

Group News



** October * 2014 * October **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Minister

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Dear Friends,

As I write I am about to head off for a reading week and my first chance since last year's sabbatical to do some serious reading and to take my sabbatical studies further. But the location I have chosen to take stock and continue my research is the Catholic Retreat House on the Isle of Iona. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to head north in a few days for some time on this beautiful Scottish island, where I can combine the peace and quiet of the Catholic retreat centre with the joyful opportunity to share in worship twice a day at Iona Abbey. While it will be good to be back on the island, this will not be a real Iona Abbey experience for to stay at the Abbey itself is a wonderful experience which goes beyond the worship experienced there. To stay at the Abbey is to experience the living Christian community which forms at the Abbey each week, comprising of all those who like you are staying at the Abbey that week - volunteers and guests alike. As everyone arriving at the Abbey is told on arrival, "You arrive as strangers, you leave as family."

But how can this happen over the course of only six nights on the island, the usual length of stay at the Abbey? The answer is that community forms - a community which sets aside background, denomination and more; a community which worships, serves one another, takes part in simple daily chores, explores the bible together, prays together, and relaxes around the fire together in the evenings; and a community which, first and foremost, is the church of God, centred around its head, Jesus Christ.

It is a privilege to feel during those six nights on the island that we are part of something larger, that the church is larger than our own home church, that it is something which does indeed stretch right around the world, for there may well be those from other countries sharing your dinner table during your stay. It is a privilege to see worship led by those who cooked your dinner, or served you at the Abbey shop, for all Abbey volunteers take their turn to lead worship. This was a policy which grew from the very foundations of

the rebuilt Abbey in the time of George McLeod, when he saw that the stone masons, carpenters etc had much need for the worship of the Abbey. So he wanted everyone to be able to understand the worship at the Abbey without dumbing it down - a credible and accessible liturgy which lasts to this day. He also saw no reason why they shouldn't also therefore be able to lead it. So over all, it is a highly unusual set of experiences of the very fundamentals of life, which make a stay at Iona Abbey a tremendously special and worthwhile experience.

And now for the advertising. You will see later in this magazine mention of the trip that I will be leading to Iona next summer, but I want to encourage you here at the start of this magazine too. You don't have to be super fit to make a pilgrimage to Iona, just able to pootle about, or you can even take the minibus around the island if needed. You also don't have to be super rich, for there is always a bursary available for those on low income and discounts for young people. But you do have to be brave enough to step out into a different kind of church setting, one where everyone is equal, everyone is welcome, and everyone contributes as each serves each other. Do you fancy a different experience of the church, perhaps a wake up call to your faith? Then why not come with me next summer, but do book now or you won't get a place!! Come to think, to feel, to be at peace with yourself and with God, to experience sunsets, wind and rain. Don't we all need God's refreshment in our lives?

God bless! Rev Catey Morrison

Catey's 40th Birthday Bash

Catey is inviting everyone to come and share with her in celebrating her 40th Birthday on Saturday 1st November from 7pm at Redcar church. Catey has decided to put on a social evening with a Ceilidh. Please could everyone bring a small contribution to the food of your choice, but drinks will be available during the evening.

Synod Prayers

Synod asks that together we pray for:

5th October St George's, Hartlepool;
Church & Society Committee

12th October Synod Meeting this week; Moderator's Secretary Mrs Wendy Watson, Trust Officer Mr Andrew Atkinson, Finance Officer Mrs Helen Hogg, Ecumenical Officer Mr Andy Lie, Children's & Youth Pastor Mr Kevin Waller

19th October -Berwick; Crookham; Wooler; Chatton; Erskine & St Cuthbert's, Belford & North Sunderland;
Revd David Herbert; Revd Mary Taylor

26th October PCM (Mozambique): Churches of the Central Presbytery and the Presbytery of the North – large tracts of the country where Church and other resources are scarce;
hopes for good outcomes from elders' training;
Bishop of Whitby

Group Prayer Pointers

For the week beginning:

Monday 6th Pray for our Synod Moderator who is trying to lead our Synod through difficult times and be our advocate on the national stage. We pray for her family and for her personally in all the challenges which are facing her right now. We pray for her this week as she prepares to lead the Synod meeting on Saturday through the One Plus One discussions and more.

