

Group News



** October * 2012 * October **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Ministers

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Dear Friends,

Have any of you wondered about God's leading? I'm sure that Moses and the Israelites often wondered when they were led out of captivity only to find themselves wandering in the desert for forty years. In fact they did question God on more than one occasion. What were they doing in the desert with no water and little food when they had more back in their days of slavery in Egypt?!? Moses alone had some idea that in the desert, although it was difficult terrain and led to a harsh existence, it was very much a place where God had led them. And in leading them into the mountainous area that Moses knew so well God was leading them into a place of protection from the Egyptians and also into a time of preparation. It wasn't what they were used to but God used their experience to strengthen them ready for what he had planned for their future. And, of course, they were very resistant to what God so often put before them.

It has seemed a little like this in my own life as I wondered about God's timing in my own recent sense of call. As with the Israelites of old I sometimes need to be led round in what may seem like circles until I finally see what God has really been saying. And, yes, it is right that I move because of the deployment issue but I have had the slow dawning that, actually, irrespective of that issue, it is time for me to move on. And one or two of you saw that long before I did!!! Had I heard that as a loud and clear message from God then I'm sure I would have resisted and pushed it aside thinking I knew better!!! We rarely do receive messages from God with absolute clarity probably because if we did we would be resistant. More often it is the other way round and we send our plans to God and wonder why he hasn't answered!!! How often have you looked back in your lives and been glad that God didn't lead you the way you wanted... because actually he showed you a better way. Often our plans are for ease and comfort but God's plans lead us into learning and growth. And we can embrace his plans as the brink of

adventures or resist them and so miss the growth and maturity which they will ultimately bring.

As you move into a new phase then do so viewing it at the start of an adventure, which may lead you through hard times but which can also bring the fruitfulness that the Kingdom so needs in these days. My hope and prayer for you all is that you will each grow and find that God has plans for you as individuals and as churches. And I hope and pray that you will each realise the potential God has placed within you as you follow his leading... even if you don't understand yet the clarity of his leading.

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah, chapter 29, verses 11

Blessings,

Meg

Statement from Meg for 22nd July, 2012

As a result of church meetings held last Sunday in the United Reformed Churches of Jesmond, Robert Stewart Memorial and West End, I have received and accepted a call from them. This means I will be moving, probably towards the end of the year, to Newcastle.

The decision has not been an easy to make and began last autumn with the thought that the moving on of one of the ministers serving in the East Cleveland Group would give the opportunity for people in the Teesdale Group to call a minister when Rev Colin Offor retires in January 2015. Should Catey and I both remain until then one of us, most likely me, would be deployed across the river thus serving in churches that had not issued me with a call and congregations having a minister they had not called. I am also aware that due to being 60 later this year that I will need to move now if I am to have another ministry before retirement.

In many ways this will bring about a time of transition for the churches of the East Cleveland Group. It brings closer the challenge of setting up a team of lay folk to work alongside ordained ministers and this Group is blessed with retired ministers who are still active and some very able and gifted lay people. I have asked two retired ministers from outside the Group, Ruth Crofton and John Durell, to do some elders' training in the early autumn to help elders within the Group to exercise the ministry of eldership in good and efficient ways as they will need to take on more of a leadership role. Rev Colin Offor is also exploring the strong possibility of running some TLS Lite courses which would help people from across our Mission Partnership to discover and develop their own gifts. So this could be an exciting even if challenging time and now is the time for people to seek God in prayer and discover what it is that you are being asked to do. And I ask that each one of you will pray not just about your own role but also for the future of the churches in this Group.

In many ways I know it will be difficult to leave you all but God has called me on and like you I too must enter into a time of transition. I also ask for your prayers for my own move and pray God's blessing on you as, hopefully, you discover depths within your-

Manse Prayers

Tuesday 2 nd October:	Lingdale	selves that perhaps
Tuesday, 9 th October:	Marton	you didn't know
Tuesday 16 th October,	Guisborough	existed. I hope and
Tuesday, 23 rd October:	Lingdale	pray that you will
Tuesday, 30 th October:	Guisborough	allow God to fulfil
Tuesday, 6 th November:	Lingdale	the potential he has
		placed within you
		for the sake of his
		Kingdom.

Meg Robb

Ancient:

To err is human, to persist in error is devilish.

