



# Group News

## Minister

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[www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk)

Part of the URC Northern Synod – [www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk](http://www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk)

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Dear Friends,

Of the various sports on offer I think that wrestling is my least favourite. I certainly wouldn't want to participate and it isn't a sport I'd choose to watch. But I do often find myself wrestling, not physically but within myself, and often the struggle is with God.

When Jacob, aware that he needed to be reconciled to his brother, Esau, whom he had tricked out of his inheritance, he set off to meet him. God had already revealed himself to Jacob through his dream in which a ladder spanned heaven and earth and now he recognised the need for something more. He had deceived his brother out of their father's blessing as well as the inheritance and he seemed to recognise that his father's blessing was not sufficient. And so he deliberately stayed alone one night on one side of the Jabbok River after his companions had crossed over with his possessions. This is where he wrestled with God and it is depicted as a physical battle whereas I would describe my struggles with God as wrestling with my innermost thoughts and feelings to bring them in line with God's thoughts and feelings. I guess it was really more like this for Jacob, too.

And what can we learn about Jacob's struggle, his wrestling with God? Well a re-reading of the story in Genesis 32, verses 22-32, will show how he refused to let go... until he received the Lord's blessing. I have to admit that I think I sometimes give up before I receive that blessing but, as God's children, we should never give up and we should struggle on, not only in our thoughts but also in our prayers until God bestows his blessing.

As I look out nature itself in these early autumnal days seems to be struggling just now and eventually will allow God's blessing to bring about a death in order for the blessing of new life to return next Spring. It is so with our lives and also with the Church. Jacob had to leave behind his old ways which were selfish and deceitful. Jacob means 'one who deceives' and his new name, Israel, given during his struggle, means 'he struggles with God'. Israel became not only Jacob's new name but the name of a nation, the name of God's people. And as God's people we, too, need to wrestle hard with God in prayer and we may need to let go of some of our traditions and let them die in order to find new ways which will bring new life into the Church. So let us wrestle in prayer and not let go until God blesses his Church in new and fruitful ways.

Blessings,

Meg

# Synod Prayers

## South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA) – Methodist/URC.

*Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> October*

Trinity Church, Ashington LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership - Methodist/URC);  
St. Mark's, Newbiggin LEP (Methodist/U.R.C.); Rev Barry Welch

*Week Beginning 9<sup>th</sup> October*

Trinity Church, Bedlington LEP (Methodist/URC); Rev Heegon Moon (Methodist);  
Blyth URC; Rev Yvonne Tracey

*Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> October*

Christ Church, North Broomhill LEP (Methodist/URC);  
Seaton Delaval LEP (Methodist/URC); Rev Malcolm Sellars (Methodist)  
St George's URC, Morpeth; Widdrington URC; Rev Ron Forster

*Week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> October*

The Synod Trust; The Synod Treasurer, Mr Danny Pigeon;  
Synod Health and Healing Advisor, Rev Liz Blair

*Week Beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October*

Mark Bonnington and Brian Howell, Independent Churches  
Rt Revd Terry Draney, RC Bishop of Middlesbrough  
Rt Revd Justin Welby, Anglican Bishop of Durham

## The August Riots

After these, it seemed to me that our moral compass had been dislodged, and that we had been set adrift. When did these faults first begin? Perhaps as long ago as the 1960's. Yet one of the saddest scenes became one of forgiveness and of hope.

Some of you will realise that I'm referring to the helping to his feet of the twenty year old Malaysian student Ashrof Rossil. He had just had his bicycle forcibly taken and had sustained a broken jaw. Then a second youth had helped him to his feet, only to have a third one rob him of the contents of his haversack, with the unwanted article being thrown away as that youth too made off; leaving the injured young man waiting for real help and hospital treatment.

So it was the story of the 'Good Samaritan' turned back to front as an apparent caring action turned into further violence and thieving.

If the young man was helped up just to make it easier for him to be robbed before being aban-

## Manse Prayers

Manse Prayers are held every Tuesday at 8.45am and everyone is welcome to attend.

4<sup>th</sup> October Marton

11<sup>th</sup> October Guisborough

18<sup>th</sup> October Marton

25<sup>th</sup> October Guisborough

1<sup>st</sup> November Lingdale

Guisborough: 31 Oakley Close

Marton: 10 Farington Drive

Lingdale: 2 Stanghow Road

done, then the episode reminds us of the hypocrisy and lies of the 'Tempter' in the Creation Story of Genesis Chapter Three.

Yet the young man overcame all the evil done to him by his willingness to forgive, and to stick to his plan to study and to live in our country.

So his actions support the law abiding majority and are an example and a challenge for us to live up to.