Monday 13th Pray for those all around the world at this time whose lives have been thrown into chaos by the unsettling events of this summer, with the rise of ISIS within Syria and Iraq, continuing conflicts in Palestine and Israel, Russia and Ukraine. Pray for those who are trying to meet their daily needs within these conflicts.

Monday 20th Pray for all those we meet in church and in our daily lives

whose stories are those of past hurt which they are still carrying with them, or present difficulties which threaten to overwhelm.

Monday 27th Pray for those in our churches faced with making decisions about the future for themselves or for family members. Pray for direction and for peace within the decisions that are made.

Iona Trip - 22nd to 28th August 2015

Catey will be again leading a trip to Iona next summer, staying at the Abbey itself in rooms of one to four people. Meals are mostly vegetarian, with much of the food being grown on the island. Guests help with daily housekeeping chores which helps engender a sense of community amongst everyone there that week. 'You arrive as strangers, you leave as family.'

There are opportunities to take part in bible study, singing, worship, walks around the island, a Ceilidh and more. This is an experience of a life-time, to experience the church in a different light where denominations, age, gender, ability are not important, but coming together in worship and fellowship, and practical caring for one another is!

People need to be mobile enough to manage the stairs in the Abbey Buildings but there is a minibus to give lifts around the Island to those who need it. Low income discounts are available, for example, for those on only a basic state pension with no top ups, as well as discounts for young people and children. There may also be a possibility of additional help from the Group if needed to help with train fares etc.

Bookings need to be completed by 10th October 2014 including the payment of a £50 deposit. Please see Catey for costs and a booking form *as soon as possible* (01287 651926).

East Cleveland Group Service –23rd November

10.30am at St. Andrew's, Marton, to be led by our Synod Moderator Revd. Lis Mullen. Lis has lots to share with us and is an excellent speaker. Please do put this date in your diary and come to share in this special service together. There will be a shared lunch afterwards so that we can continue fellowshiping together.

‘One Plus One’ - The Same Sex Marriage debate

We are being asked to come to a decision as individual churches as to whether we would like to see same sex marriages occurring within our United Reformed Churches. These are the times we live in, this is a discussion that we need to have in our church meetings, but please don't be put off. There is no doubt that this is a difficult discussion, but even if it is passed it will *not* mean that *all* United Reformed Churches will have to conduct same sex marriages, just those who feel called to carry them out. There are a range of views that we could have on the subject, but what we are tasked with here is working out whether *we will allow* those in same sex relationships who wish to get married in church to do so.

At present there are civil partnerships for those who want to solemnise their relationship, which is equivalent to a heterosexual couple having a civil ceremony. However, at present for a Christian same sex couple there is no possibility for them to have an equivalent of the marriage service in church, and there are restrictions as to what can be carried out as a service of blessing following a Civil Partnership. Rules are strict and in reality very little can be said at such services. Same sex marriage ceremonies

have been allowed in secular settings since March this year, but at present it is not possible for this to happen in church. For this to happen in the Church of England changes in the constitutional laws of the church will have to take place. For this to happen in the other denominations there has to be a decision made at a national meeting of the church, for our church at our General Assembly. However, a decision made by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church will only give permission in theory for the churches of our denomination to be able to apply to be registered. It will in no way enforce that an individual church has to register and carry out same sex marriages.

So the question facing us a congregations is are we willing to enable the United Reformed Church, as a national church, to allow those churches within our denomination who want to perform same sex marriages to do so? To help us in our discussions there are booklets entitled ‘One Plus One’ which are currently being passed around all our congregations. Please make sure you have the chance to read a copy before the church meetings in December/January when we will be making decisions. Each church will

need to come to a mind over whether it is a Yes or No decision. This will be recorded on a form and sent off to the National Church for collation by March 2015.

Please do take part in this important decision rather than not have your say. Thank you.

Catey

FAF Club

The FAF Club next meets on Sunday 19th October at the manse in Lingdale, for young people aged 11+. All are welcome for Fun, Faith Sharing and Food!

