

Group News



** 2015 * November * 2015 **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Minister

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‘A reflection of our journey so far’.

Margaret and I made a journey earlier this year to the smallest county in England – the county of Rutland – to see and share in the beauty of God’s creation. It was interesting to see the many ways in which people have worked with that gift of creation to enhance the area, and in turn offer sanctuary to the wildlife and bird life of Rutland Water and its environs.

What made almost an immediate impression on both of us was the pace of life, which seemed casual and relaxing, in fact we slowed down to match it. In comparison we went in to the city of Leicester, where we were overwhelmed by a busy and multi-cultural way of life. The visit to Leicester allowed us to see the ‘new’ burial place of King Richard the third; the last of the Plantagenet kings, who was killed in 1485. His death changed the story of our monarchy not only in history, but even to the present day. The story of how his body was found beneath the city streets is a well-documented and interesting view of modern technology and human instinct, as one person worked to prove her theory and fulfil her hopes and dreams of finding him.

The whole journey was a reminder of past and present, and can never be separated, but it can and it should have a bearing on what we do in the future. What we do today is going to impact on the future. Politicians only seem to look at periods of five years ahead when decisions are made, and seem to ignore the long term projects of the Creator God. In many places, Harvest services have been celebrated, giving thanks to God, and a reminder to us that seedtime and harvest has once more been fulfilled.

In the life of the people of Teesside at this time, many changes and challenges lie before us. What has happened at Redcar steel works will have an immediate impact on many lives, but will, in turn affect all of us in some way.

There are many questions about the past, the present and the future

which have a bearing on our lives and faith in God.

November is a month when we are challenged to remember a number of different things. All Souls Day: All Saints Day: Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, and the end of the month will, of course, see the first day of Advent.

Advent is a poetic, mysterious and a very beautiful time, during which the longings of the past and hopes of the future come together. The first Christmas was a gift from God which has changed human life and history, inserting into our hearts the love which gives them meaning. But the Advent we keep is not a poetic make believe or a nostalgic historical pageant, or an exercise in remembering our roots, although this may have value. The coming of God in Christ still continues and offers us a gift beyond all our hopes. We are all Advent People. The season of Advent celebrates the reality of our own lives and of the destiny of all humankind with God.

Ken and Margaret Harris

Group Secretary Resignation

I would just like to inform members of the Churches that I have resigned from my role as Group Secretary. I have stated that I will continue until the end of December.

I would like to thank everyone for their support during my time in this role,

Dot McSherry

For Our Prayers

Synod Prayer Cycle

1st November

All Saints' – Communications Group; Convenor Revd John Durell; St George's, Morpeth; Widdrington; Great Bavington; Revd Ron Forster

8th November

Remembrance – Zion, Northallerton; Northgate, Darlington; Keld; Low Row; Barnard Castle; Revd Stephen Collinson; Revd Hilary Collinson

15th November

St Paul's & St John's, South Shields; St Margaret's, South Shields; St Andrew's, Hebburn; Revd Helen Drummond

22nd November

Christ the King – St Andrew's LEP, Benton; Revd Gavin Hume; Church of the Good Shepherd LEP, Battle Hill; Revd Janet Appleby

29th November

Advent – PCM: Project work undertaken by the Church; all whose lives are touched by HIV/AIDS; the work of the Mozambique Council of Churches; Independent church representative Dr Mark Bonnington.

For Our Group

1st November

Remember Catey and her family in your prayers. - as well as the family remember all those who are offering support and helping them to find their way

8th November

Remember our Church in Redcar

15th November

Offer your prayers for our church in Guisborough

22nd November

For this week let our focus be St Andrew's.

29th November

At the beginning of Advent and the new Christian Year offer prayers for all those who are working to lead and inspire the local churches.

Guisborough

The members of our small congregation have faced many challenges over the summer months. Some of us have been ill ourselves and others have had to care for ill or disabled relatives. I expect this is true for Marton and Redcar too. We have all had to come to terms with Catey's troubles and deal with the practical implications, finding preachers and learning to manage our own affairs without her.