*John Crowther*

# Guisborough

## Bicentenary Celebrations

**Saturday 29th October**

**10.00 – 4.30pm**  
**Historical display in the church**

**11.00am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm**  
**Occasional One Act Play**  
**“Before the Big Day”**

**7.30pm - 11.00pm**  
**Anniversary Ceilidh in Parish Hall**

**Sunday 30th October**

**10.30am**  
**Anniversary Service**  
**Rev Rowena Francis**

**Monday 31st October**

**10.00am - 4.30pm**  
**Historical display in the church**

**12noon**  
**Prayers on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The chapel opened on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1811.

## Guisborough Calendar

Sat	1 Oct	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – Methodist Church, Westgate.
Sat	8 Oct	10 – 12 noon	Farmers’ Market – Church Open Day.
Sun	16 Oct	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro’ Churches JC’s joining together in the Methodist Church.
Tue	18 Oct	2.30pm	A service of worship in the Belmont Care Home, Rectory Lane. All friends are welcome to join with residents in this time of prayer and praise
		7.15pm	Elders Meeting.
Sat	29 Oct	10am – 4.30pm	Historical display in the church and the Occasional One Act Play: Please come and join the celebrations.
		7.30pm – 11pm	Anniversary Ceilidh in the Parish Hall, Bowe Street. For tickets contact: Tom Cross on 01287 654688.
Sun	30 Oct	10.30am	Guisborough Church 200 <sup>th</sup> , Anniversary – an Ecumenical Service
Mon	31 Oct	10am – 4.30pm	Historical display in the church on the anniversary date. Prayers at noon on the 200 <sup>th</sup> , anniversary.

### Weekly

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

## A Reflection 1

Life has been extremely busy in the last four weeks. I have been trying to catch up with all the jobs I had been putting off because of TLS. I haven't finished yet and now it is time to start studying again. Work has also been very busy and I have had my annual appraisal, a chance to look back at the year and review what I have learned and how I have changed my practice. A bit like a church meeting when we look back at what has been achieved but also seek God's guidance for the future.

As soon as appraisal was over it was time to pack for a trip to Prague. The whole family were there for the weekend to celebrate my parents Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was wonderful to spend some time together and to meet my youngest brother's new wife. It was a time to look back and take stock as the last time the whole family were together was at my parents Ruby Wedding Anniversary 10 years previously. Prague is as beautiful as everyone says and full of churches. We had heard horror stories about the trams but my parents always found a seat, often cheerfully vacated by youngsters when the trams were full.

On my return I allowed myself a few extra

days holiday to relax before the first TLS Gateways into Worship weekend. It was a good chance to catch up with friends and especially attend the Quiet Time at Guisborough as I normally work on that day. Over the next months I won't be around very much at Guisborough or in the group as my attachment commences at Hartlepool. I will need to find someone else to do the Group News but I will try to drop them a line or two to let you all know how I am getting on.

In all this busyness I really value the walking group. There were only a few of us in September but we had a lovely walk around Loftus, full of history and interest and we were richly entertained afterwards with tea and scones. After that my husband and I went to view some kittens. After our recent losses, at a grand old age, of two cats we feel ready to expand our family. After the next walk we will collect two small bundles of fur, one grey and white and one black, both born to "teen" mums on the street who were not looked after properly. Their little ones will have a better life and will give us some light relief from our demanding jobs and my studies.

This weekend I was really impressed and humbled by the skills and experience of my fellow students on TLS. One of them is familiar to some of you and I recognised Christopher Wheeler as soon as I saw him. He is in fine voice and seems happy in his new job. We hope to use his musical talents in our weekend worship and his youthful enthusiasm and fresh ideas are a real tonic.

As I take a sabbatical I must say thank you for reading these ramblings and for the positive feedback I have received. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Guisborough Bicentenary celebrations, the last weekend in October. You didn't think I'd miss that, did you? Until then may God bless you richly and keep you in his care.

*Donna Moore*

*I had no letter from Guisborough so I yelled help. One appeared and then a second - they look very different so just enjoy.*

*Editor*



### Guisborough Choral Society

**Dvorak**  
**Stabat Mater**  
in  
**St. Nicholas Parish Church, Guisborough**  
Conductor: Michael Summers

**Soloists**  
Soprano: Wendy Goodson  
Contralto: Janet Walke  
Tenor: Michael Bradley  
Bass: Jon Openshaw

**Orchestra**  
Kildale Quartet and Guests

**7.30 p.m. Saturday, October 15th, 2011**

**Tickets from**  
Greensleeves Music Shop  
The Guisborough Bookshop  
*[both in Chaloner Street]*  
[www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)  
Also from choir members and at the door

**Tickets**  
£10: £8 [Concessions]; £1 [under 19 years]

Further information available from 01287 280757




Registered Charity No.: 508845

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
2nd Oct	M Houston	M Burrows	D Houston	S Verrill
9th Oct	D Beattie		R Tunnicliffe	D Collins
16th Oct	D Cross		J Bulmer	R Tunnicliffe
23rd Oct	R Tunnicliffe		B Ward	H Burrows
30th Oct	M Burrows		D Beattie	D Harris

## A Reflection 2

I realised today just how important communication is. There was an e-mail from Roger Wheeler reminding us that Guisborough's contribution to the Newsletter is overdue. Ouch! Having been away with our caravan in Scotland with no internet connection and then further delayed by high winds (don't ask!) this is going to be a fairly rushed affair. Worse still we've been away so long I don't know what you have all been up to. So what follows can only be some personal reflections.