Augustine of Hippo circa 400 AD

Synod Prayers

Prayers for County Durham Mission Partnership

Week beginning 7th October:

St George's URC, Hartlepool; Rev Val Towler; Waddington Street URC, Durham; Rev Stephen Orange

Week beginning 14th October:

St Andrew's URC, Blackhill; Bethel URC, Chester-le-Street; Christ Church URC, Stanley; Revs Elaine and Gordon Brown

Week beginning 21st October:

St Andrew's, Dawson Street, LEP (Meth/URC), Crook; Rev Andrew Robinson (Meth), Rev Ray Anglesea (URC); Oxclose LEP (Anglican Meth/URC), Washington; Rev Sheelagh White (Anglican)

Week beginning 28th October:

Lay preachers and worship leaders; Synod Lay preaching Commissioner, Mrs Jan Harper

From Xai Xai

Report from the Betlehema Parish (of which Rosa is the pastor) of Igreja Presbyteriana de Mocambique (IPM – Presbyterian Church of Mozambique)

Betlehema in Xai Xai is one of the new parishes in IPM and was established four years ago. It has three churches, one of which is in dispute with the Municipal Authorities over land rights; and because we do not have the funds to contest the authorities we are in danger of losing this church.

As well as the spiritual side of church life, this last year the parish began to construct a new main chapel at the heart of the parish to replace the current building which is degraded because it was poorly built. Currently, the construction work has stopped as we have run out of building materials and funds.

Many parishes in IPM struggle to meet their financial responsibilities. As well as our building project being on hold we, along with many other parishes are not always able to meet the target to pay our Pastor (Rosa) her monthly salary nor do we have sufficient funds to pay the levy required by the Presbytery and also the central IPM office. We cannot provide good housing and do not always meet the expenses incurred by our Pastor. She has to rely on the mini-bus service to travel to work. This mode of transport does not offer good conditions and taking into account the poor state of her health (Rosa suffers with a back problem) it is hard for her. We do not have the resources to employ someone from another parish to work directly with about 85 children in our Sunday School. We have no church office or computer and no e-mail address so we must rely upon the computer of our Betel Church (where Americo, Rosa's husband is pastor) and also on Rosa's e-mail address.

Despite these difficulties evangelisation is on track and we have received new members. Our worship

is a time of joy and conviviality through choral singing, dancing, and the bible message along with searching in prayer for reconciliation with God

The parish is grateful to the Northern Synod of the URC which provided for the trip for Pastor Rosa and for the hospitality which she received. We give thanks for the gifts she returned with. We received a wooden chalice with 'Bethlehem' engraved on it, and this will be used when we celebrate communion. Our ladies accepted with gratitude the black uniform stockings (there is a uniform within IPM), and also for the chocolates which we all enjoyed. We are happy to exchange news with you, hoping that our friendship with you, and the Northern Synod of the URC will grow.

Two Pastors, two parishes, two countries.

Greeting to all members and pastors of your churches and blessings in your work for the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Azelia Francisco Dava
(Secretary of the Betlehema Parish)*

Modern:

A good portion of the evils that afflict mankind is due to the erroneous belief that life can be made more secure by violence

Leo Tolstoy 19th - 20th Century

Guisborough

I have just had some good news. Those of you who have read my previous contributions to the newsletter over the last 3 years, will know I have just completed my TLS (training for learning and serving). I have been advised that I have passed the course and will be able to apply to become an accredited lay preacher.

Thank you for all your support and prayers over the last 3 years and the interest you have shown in my progress. My success belongs to all of you.

Our family gathering at Guisborough URC ebbs and flows as

some are unwell, some away on their travels and others occupied by family concerns. We miss Freda and Mike so much but our steps are too much for them now. The Thursday quiet time remains a good occasion to come together in prayer and the Wednesday prayer meeting too. We are an aging congregation but still we are welcoming new youngsters, brought along by our very own Pied Piper. We enjoy sharing with them, over coffee, the fun they have been having in Junior church.

We are all facing challenging times, in my case at work, as

Guisborough Calendar

Sun 14 Oct 6.15pm Churches Together Harvest Supper at Guisborough URC

Weekly

Thursdays 10.00am – 11.45am Market Day Coffee Morning

1st Thursday of the month Jumble Sale

Thursdays 11.30am Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken, Norma and others.

well as in the East Cleveland Group. It was good recently to go on retreat to Lindisfarne with Sandra and Diane for the Synod day on the theme “Dying to Live”. We enjoyed the beauty of the island and the glorious sunshine, the prayers and quiet times, the chat and the walking. Oh, and the cake and ice-cream! While I was there, I took some photos and wrote some meditations on the theme. This one was inspired by a strange sound carried by the wind that could be heard all over the island.

