Nov	12.15pm	Looking to the future course
Fri	11 Nov	7.15pm	Remembrance Day Taize Service at Guisborough URC, come and pray for peace.
Tue	15 Nov	2.30pm	Service in the Belmont Care Home, Rectory Lane. All friends welcome.
Thu	17 Nov	12.15pm	Looking to the future course
Sun	20 Nov	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purseglove Sports Centre.
Thu	24 Nov	12.15pm	Looking to the future course
Tue	29 Nov	7.15pm	Church Meeting.

Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and others.

pital, facing operations and suffering severe illness. It is easy to feel distressed about all this suffering and every time we watch the news there seems to be more whether it is famine in the horn of Africa or floods in Pakistan or unemployment and poverty closer to home.

On Saturday I went to hear a Stabat Mater by Dvorak performed by Guisborough Choral Society. This work is all about the suffering of Mary as she stands at the foot of the cross watching her son die. It does not end there though. The final chorus, with soaring music to match, speaks of the glory of paradise which is attainable because of Christ's death and resurrection. We have a God who is not indifferent to our suffering, we can pray to him in our distress knowing that he feels our pain and longs to comfort us. Recently when I've lain awake at night I have tried the power of prayer and though it may not bring sleep it does bring peace and rest.

How often have you felt uplifted and joyful after an AGM? I did after attending the one for the Guisborough Bridge Association. It was wonderful to hear about all the activities over the last year involving the old and young of the community. The latest addition is Foodstop which was launched at the Churches Together Harvest Service. A huge amount of food has been donated to be handed out as parcels to needy families and individuals over the next few months. During the meeting we were referred to as the Bridge Family and there was a feeling of

a family coming together to celebrate the achievements of all and to thank God and ask for his guidance for the year to come.

I was also uplifted by the last walk which set off from the Danby Moors Centre. It was a glorious Autumn day and will be the last time I wear shorts for some months. I thought I knew all the paths round about but Marshall showed us a new one that followed a stream through a pretty valley and up onto the moors. The views from Danby Beacon were splendid and I learnt all about the RAF base that was stationed up there in the War to provide Radar warning.

We are gearing ourselves up for the 200th Anniversary and by the time you read this it will all be over. I hope you came at some point over the weekend to watch the play with Ray and Barbara, to visit the display of our history, to dance at the Ceilidh or to worship with us on Sunday. We are a small congregation and have always been so but we are active and lively and because we are small we can be a real family in Christ's name. I haven't found much luck in handing over the pen (keyboard) but I will try to find an informer to keep me abreast of Guisborough news while I am attached to Hartlepool.

Donna Moore.

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
Nov 6th,	D Houston	J Basham	M Houston	D Cross
Nov 13th,	P Etwell		J Bulmer	M Robson
Nov 20th,	D Moore		J Reynolds	V Beattie
Nov 27th,	D Beattie		D Cross	tba

Looking to the Future

A course to learn from the book 'Changing World, Changing Church' by Michael Moynagh
Thursdays, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th November and 1st December

We will meet at 12.15pm and discuss whilst having our packed lunches.

If anyone would like a book please ask Meg or Donna. For anyone who will find Thursday lunch times difficult another time can be negotiated.

Guisborough Choral Society

Christmas Concert

10th December 2011 - 7.30pm
Guisborough Methodist Chapel

The choir will perform excerpts from Britten's Ceremony of Carols together with congregational singing of popular carols

Tickets at £10, £8(concessions) and £1 (under 19s) from Greensleeves Music Shop, Guisborough Bookshop, wegottickets.com and at the door.

Redcar

Thank you

Catherine Milburn and family would like to thank everyone who sent letters and cards and gave their support before and after the recent bereavement of her husband Bob.

They would also like to thank people for the kind donations given at Bob's funeral for Tees-side Hospice.

Christmas Event

Saturday 26th November

11am -3pm

Refreshments available
including Soup and Sandwiches
Variety of stalls

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Thursday 9.30am Prayers
 10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

A Little Tale

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. 'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your

house.' The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.' For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them. SO, to all of my cracked pot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

From an email sent to Norma Creek

Modern

Hospitality is about relationship - one cannot be hospitable without guests. God not only plays the host for us and becomes the banquet for us; God also has become guest for us. This is one of the deep meanings of the incarnation, that God let go of hosting long enough to become guest as well.