Well where to start? The weather has not been wonderful this summer. But it depends on how you look at it. Ruth our Austrian friend looking at the mist swirling round the mountain top said 'If it didn't rain so much this wouldn't be the beautiful green country it is.' She seldom goes away on holiday 'After all if you live in paradise surrounded by your friends and your memories, why should you want to?' Its a wonderful gift to be able to recognise God in the things around you. And to accept that you can't cherry pick which gifts you want (green meadows and sunshine) and which you don't (wind and rain).

I think that's the key to understanding and accepting some of the difficult things in life.

This year I have lost two good friends and was relieved when we got back to find several others still with us. Why does God let people die – especially good people and people we love? I read somewhere that if nobody ever died then nobody would ever need to be born. We would miss out on all the joys (and disasters) of children and grandparents. Nothing would ever change. That would be fine if things were perfect now. But we know the world isn't like that. At least this way we have the chance to start over and hope that with God's help, our children will do better. But things are even better than that. The Church teaches that Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins and we will find the Gate of Heaven open for us when we get there..

And what do you know, the Sun has just come out! And suddenly its much easier to believe the Good News. And get on with enjoying the life we have been given - warts and all, as the man said!

God Bless!

*Maureen Houston*

# Linthorpe

## Edith Callaway (member of Linthorpe URC)

Although most of us associate Edith's early life with Scotland she was, in fact, born in Bristol, more than 97 years ago. She had a sister, Hilda, and two brothers, Gordon and Douglas both of whom died relatively early in life. But Edith and Hilda were soul mates eventually running a School of Dance together. Quite when the family moved to Hamilton isn't certain but it was in Hamilton that the School was born.

Edith herself performed on the stage and there are several photographs of her in her ballet dress and ballet shoes and she kept her both her dress and shoes lovingly over the years. Dancing was her livelihood. It provided for both Hilda and Edith and also gave great pleasure to their pupils, one of whom remembers some of those

days. Christine recalls how the School was very successful. Many children were guided through examinations in ballet, tap, modern stage, multi-national as well as Scottish Highland and Country dancing. The high-light of the year was when Edith and Hilda would plan, organise, choreograph and teach many dances to be presented in a concert in Hamilton Town Hall. The sisters also branched out and began a second school in East Kilbride. Children in both schools were not only taught the discipline of dance but also the discipline of correct behaviour. Hilda was firm in her no nonsense approach whilst Edith was always gentle in her manner. All the costumes for the shows were made by the sisters with the help of some mums, Christine's Mum being one of them.

For Edith dancing was a tremendous joy, one of her great loves but she had many other gifts. A very talented lady she was well known for her detailed and precise art and craft work. Her embroidery was exquisite as was her painting which latterly was on china which she often decorated with delicate flowers. She knitted and crocheted as well as being skilled in calligraphy and decoupage. A creative and artistic lady she taught many of her crafts in her home here in Middlesbrough.

It was when she and Hilda lived with their mother and a brother in a cottage in Hamilton that Christine's parents, Jim and Pearl, got to know them. They became very good friends and would often go on holiday together with Jim often saying that he was taking 'his three ladies' on holiday. And it was through this friendship that Edith ended up in Middlesbrough. When Jim's work brought him and his family to Middlesbrough, Edith and Hilda would often visit. It was hoped that when the sisters retired they would come to live in Middlesbrough but sadly Hilda died before their plans were realised and Edith came on her own.

It must have been a bitter blow for Edith to lose her sister who had been a constant companion throughout her life, but she soon found a circle of friends here. Jim and Pearl were always on hand from the start but as time went on she developed relationships with others through church and through her craft work. Ian and Janet were amongst her friends and she was delighted to baby-sit on occasions for this couple. She loved to read to their daughters, Eleanor and Julia. Edith loved children and, no doubt, took great delight in having Christine to stay with her and Hilda for while in Hamilton. This was when Christine needed a base near Glasgow whilst training hard with her ice skating. Christine enjoyed her stay with the sisters as I'm sure they both did too.