Seals

Listen to the mournful cry of the grey seal. In the daytime their moaning floats across the waters from their distant sandbank refuge. Their song is full of grief, a gentle, persistent sobbing. At night is a disturbing sound. As you walk across the uneven sward, towards St. Cuthbert’s Isle, there is a ghostly din, as if all the drowned fishermen and all the Viking murdered monks are coming back to haunt you. It is an evocative cry.

Yet, by day or by night, the song of the seals is just the sound of their conversation. As they sun themselves on their sandbank sanctuary or come ashore at night, they are full of life and living; jostling for position, finding each other in the dark or sharing information on the best feeding grounds. A song of dying to us is a song of life for the grey seal.

Living Lord, help us to understand how in dying we may live. Amen.

Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11 v25)

Donna Moore

Guisborough Choral Society

Conductor: Angela Bennett

present works by

Vivaldi [Gloria] Haydn [Te Deum]
Stanford [Three Motets] Zelenka [Magnificat]

St. Nicholas Parish Church, Guisborough

Soprano: Rowan Pierce
Alto: Lucy Appleyard
String Quartet: Innominata

7.30 p.m. Saturday, November 3rd 2012

Tickets from
Greensleeves Music Shop
The Guisborough Bookshop
(both in Chalmers Street)
www.wegottickets.com
Also from choir members and at the door

£10: £8 [Concessions]: £1 [under 18s]



Registered Charity No:
508845

For further information, please contact the Publicity Secretary on 01287 280757 or email publicity@stnicholas.org.uk

Chairman: Colin Vaux
Secretary: Jenny James



CONFERENCE
CHANGEMAKE
WILDERLAY MUSIC

Vision 4Life Revisited

The project “Catch the Vision” was introduced to the church at the 2007 General Assembly. It was an idea that grew from conversations between people from across the denomination who were inspired by exploring the Bible and prayer and sharing their faith with others. This led on to Vision 4Life, a national initiative of revival for our church. Now that we are approaching a year since the end of this three year experience, in hope for the future, we can perhaps ask: how it has influenced as individuals or as local fellowships? What difference has it made, and what do we really we think of the experience? Should we compare it to the fast receding memory of a past holiday, of which it is often said: been there, done it and got the T-shirt – or have we, in fact, “Caught the Vision?”

I found the four introductory sessions, led by Catey at Guisborough Church in June 2008, encouraging. Talking about our favourite Bible stories and examining the parable of the Good Samaritan, in some depth, gave me renewed confidence to explore further the many themes and spiritual truths within Gospels. And then seeing

prayer as an act of listening, rather than asking for help was a crucial reminder of the need to accept God’s grace and *his* answer to our needs. The meaning of evangelism was expressed through member’s speaking about those people who influenced them in their search for faith – and so from this emerged the importance of relationships with others as being crucial in the task of bringing a person to Christ. At the end session ‘Next Steps’ led us on, with a little uncertainty, to make the decision to sign up for ‘The Vision.’

For a ‘vision’ to be realised practicalities have to be recognised. So at the start of the Year of the Bible a pivotal decision was made not to use the church guide book, ‘*Celebrating the Feast.*’ - an approach that continued for the following years of the process. Instead, the format employed was the Monthly Book Club, where we examined a range of books of the Bible starting with the gospel of Mark – with this being allied to a specially arranged ‘Bring the Bible Alive Day’ at Billingham Church.

During the latter event I was taken by

Rotas	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
Oct 7th	Joint service	at Marton	11.00am	
Oct 14	D Beattie		R Tunncliffe	M Ward
Oct 21st	D Cross		J Bulmer	M Sollett
Oct 28th	R Tunncliffe		B Ward	D Harris
Nov 4th	M Burrows	J Basham	D Beattie	D Cross

the idea of bible memory – as expounded by the Rev David Whiting. Here it was illustrated how the concept of our memories of Bible stories as being a vital part of our faith – that is what we remember can determine the emphasis of our spiritual understanding. This begs the question of how important it is to know what the Bible actually says. And this was followed by the story of Isaac challenged by God to sacrifice his son – with the Rev. Ken Harris facing us with the prospect that God may ask us to take some very difficult decisions in life.