Matthew Fox, North American theologian

St Andrew's

Shoe Box Appeal

We have only a couple of weeks left to complete the Shoe Box Appeal. If anyone is still wishing to contribute to this would they please see Shona in the very near future.

Annual Bazaar

We still require donations for tombola, raffle, cake, holiday and bric-a-brac stalls for our annual bazaar to be held on Sat. 19th Nov. 11.30am- 1.30pm. Please see Una, Sheila, Doreen or Joan S. Soup, teas, coffees will also be served.

Please come along and support this event. Proceeds are in aid of church funds.

Ladies Fellowship

We had a great talk from Dave Elliot on "Forty Years' Teaching" at our last meeting. It was lovely to meet up with him once more and we look forward to seeing him in the very near future.

At our next meeting, on Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm, Jimmy Anderson will be showing us slides of a trip to the Western Isles.

Churches Together in Marton & Nunthorpe

What's the Difference?

A series of four sessions looking at our church traditions. They will be held on Wednesdays. starting at 11.00am and lasting for an hour. Fellowship will then be continued over a pooled lunch

2nd November – Looking at the Reformed Tradition
Venue: St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

9th November – Looking at the Church of England
Venue: St. Cuthbert's Parish Centre

16th November – Looking at the Methodist Church
Venue: Nunthorpe Methodist Church

23rd November – Looking at the Roman Catholic Church
Venue: St. Bernadette's R.C. Church

Churches Together - Prayer list

Week beginning:

6th Nov St Andrew's URC

13th Nov: Marton Methodist Church

20th Nov St Cuthbert's Church of England

27th Nov St Mary's Church of England

4th Nov: Nunthorpe Methodist Church

Please pray for our developing relationships with each other and our working together in the community.

St Andrew's Calendar

Thu 3 rd Nov	2.30pm	Prayer Meeting at 31 Roseberry Mews. All Welcome
Sun 13 th Nov	10.00am	Parade Service, Remembrance Sunday
Wed 16 th Nov	2.30pm	Communion at Kirkley Lodge
Mon 21 st Nov	2.30pm	Service at Elmridge
Wed 30 th Nov	2.00pm	Knit 'n' Natter

Weekly

Wednesday	9.30am	Morning Prayers
Sunday	After Worship	Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)
Boys Brigade		Details available from ministers and church elders

Knit 'n' Natter

The next Knit 'n' Natter will be held here at St. Andrew's on Weds. 23rd Nov. 1-3.00p.m.

Christmas Social

A 'Christmas Social with Mince Pies' will take place on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30pm. Tickets £2.00 in aid of church funds.

Lingdale

Operation Christmas Child

Once again we will be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please see me for further details. Please note that the last day for dropping shoeboxes off is 18th November, I will have to take them to the drop off point on 12th November so please make sure you leave your boxes in plenty of time.

Susan

Flower Rota

6th November – Mrs P Griffiths
13th November – Miss S Griffiths
20th November – Mrs J Coulthard
27th November – Mr B Dove
4th December – Mr A Thompson

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

3rd Sunday of month 5.00pm Craft Club followed by Worship at 6.00pm.
4th Tuesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Ancient

What is impossible for God?

Not that which is difficult to His power but that which is contrary to His nature.

Ambrose Bishop of Milan and Church Father (4th Century)

Preachers

	6-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov	4-Dec
Marion	9.30am MartonWT	M Robb Parade	M Robb Communion	J Harper	M Robb Church Meet
Guisbo	9.30am D Harris Communion	N Johnson	N Johnson	M Robb	D Harris Communion
Redcar	11.00am M Robb Communion	N Johnson	J Harper	M Robb	N Johnson Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm M Robb	tba Communion	John/Jackie Craft & Family	Mission P'ship Advent Service	M Robb

Material for the December/January Magazine to church editors by Sunday 13th November please

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