I, myself, as many of you know, have been trying to come to terms with not being as healthy as I thought I was. It was especially hard when I felt so well. Following surgery the new challenge is not feeling as well as I look.

Through all these trials and tribulations the impressive thing is how much we as a congregation, and indeed as a group, have pulled together to support each other.

I have felt particularly blessed and supported by the knowledge of how many people were praying for me and wishing me well. I hope Catey is similarly aware of how we are all praying for her and holding her and her family in the light. Every week, at Guisbor-

Guisborough Calendar

Sat 7 th Nov	8.00am	Bridge Prayer Breakfast
Wed 11 th Nov	7.30pm	Group Elders meet in the Hall
Sun 22 nd Nov	10.30am	Group Service

Weekly

Thursdays	10.00am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Ken, Norma and others.

ough, we continue to pray for all we know are in need, at our Thursday quiet time as well as in our Sunday service.

It was a joy to join with our Marton congregation one Sunday for worship. The singing was wonderful and it is uplifting to be part of a larger congregation sometimes. There was fellowship afterwards and sharing of stories. Our members were the last to leave as we felt so welcome.

Some of us from Guisborough went to Iona this summer with Catey and the children. It was wonderful to become part of that community at the Abbey if only for a week. We felt part of something larger but still intimate, as we lived closely together. We shared bathrooms and mealtimes, chores and leisure time. We joined with others in the worship in the Abbey and the concert at

	Vestry	Communion Door	Flowers
1st Nov	M Burrows		M Houston
8th Nov	D Houston		D Cross
5th Nov	P Etwell	J Basham	M Sollett
22nd Nov	D Moore		M Robson
29th Nov	D Beattie		J Reynolds

the Macleod Centre. We enjoyed the pilgrimage around the island where everyone received the help they needed to complete as much or as little as they were able.

Last night the Churches Together in Guisborough United Harvest Service was held in our church. When I offered, I expected to be turned down, as we are a small chapel, but it was packed out last night with people from every denomination. The singing was very powerful with so many in a small space. Madge had to pull out all the stops on the organ. Our speaker had to be arranged at the last minute due to a bereavement and we had to make many changes to the original plan which Catey had been so central to. Somehow with prayer and good will it all came together beautifully and everyone seemed to get something from the service. A Quaker came to speak to me afterwards to explain his feeling that something special happened when the churches of the town came together to worship and in service through the Bridge Association and Food-Stop.

I suppose my message is, that what we have learned through these difficult times is, that we are stronger together. We are also stronger if we pray constantly and develop a closer relationship with God.

Whatever trials life may send our way we can depend on each other for support and prayer and we can rely on God to hear our prayers and send us the resources we need. These springs of strength and renewal can come from the expected places and people but sometimes God surprises us with kind words from a stranger or a helpful action when we expected it least.

I have been given the all clear and can concentrate on getting back to normal, whatever that is. I pray that whatever troubles you are facing, God will give you strength and that you feel able to share them with others, so that you can be supported in prayer and action.

Donna Moore

Redcar

The nearly Christmas Bazaar!

on

Saturday 14th November

From 11am until 2pm

Soup and 'Bacon Butties',

Tea, Coffee and Cakes

Raffle and Tombola

Stalls including:

'Cass Photography'

Crochet, jewellery, crafts, and more!

PLEASE COME!!

Redcar Calendar

Tue 3rd Nov 2.00pm Craft and Chatter in the church.

Weekly

Wednesday 11.00am Singing Group (10.45am for coffee!).

Thursday 9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

2.00pm Prayer meeting and Bible study at the home of Catherine Milburn.

Phillip Noble

We are sorry to say that Phillip Noble will no longer be able to continue with his keep fit classes at the Redcar Church from October 2015

This is due to him obtaining a job he has been looking forward to getting and having to work some evenings.