In the booklet ‘Transformed by the Bible,’ used for the 2008 introductory sessions, it says crucially that: *“The most important role for leaders is to give everyone the best chance to talk openly and honestly about their story and experience..... listening to each other, respecting each other’s views, encouraging everyone to speak and not letting anyone dominate.”* This is a worthy and essential objective in the process of finding a vision, and was a clear aim of those people leading events. However, as time passed, it seemed to me that, this essential ingredient faded and the leaders came to dominate. This in turn makes it so difficult to achieve our objective of a new vision. For as the saying goes: *I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.* And so perhaps we must do so much more.

When looking back on the Bible Year I remember an occasion when, as a supply teacher, I was in charge of a Religious Studies class in a Roman

Catholic school. In the pupils study guide there was short section on ‘*Other ways to find God.*’ This was a reference to churches of the reformed tradition. The text book writer observed that whereas it is claimed that we believe in the priesthood of all believers, with all having direct access to God, in practice the bible, as in our church (R.C) is interpreted by clerics. I found this comment to be a salutary experience – for it is in essence true so taking this into account, I thought do we have that direct access? This for me was an incentive to realise that an understanding of God’s word is very much personal relationship with scripture – my understanding. As part of my teacher training I studied philosophy and struggled to understand what the text books said about Plato. So as a last resort I went to the original: Plato and suddenly I understood. Perhaps, we should approach the Bible like that. Sit down and read the Gospels straight though like novel or a newspaper – and we may be surprised at what we find and understand.

The Year of Prayer was done as a series of prayer meetings and a Prayer Day at Darlington under the leadership of Lawrence Moore, Director of the Windermere Centre. The *Praying our Days* guide booklet says in ‘*Ways in to prayer: In prayer we try to draw closer to God..... Praying in this way is about recognising how God is with us all the way on life’s journey. It’s also about tuning into the ways in which God communicates with us and listening for God’s guidance.*’ When Meg a Book Club Sunday on prayer

this was a clear objective, with the subject divided into two parts: the relationship with God and the relationship with others. This began with the idea of prayer being where God answers our prayers with what we need rather than what we ask for or want. This concept has been so well illustrated by one of Oscar Wild's more celebrated epigrams: *There is only one thing worse in life than not getting what you want and that is - getting it.* For our relationship with others we come to prayers of forgiveness which can be so difficult – but essential for day to day living. An example from Meg being of the woman who eventually forgave the German prison camp guard who caused the death of her sister. And so a good start to the year.

The prayer meetings covered a range of subjects from individuals, concerns of society and the world at large, and in our bicentenary, for the faith and memory of our forbears in the church. A high point for me was the meeting where most of the time was spent in silence as we listened for God to speak to us. Afterwards the difficulty of the natural distractions of the mind were raised as a concern for the effectiveness of this time of reflection – such a natural problem - but worth the risk.

During the course of the year a prayer request board and prayer request book were instituted. The board, being located in the church hall, is available to the public during the Thursday Coffee Mornings and in the book prayers offered to God are recorded. So we are able to involve the public in our prayers – and on reflection we may even

be able to note in the book when prayers are answered.

The meetings of the Year of Prayer have been continued in 2012, for it is through prayer that we will find answers to our hopes and dreams and an effective source of inspiration for future mission. By praying together we can find mutual support. It should be important for use to find a sense of direction in our prayer – and then perhaps we need to reflect on past prayers. Have they been answered by God? This may not be in the way we expect – but give answers to our needs rather than desires. Only through sincere prayer is the way forward for us as we seek to strengthen our faith.

By a strange coincidence the Year of Evangelism was the same as the bicentenary of the opening of our chapel. It is such an appropriated connection, because our church fellowship emerged from the efforts of the evangelist, William Norris, sent from London to the Cleveland, in 1796, to establish new dissenting congregations in our area. So here was an opportunity to restore that past tradition.

The year was centred around the Day on Evangelism at St Andrew's URC, Marton, led by Rev Paul Stokes, 'Back to Church Sunday' held in September and also meetings about the ideas emerging from the concept of 'Fresh Expressions' of Church

Four issues emerged, for me, from the "Learning to Tell Your Stories Day": having to describe who influence me most in faith; talking to each other about faith; the concept of a 'time for

change in the church and having a mission purpose. Paul Stokes based his presentation on the work of the Philip, the evangelist, taking his story in the New Testament to develop themes, ideas and truths related to modern experience. Most telling of all was the role play where people were to imagine they were ending a train journey in four minutes and, in that time, had to explain our faith, to a fellow passenger in a persuasive way. This experience faced us with the question of the reality of what faith in Christ meant to us - and whether we are able convey this experience meaningfully to others. So stumbling though this exercise I came to realize, very clearly, that evangelism starts within you. When we come to such events we expect to ask the question: why are people not with us in faith and what can we do about it? Perhaps we should start a different point with the question: why am I here? Answer that and then the question about others becomes so much easier. Philip, the Evangelist, was able to respond to the needs of the Ethiopian official as he struggled to understand a biblical text. It immediately became a relationship of trust between one person and another. This, at the simplest level, is how evangelism must often work – by a series of relationships with people in the community.