Edith liked to be smart and to ensure that her outfits co-ordinated well. Her skill as a seamstress helped here. And being petite and dainty she would often shop for clothes in the children's department, thus avoiding the V.A.T. Ever frugal if she needed to shorten a skirt or

dress she would use the excess material to make a belt or a scarf. Nothing was ever wasted and, like many of her generation, she was always careful with money and possessions. But Edith was also generous in many ways giving her friendship to many over the years. A couple with whom she was friendly are Paddy and Margaret who live in Cornwall. Often she would go and visit them. She enjoyed holidays and she and Hilda went abroad on some occasions.

As well as being a good friend Edith was also a good neighbour. And I'm sure she would want to thank Carol for her neighbourliness towards Edith. In fact Carol's involvement has been much more than that of a neighbour; in many ways it has been that of a daughter. And it says a great deal about Edith that Carol has counted it a privilege to be there and to help her in any way she could. And, of course, it needs to be noted that Edith was always there for Carol, too.

Edith's life had always been of good quality until fairly recently. But as freedom and independence slipped away from her she eventually found herself in nursing care in The Ascot. Here she had good care and was surrounded by familiar photographs and her treasured collection of dolls and teddies. She was a gentle, patient lady who never spoke ill of anyone. A quiet person yet with a sense of humour, she seemed at times to keep herself to herself. And yet in her own way she gave so much of herself to others during her long life. She gave of herself throughout her years to her family, especially her sister, to her pupils and to her many friends and neighbours. She was, even in her latter years, well known and held in high regard.

And, of course, she was a lady of faith, attending church regularly... until health and her age let her down. And wherever her home was, whether in Bristol or in Hamilton or here in Middlesbrough, she seemed to know that God was with her. And she often showed, through her own care and concern for others, God's love for all people.

And now we take comfort in the knowledge that Edith is at peace and at home with God in his care and keeping.

# St Andrew's

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Bill and Joan McKendrick** who celebrated their Golden Wedding on the 9th September.

We send them our very best wishes.

## Una and Joan's Coffee Morning

This will take place at 8 Towthorpe, Nunthorpe on Thursday 20th October 10.30am - 12noon.

Tickets £2.00 available from Una and Joan S. There will be a raffle and bring and buy stall.

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

## Shoe Box Appeal

Shona and the young people are once again organising this appeal at our church. Please support this very worthwhile charity with either shoe boxes, items to fill them (Shona has the list of what is acceptable and what is not) and/or money with which to send them to their destinations.

Thank you.

## Annual Bazaar

We will be grateful for donations for tombola, cake, raffle, holiday and bric a brac stalls for our annual Bazaar to be held on Sat. 19th Nov. 11.30a.m.-1.30p.m. Please see Una, Sheila, Doreen or Joan S. Thank you.

## Ladies Fellowship

The next meeting of the Ladies Fellowship will be on Wednesday 5th October at 7.30pm. All are welcome. The speaker for this meeting will be announced in the near future.

## Churches Together in Marton & Nunthorpe Prayer list

Week beginning:

2<sup>nd</sup> October: St. Cuthbert's Church of England  
9<sup>th</sup> October: St. Mary's Church of England  
16<sup>th</sup> October: Nunthorpe Methodist Church  
23<sup>rd</sup> October: St. Bernadette's R.C. Church  
30<sup>th</sup> October: Coulby Newham Baptist Church

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

## St Andrew's Calendar

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	10.00am	Harvest Festival Service
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.00pm	Prayer at 31 Roseberry Mews
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.00am	Parade Service and Boy's Brigade Founder's Day
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.30pm	Communion at Kirkley Lodge
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.30pm	Service at Elmridge
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.00pm	Knit 'n' Natter

### Weekly

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

# *Lingdale*

## Violet Bell

We note the death of Mrs Violet Bell, whose funeral was held at the end of August.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with her family at this sad time.

## Flower Rota

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Mr T Waller

9<sup>th</sup> October – Mrs J Scott

16<sup>th</sup> October – Mrs P Green

23<sup>rd</sup> October – Mr A Thompson

30<sup>th</sup> October – Mrs H Dunstan

## Lingdale Calendar

### Weekly

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month      5.00pm Craft Club followed by Worship at 6pm.(Except in August)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month      2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

# *Redcar*

## Redcar Calendar

### Weekly

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

## Commitment for Life

Commitment for Life envelopes supporting Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories will be available on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

# *Preachers*

	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct	30-Oct
Marton	9.30am Marton Folk Harvest	M Robb Parade	tba	tba	tba
Guisbo	9.30am M Robb Harvest	M Robb	Guiz Folk	M Robb	R Francis 10.30 Bicentenary
Redcar	11.00am M Robb Communion	tba	J Harper	M Robb	M Robb
Lingdale	6.00pm tba	M Robb Communion	tba Craft & Family	M Robb	tba

Material for the November Magazine to church editors by Sunday 16th October please

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