

# *Group News*



***\* 2019 \* November \* 2019 \****

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

*'All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor; precisely what I was determined to do'. Galatians 2 v. 10*

We are told that in Britain over the last 20 years or so the rich have grown richer and the poor have grown poorer. If that's true here, it's all the more true in the world as a whole; the gap between the 'haves and the have nots' having widened to enormous proportions. The figures are truly staggering; well over three-quarters of the world's resources are enjoyed by less than a third of its total inhabitants. Is this simply a matter for academic concern? For anyone who claims to be Christian the answer must be no.

Throughout His ministry Jesus showed what Archbishop David Shepherd called, in the title to his controversial book 'A Bias To The Poor'; and his words show that a concern for the poor is not just an optional part of discipleship but integral to it; an inescapable challenge to all who would follow Christ's way.

So it was that the early church, racked by a time of controversy concerning the relationship of Jews and Gentiles came up with one simple requirement, - to remember the poor. Whilst there is a danger of seeming to be patronising, or of giving to charity to salve our consciences, there is a much greater danger of using such reservations as an excuse to avoid the challenge, and forgetting the poor altogether.

As we begin those enjoyable preparations for the Advent and Christmas seasons, it would be easy to get swept up in the event, and forget what Jesus said during His ministry, 'Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!'

Forget their needs, and the gospel seems strongly to suggest that we have forgotten Jesus as well!

Blessings

Jan

# *Synod Prayers*

## *3 November:*

PCM, their churches of the Central Presbytery and the Presbytery of the North

The Anglican Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson

## *10 November: Remembrance Sunday*

Zion URC, Northallerton; Northgate URC, Darlington; Keld URC; Low Row URC;

Revds Stephen and Hilary Collinson

## *17 November: International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians*

St Paul & St John's URC, South Shields; St Margaret's URC, South Shields;

St Andrew's URC, Hebburn; Revd Helen Drummond

## *24 November:*

St Andrew's LEP (Methodist/URC), Benton; Revd Gavin Hume (Methodist);

The Church of the Good Shepherd LEP (Anglican/Methodist/URC), Battle Hill;

Revd Julie Mooney (Anglican)

## **Synod Report**

Northern Synod met on Saturday, October 5th at Wooler URC, one of our most northerly churches. It is so northerly that I was the only representative from the East Cleveland Group to make it. It suddenly occurred to me during this week that, this being the case, it would fall to me to prepare the report.

With such a long drive, I drove up on Friday evening and stayed overnight at a cosy B&B. I wasn't the only one to travel from the south, Rev. Stephen Collinson drove from Richmond and a member from Zion URC, Northallerton was also there. They had an early start on the Saturday morning but made better time than I had the night before, delayed as I was by rush hour traffic and a diversion due to an accident.

The news following opening worship included a new Synod Safeguarding Advisor, Matt Knowles. He is a retired police officer and will be shared with another northerly Synod. I will be disseminating his contact details shortly but they are also on the Northern Synod website.

Zion URC at Northallerton have won awards for their Secret Garden from the R.H.S. as well as Yorkshire in Bloom.

We have a new Youth Work Advisor John Stephenson who was commissioned at Synod. If you know of any young people who need support and encouragement he is keen to help.

The main emphasis of Synod this meeting was “How can we help?” There was a quiz to see if we could identify which members of Synod could be best suited to help us with various dilemmas and situations. I didn’t do too badly. There are a whole host of people just there to help churches to fulfil their mission and to provide appropriate advice and training. We just need to ask.

We had a very interesting talk from David Salisbury about Stepwise, which replaces Training for Learning and Service, but is very different in many ways. The first step Faith-filled Life is up and running and more steps are in development. The courses are mainly online, with group sessions meeting to discuss topics, and each learner having a mentor to help them. This keeps costs down but grants are available. If you are interested or want to know more just ask.

Did you know we have a Green Apostle at Northern Synod? Rev. Trevor Jamieson occupies that role and is happy to advise any church on all matters green or ecological. It is possible to register with an organisation called A Rocha in order to work towards becoming an Eco Church. It is also possible for a Synod to sign up to become an Eco Synod and Northern Synod brought a resolution to register for this which was carried unanimously. One of the requirements of working towards becoming an Eco Synod will be to encourage churches to sign up to work towards becoming Eco Churches so do give it some thought. We are all stewards tasked with caring for God’s earth and we all have a part to play.