With Back to Church Sunday, there was an opportunity to develop this idea. We took part in this annual event, which has been growing nation wide for over six years or more. It was agreed at relatively short notice, with

two people responding on the day and will help this year with, hopefully, great success. It is good to note that the national church has decided to sign up for it this year in September – but strangely not in the Year of Evangelism.

Following an exploratory meeting in October of last year a series of five meetings were held to read the book “*Changing World Changing Church*” and develop ideas on how we can go out into the community to where people are, rather than expect them to come to us. The monthly services held by us at the Belmont care Home are an example of this type of approach – something that needs to be extended. In fact it is not a new idea for during the reformers revival of the 18th, century, people like John Wesley and others held meetings for people in town squares and fields away from the hierarchical structures of Church of England worship which seemed to exist for the purpose of maintaining the old class divisions, through various ways such as pews rents and other means. We don’t have such situations today but for many people, who have had little or no contact with the church, attendance at service can be a most formidable prospect – and so this can be a crucial way to bring people to faith. It is a form of evangelism that needs further exploration in order to develop further practical activities to engage with the community.

Looking back now it seems to me that the Vision 4Life experience pointed towards two essential factors in adapting our faith in to present an effective

voice in modern society: the ability to cope with change - and having a clear mission purpose. Both of those issues were raised during the Day on Evangelism – but at that point no specific answers emerged from the discussions.

The ‘ability to cope with change’ asks a simple question: are we, as a church, so set in our ways that we regard all change as a threat, or is there a willingness to trust God and take risks? The exercise of attempting to persuade someone about faith in four minutes indicated the vital importance for us to be confident in our beliefs. The Rev Michael Green in this book: ‘Hidden Dynamite’ suggests that we should be able to talk to each other about faith. Specifically, he suggests that there should be: *“Structures to enable members to share their lives.....there need to be some structures(groups etc.) which make it easy for members to speak about what God is doing in their lives, to share their news, pray together and encourage each other. Once they are comfortable doing this with one another, the confidence of the church grows and it is a comparatively small set to go on to approach those who are not yet Christian.”* For me this could be a good starting point to take us forward with some confidence.

And so with such a solid foundation of confidence in faith we can then move onto that second essential factor: having a ‘mission purpose.’ That purpose will come to us from the teachings of Christ. Then we will have that ‘Good News’ worth telling to others, or in

other words offering people something they cannot get anywhere else. Such a concept cannot exist on its own but only through action in the field.

The other ‘good news’ is that, in the essentially materialist and self interested world of the 21st, century there still remains a yearning, a desire for meaningful spiritual values. Recent commentators have spoken about ‘the return of morality.’ This has been demonstrated by public figures complaining about such things as: it was morally wrong to pay tradesmen in cash to avoid tax. Then again we have the political activist, Peter Tatchell, claiming that the International Olympic Committee had “abdicated its moral responsibility” by not agreeing to a minutes silence for the 40th, Anniversary of the murders of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. And also there is Cardinal Keith O’Brian saying it was “not moral” to ignore the victims of recent financial disasters “while the rich can go sailing on in their own sweet way”. What seems to have changed is that it is now being acknowledged, in society at large, that we can’t function without values.

Jesus provides us with such good values – Christian values that can be recognised by others in the community - but only if we can take up the challenge. The Five Marks of Mission and the Ten Statements of the Vision 2020 provide a frame work, which ties in as a life with a mission. There they are: to proclaim the Good News; to teach; to respond the need; to transform unjust society; to safeguard creation. There is the answer to that desire for a

return to morality: all there in five simple ideas – five ideas for us to expound in practical ways and always with Christ as our guide and support.