However, we have managed to support Phillip with his charity during August by charging half the hall hire. The remaining half and all the money he makes during August goes to his chosen charity ZOE'S PLACE.

We wish Phillip well and thank him for his support towards the church.

A comment on a previous article

Peter Etwell's story about the 9/11 terrorist attack on the USA was both appropriate and fascinating, though not auto-biographical as I first thought.

It showed how the shocking and sudden attack on the U.S.A which affected many air line routes, flights and their passengers was dealt with in a loving and sensitive way by the people in and close to the airport at Gouder, Newfoundland, Canada.

The article seemed relevant to , yet different from the sad news which took up much of the magazine that month.

For we must declare that 'we are Easter people and rejoice knowing that the Holy Trinity works in this world forever.

John Crowther

Lessons in Humanity

The link reminded me of a well known saying of one of our leaders, we are called the Easter People so Alleluya is our song.

Thoughts after Reading a verse.
We dance round in a ring and suppose,
But the Secret sits in the middle and knows.
We do not worship a Secret

Yet before Christ the sun was worshipped. It was the chief God amongst many in early civilisation, for it encourages life to begin and to continue. People then, did not realise that the earth was a planet circling the central sun. In reality it was just another one amongst the other five naked-eye planets. These, before the coming of telescopes were just wandering spots of light in the night sky, in their eternal dance.

Copernicus gave us this first great lesson in humanity.

Yet his fear of the punishment from a powerful Church made him hold back the publishing of his findings until after his death. Hundreds of years later it was found that the solar system had no important position in the Milky Way galaxy.

Our second lesson in humanity.

Now we know that the local group of galaxies held by gravity in their slow millions of years long dance too, give our galaxy no special place amongst countless others.

Our third lesson in humanity.

Perhaps these three balance any pride we may have in our modern marvels of technology. I write this as our granddaughter taps away on her tablet. To me and to most of you a tablet was just a large, hard to swallow pill.

The book Job, chapters 38 and 39 helped me with these thoughts and chapter 42 verses 1 and 6 ended them very well.

St Andrew's

Congratulations

New Addition to the Swan Family
Congratulations to Katie and Matt on the birth of their daughter, Heidi, on the 8th October. Campbell and Joan are absolutely delighted with their lovely granddaughter.

Knit-'n-Natter

The next Knit-'n-Natter will be Wednesday 25th November from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. There will be no Knit-'n-Natter in December and the January meeting will be on Wednesday 27th January 2016 (1.00 - 3.00pm).

Annual Bazaar

**Saturday 14th November
11.30am - 1.30pm**

Donations of cakes, raffle and tombola, prizes together with items for bric-a-brac stalls and offers of homemade soup for the coffee shop will be gratefully received.

Proceeds are in aid of church funds.

Shoe Box Appeal

Please remember the Shoe Box Appeal. Lists of items needed are available from Shona, Eleanor or Joan. Each filled box now costs £3.00 to send but they give such happiness to many children it's all worth while.

Ladies' Fellowship'

The November meeting will be a lunch at the Cross Keys 1.00pm on Tuesday 10th November. Anyone interested in this will they please contact Joan Swan.

Coffee for Charity

20th Sep	RNLI	£19.50
27th Sep	Rosemary Fund	£24.10
4th Oct	Foundation Children's Liver Disease	£25.00

St Andrew's Calendar

First Thursday	2.00pm	Home Prayer group at 31 Roseberry Mews
Boys Brigade		Details available from ministers and church elders

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 9.30am	Redcar 11.00am
1-Nov	J Harper	Guisborough Folk Anniversary Celebration	C Eddowes Communion
8-Nov	J Martin Parade	B Stephenson	J Harper
15-Nov	M Harris Communion	K Harris Communion	K Harris
22-Nov	Group Service led by C Morrison Service 10.30am at Guisborough URC,		
29-Nov	Marton WT	D Moore	J Martin

Material for the December & January Magazine to church editors
by Sunday 15th November please

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