We heard some joyful news from overseas, especially the growth of churches in Uganda and Mozambique. We heard about problems overseas from our Commitment for Life enthusiast Chris Eddowes who wants us to commit to campaigning as well as donating money.

The northerly Synods are continuing to work together to make sure they are not reinventing the wheel and so that they can take advantage of any expertise in one Synod for the benefit of the others. The Synod Trust are pleased with the state of funds such that they are not going to raise a Synod levy for this year. Their investors have divested funds from companies who deal in fossil fuels.

The overall message from this Synod meeting was if your church is struggling please ask for help. If you're not sure who to ask then ask anyway, someone will know the right person to help. There was a warm welcome from Wooler URC which included the usual opening refreshments, soup and home baking for lunch in the Glendale Hall. We also got a chance to admire their newly built Warm Hub, with new kitchen, toilets and cafe area at the back of the church and, facing a long drive home, I was very glad of more refreshments to speed me on my way.

*Donna Moore*

# Guisborough

## Guisborough Calendar

### 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

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
3rd Nov	M Houston	J Reynolds	M Ward	J Reynolds
10th Nov	M Burrows		P Etwell	M Houston
17th Nov	B Ward		R Tunnicliffe	J Basham
24th Nov	J Basham		The children	The Ladies
1st Dec		Group Service at Redcar URC at 11.00am		

# St Andrew's

## Latest News from Rosemary

After being diagnosed with needing cataract surgery on her left eye and paying for it, there was delay as the lens ordered from abroad had not arrived. (In this country we do not fully appreciate our blessing do we?) The operation is now over however, and Rosemary is adapting to the familiar routine of regular eye drops. Her doctor has identified an enlarged goitre which is not at present affecting the thyroid, so we have to be thankful for that.

As always, she sends love and greetings to all. Y brothers and sisters at St Andrew's, and thankfulness for your support.

*Sep/Oct 2019 - Shirley Moore*

## Annual Bazaar

Annual Bazaar is to be held on Saturday 16th November at 11.30a.m. Stalls to include bric-a-brac, cake, raffle, tombola etc.plus teas, coffees and homemade soup. We are needing volunteers to help plus donations to make this event successful. Please let Sheila, Doreen, Eleanor or Joan Swan know if you will be willing to do this. Proceeds are in aid of church funds.

## Shoe Boxes

We are now busy filling shoe boxes which have to be sent to the collection point by November 10th.

Anyone wishing to donate items or fill a shoe box please see Shona, Eleanor or Joan Swan.

## Diary Date

Christmas Social is to be held on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm. Coffee, mince pies and raffle. Donations for Christian Aid.

## Coffee for Charity

22nd Sept	Shoe Box Appeal	£20.35
29th Sept	Rosemary Fund	£13.33
4th Oct	Shoe Box Appeal	£29.40
13th Oct	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£41.00

# St Andrew's Calendar

## Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

# Redcar

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone for their support for my above coffee morning on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The final total raised was £170.

*June Haverson*

### Duty Rota

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Door</b>
Nov 03	June	Brenda
Nov 10	Elaine	Brian
Nov 17	Cath	Brian
Nov 24	Cath	Brian
Dec 01	June	Brenda

### Nearly Christmas Bazaar

It's that time of year again. Redcar's Nearly Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 from 11 am to 2pm  
Cake Stall, Tombola and Raffle  
Craft Stalls manned by local people  
Homemade Soup and Bun £2.50

## Redcar Calendar

### Weekly

Thursday

9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30 Pop in Centre

# *Preachers*

<b>Marion</b>	<b>Guisborough</b>	<b>Redcar</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
3-Nov Jan Harper	Rev Norma Johnson	Rev Jane Rowell Communion
10-Nov Revs K & M Harris Parade	Donna Moore Communion	Rev Jane Rowell
17-Nov Rev Ken Harris	Guis Folk	Brian Stephenson Meeting
24-Nov Jan Harper Church Meeting	Rev Ken Harris	Rev Julie Martin
1 Dec	<b>Group Advent Service - Rev Meg Robb</b> 11.00am Redcar URC	

Material for the December/January Magazine to church editors by  
Sunday 10th November please

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