This task is difficult and daunting, but no more perhaps than in an earlier age like when St Paulinus worked to convert the northern English King Edwin and this people in the 7th, century –one man amongst many unbelievers. But one of the King’s lords was converted and in a simple speech convinced all others saying: “Your Majesty, when we compare the present life of man with that time of which we have no knowledge, it seems to me like the swift flight of a lone sparrow through the banqueting hall where you sit in the winter months to dine with your thanes and councillors. Inside there is a comforting fire to warm the room;

outside the wintery storms of snow and rain are raging. This sparrow flies in swiftly through one door of the hall, and out through another. While he is inside, he is safe from the winter storms; but after a few moments of comfort, he vanishes from sight into the darkness whence he came. Similarly, man appears on earth for a little while, but we know nothing of what went on before this life, and what follows. Therefore if this new teaching can reveal any more certain knowledge, it seems only right that we should follow it.”

How true. And so through Vision 4Life there can be no limit to the width or strength of vision to which we all can aspire.

Ray Tunnicliffe, Guisborough

Redcar

Happy Birthday

Although belated we send our very best wishes to Audrey Smith who celebrated her 90th birthday in September.

Commitment for Life

Envelopes for Commitment for Life to support the Palestinian Territories will be available on 14th and 21st October, 2012

Tops to Chairs

Thank you for continuing to save green milk bottle tops to provide wheelchairs. Thanks to your response one wheel chair has already been provided. Do please continue.

Saturday 10th November

Exhibition of Nativity Scenes around the World

In conjunction with Redcar Christmas Fair there will be a display of nativity sets. for donations of food items to be made into a food hamper – thank you

If you have a nativity you would be willing to loan us for the day, please contact: Norma Johnson 01642 481423

We would also be grateful for any donations of cakes, raffle prizes and Christmas crafts. Norma Creek will place a box

Christian Aid's Tax Bus
October 8th from 6.00pm
St Peter's Church Redcar

Come to find out more about this vital campaign and how you can play your part!

Redcar Calendar

Tue	2 nd Oct	1.00pm	Craft and Chatter in the Church
Sat	6 th Oct		Rev Megs 60 th birthday celebrations at St Andrew's, Marton
			The White Rose Concert in aid of the Bible Society
Sun	7 th Oct	11.00am	URC 40 th Anniversary Group service at St Andrew's, Marton
Sat	13 th Oct		Catherine's Coffee Morning
			Visit to see '39 Steps' at Coatham, Memorial Hall
Sun	14 th Oct		Church meeting after worship

Weekly

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

'Timeout'

has now begun, for mums to have space to chat and their children to have a safe space to play. It meets every Wednesday from 9.30am-11.30am and the first week there was one mum and her son, and the second week 5 mums and 6 chil-

dren. Let us hope it continues to grow. More donations of toys would be appreciated, as well as volunteers to sit and chat with the mums or play with the children, and do messy crafts or sing songs. You will need to be CRB checked though, which shouldn't be a problem, and we can help you apply!

Weekly Prayer Pointers:

Week Beginning

1st October - Pray for everybody who has been working hard on improving the premises over the last year or so, through painting, sorting out cupboards, organising contractors for the new windows, and all the cleaning! We thank God for how far things have come and how much better things are looking now!

8th October - Pray for the Tax Bus arriving in Redcar today to spread the word about Christian Aid's Tax Campaign, and for the loop holes that allow rich multinational companies to avoid paying taxes due to poor countries to be closed to the benefit of all the citizens of those countries where this is happening.

15th October - Pray for all our friends at the Pop In, and for all the people who enter our premises during the week, that they might know of God's love for them.

22nd October - Pray for all the mums and their children now coming along to the new Timeout session, run by the church along with SODA (Survivors of Domestic Abuse), that they may find Timeout to be a safe space to chat and share as their children play.

29th October – Pray for our buildings to be used more and more by members of the local community, so that our church can become a community hub, and a truly welcoming place, where they can feel at home. And help us as we try to discern what we should be focussing on as we seek to serve the local community.

There's light at the end of the Tunnel

It was encouraging to read in the National Press in July about the junior school Birmingham where 90% of the children have Muslim parents.

The school is a Catholic one and it has a good relationship with parents, teachers and the clergy of both faiths.

So Prince Charles in my view was correct when he expressed a future wish to be known as 'Defender of the Faiths,' rather than that of one church or faith.

For apparently in the sixteenth century a pope gave Henry VIII that title 'Defender of the Faith because of his writings opposing the views of Martin Luther. But this was before Kung Henry was refused permission to divorce Katherine of Aragon which was one of the causes of the English Reformation.

So will amore inclusive view be seen as our coins continue to have the F.D. on them?

By the way we have three grandsons who attend a Methodist Junior School and in a different town one who attends a Catholic school named after St John Fisher, a martyr of Henry VIII's reign, when England became a Protestant country.

Again on the growth of unity between the denominations, this time during the Second World War.

Children from a Roman Catholic school had joined with the Society of Friends School at Great Ayton which was away from the bombing.

The Head welcomed them as he began the Assembly with a well known quote from a Shakespeare play. 'Friends, Romans, Countrymen!'

Lingdale

New Windows

The new windows have finally gone in and they look incredibly smart. Do come along and have a look and thank you for everyone's efforts in raising enough money in such a short space of time, to be able to replace all the windows and improve the look, the security, and the warmth of the church, as we now have double glazing! The Millennium Window looks particularly impressive as it now has a purpose built window into which all the pieces of the old window have fitted! A massive thank you to everyone!!

Community Café

Changes to the Community Café Times – From the beginning of October the Community Café will open at 10.30am to allow for a new weekly 'God's Space: Prayers for ourselves and for our community' which will be held at 10am each week.

Flower Rota

7 th October	Mrs P Griffiths
14 th October	Miss S Griffiths
21 st October	Mrs J Coulthard
28 th October	Mr B Dove
4 th November	Mr A Thompson

Lingdale Calendar

Tue 2nd Oct 7.00pm Book Club - New members welcome.
Wed 10th Oct Church Meeting, with Lingdale Project Support Group

Weekly

Tuesday 10.00am – 10.30am God Space
10.30am – 11.30am Community Café followed by
11.30am – 12noon Prayers for our Community
3rd Sunday of the month 5.30pm Family Service followed by a Youth Meeting at the Manse

FAF Club

The next FAF Club (Fun and Faith) will be held at the Lingdale Manse on Sunday 21 October at 6.30pm-8.30pm. All those who consider themselves to be young people welcome!

Harvest

Once again we are holding a village harvest service with the school and other organisations, please keep a look out for further information as to when this is going to be held, everybody welcome!

Weekly Prayer Pointers:

Week Beginning

1st October – Pray for the church elders who work tirelessly for the church, and for Susan as she begins her studies with the wider United Reformed Church to help her in her leadership skills and her service in our church.

8th October - Pray for all our friends coming along to the Community Café, and for more people to know that this is a place of fellowship and friendship, along with a good cup of coffee.

15th October - Pray for everybody who has been working so hard on fundraising for the new windows, for all the generous donations from people around the village and we give thanks to God that the new windows are now in and the building is looking so smart! We pray for the building to now be used so much more than before by village folk.

22nd October – Pray for Rev. Valerie Haynes, the Vicar of St Chad's here in Lingdale, St Aidan's in Boosbeck, and All Saints in Skelton, as she continues to slowly recover from her heart attack, and others known to us who are ill at this time.

29th October – Pray for all the new things that the church has begun to do, including the Book Club, the Knit and Natter, the community café and more. Pray for volunteers to come forward who would like to help the church do even more in the village, including something for the young people.

New Knit and natter!

Everyone interested in knitting (or sewing or painting etc) and nattering should come along to the church on Wednesday October 24th at 1.30pm to natter about setting up a Knit and Natter Group here in Lingdale. The day and time are negotiable and still to be decided for future meetings. Spread the word!

St Andrew's

Congratulations

Congratulations to Andrew and Vicky Wheeler on the birth of their new son, Ethan and to first time grandparents Roger and Eleanor.

We send our love to them and remember them in our prayers.

The Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship held their first meeting of the new session with a shared supper and activities. It was good to meet up once again.

Our next meeting will be held at St Andrew's at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd October. Meg will be giving us a talk. All are welcome.

Well Done

Congratulations to the youngsters in the church who recently received their GCSE results. Well done Natalie, Leanne, Charlie, Jade and Oliver

Shoe Boxes

Shona and "helpers" are once again organising the Shoe Box Appeal.

She will gratefully receive empty shoe boxes and items to go in them. If anyone wishes to know more, Shona has leaflets which explains what is required.

It also takes £2.50 for each filled shoe box to reach its destination.

Shona

Annual Bazaar

This is to be held on Saturday 17th November 11.30am to 1.30pm. We will need items for raffle, tombola, bric a brac, cake stall and *helpers*. If anyone can be of any assistance will they please contact Una, Doreen, Sheila or Joan S.

Thank you.

Flower Arranging

We are holding a Flower Arranging Demonstration on Wednesday 7th November 2012 at 7.30pm. Tickets will cost £5.00 (available from Doreen, Una, Sheila and Joan S in the near future). There will be light refreshments and a raffle. We hope that everyone will come and support this event as the proceeds are going to Zoe's Place.

Coffee for Charity

19th Aug	Elmridge	£20.00
26th Aug	Elmridge	£20.00
2nd Sep	Kirkley Lodge	£15.30
9th Sep	Boy's Brigade	£15.50
16th Sep	Zoe's Place	£15.15

Thank you from Jan

I would like to say huge and grateful thanks for all of your good wishes, thoughts and prayers during my recent hospital adventure! Just knowing that people were praying for me and thinking positively for me made the whole experience so much easier.

I have to say that at no time did I feel scared or alone, - I always knew that our Lord walked alongside me, and whatever happened, I would have the strength and inner peace to be able to deal with it.

And the good news is that no further treatment will be needed apart from the regular check ups that are planned.

I am feeling very well, - really well, - and as my sister put it, 'in better shape than ever!'

So, thank you all once again, and I look forward to meeting you during my rounds as a lay preacher.

Blessings

Jan

Churches Together

Please pray for the following churches. During the week beginning:

7th Oct Nunthorpe Methodist
14th Oct St Bernadette's RC
21st Oct St Andrew's URC
28th Oct Marton Methodist
4th Nov St Cuthbert's C of E

Letter from Justin

Justin is 11 and lives in The Philippines. Linthorpe Church has sponsored him for some years and passed money to St Andrew's so that we could continue to do so. St Andrews members (including Audrey and Grant) have written regularly to him in the past year, through the charity Compassion which provides the translation. It has taken a while for the Charity to understand about Linthorpe's closure! This letter arrived in September.

Dear Linthorpe Church Members,

Hello everyone and how are you doing now? Thank you for all the letters that you have taken time to write to me. I really enjoy reading them. It's OK, sponsors, that your Church was closed. At least you

RNLI

Thanks have been received from the RNLI at Redcar for a donation of £25.00 towards their funds. The money is helping to support the new Atlantic 85 class boat, which is improving capability at the Redcar lifeboat station.

Gladys Williams

are given the opportunity to serve the Lord in your new church. Whatever is happening in my life I continue to serve the Lord and thank him for his many blessings.

I am not really living near the sea. Yes we have many beaches in our country but other people don't know how to take care of them. That's why it's not really beautiful. Thank you for congratulating me on my awards and thank you for your prayers for me.

It must be beautiful in your country because the leaves of the trees change colour. How I wish I could see that. How are you doing in St Andrews URC? I am praying that you will have good fellowship in your new church.

Thank you and God Bless you all,

Justin Barbaran

Traidcraft

The new Catalogue is now available. Please let me know if you would like to see one and pass it round your church.

Gifts, cards etc. can be ordered through me and there will not be any charge for postage and packing. If there is a gift item you would like please order it promptly as popular items may be quickly sold out. Traidcraft has to take a chance on deciding what will sell and cannot always

get more in time for Christmas as they work with small suppliers. Finally - please help! Do you or anyone you know drink Green Tea? I have six boxes (80 tea bags) which go out of date at 31 December and no buyer for them! The usual price is £2.20 but they are on offer at £1.50.

Many thanks.

Jane Tomlin (01642 592145)

St Andrew's Calendar

Thu 4th Oct 2.00pm Prayer Meeting, at 31 Roseberry Mews
Wed 10th Oct 2.00pm Memorial service at Kirkley Lodge
Wed 10th Oct 7.30pm Elders' Meeting
Sun 14th Oct 10.00am Harvest Parade,
Mon 15th Oct 2.30pm Worship at Elmridge
Wed 16th Oct 2.30pm Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge
Wed 23rd Oct 1-3pm Knit 'N' Natter,

Weekly

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

Preachers

	7-Oct				
Marton	10.00am				
Guisbo	9.30am				
Redcar	11.00am				
Lingdale	5.30pm				
	Group Service Marton 11.00am				
	14-Oct	21-Oct	28-Oct	4-Nov	
	M Robb Parade/Harvest	D Harris Communion	K Harris	Marton WT	
	C Morrison	C Morrison	L Bustard	J Harper Communion	
	N Johnson	C Morrison Baptism	N Johnson	C Morrison	
	C Morrison Communion	K Martin Family Service	K Harris	tba	

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