Guisborough

It's a fact of life that at holiday time the A Team want to take their holidays just like everyone else. So the B Team gets called out of retirement to help out. The first time you're asked to stand up in front of the Congregation and read from the Bible, let alone lead prayers or do a reflection (a short sermon) is absolutely terrifying. But you soon realize that these people are your friends and are not going to be giving you 'marks out of ten'. Actually some of the most unlikely people turn out to have stimulating and surprisingly profound thoughts. I rarely find anyone boring. Of course a Minister has to be profound and stimulating every Sunday. Only special people can do that! But this month you are stuck with me! So what has been happening that you might find interesting? Do any of you remember Glyn and Mary Eatock? Glyn was Pastor here

for five years in the sixties. He arrived at the same time as we did and we were at his Induction in 1963. The Guisborough's fortunes were at a low ebb. The people were warm and friendly but few in number. Our finances were precarious in the extreme. The Treasurer often had to reach into his own pocket to keep us afloat. (Something I only found out years later). Glyn started to turn the place round.

He was not your typical minister. He had a strong Lancashire accent which seemed strange until you got used to it. But you could go up to the manse any time and play scrabble, provided you brought along a large box of liquorice allsorts. That manse was reputed to be the coldest in the Congregational Church, but there was always a warm welcome.

Another of Glyn's unusual talents was having no sense of direction. He could get lost driving from

Lingdale to Guisborough. And getting to Eston was a challenge equal to Captain Scott reaching the South Pole; Except that somehow Glyn always made it back in one piece. Having made his bones with us he went on a succession of bigger churches, which he tended with the same care and the same success. We attended his retirement service. It was a big Church absolutely packed and the congregation all speaking with accents even stronger than his. But then we rather drifted apart except for the annual Christmas Letter.

Then by chance last August we went with the U3A to the Southport Flower Show staying overnight in St Annes where Glyn and Mary live. Over dinner there was a lot of catching up to do. Then we went to see the Church where they worship

now. Average Sunday congregation two hundred. All I can say it made me green with envy.

Going on holiday to the Alps every summer we have driven through Germany almost 40 times. I didn't think there could be any surprises left. A few mysteries perhaps. Like Road signs to an 'Autobahn Kirche' (Motorway Church.) What might that be? We pass one every year in the far south. We are mildly curious. But on a long journey your brain says 'No time -Keep Going!' So we do.

But this year we were looking for a picnic stop, and saw a new Autobahnkirche sign and we turned in. It was brand new. Landscaped to block out traffic noise, a scattering of picnic tables, a loo and a small shop. The chapel was simple, painted white but with a marvellous

Guisborough Calendar

Thu	9 th Oct	7.30pm	Group Elders' Meeting in the hall
Tue	21 st Oct	2.30pm	Belmont Care Home Service
Sun	2nd Nov	10.30am	Anniversary Service with Revd Meg Robb. Faith Lunch to follow

Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Ken, Norma and others.

Guisborough Rotas

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
5th October	J Basham	B Ward	D Cross	D Collins
12th October	D Beattie		R Tunncliffe	P Etwell
19th October	D Cross		M Ward	R Tunncliffe
26th October	R Tunncliffe		B Ward	K Harris
2nd November	M Burrows	J Basham	D Beattie	D Cross

stained glass window wound round the walls. I also picked up a booklet pointing me to a website which told us what its all about. So what did we learn? Since the nineteen fifties some forty two churches have been planted.. They are there to provide *rest for the body and soul and pastoral help in times of stress*. Pastors work closely with the police and emergency services. So if there is a serious accident, a trained pastor is likely to arrive fairly quickly. Being Germany it's all very calm and well organised. We know, we had an accident some time ago. Other cars stopped to make sure we were OK and call the police. They called rescue vehicles, No serious harm done and we were back home the next day. After that it was down to our insurers. In Germany it's an offence not to stop and give help.

The central organisation is built round an Insurance association. But each project is put together by a local church and all the mainstream denominations take part.

The rules say churches must be at

least fifty miles apart to keep things civilised. Big enough to house two coach loads of visitors at a time

The more I thought about it the more impressed I became. Imagine an accident where children have been badly injured perhaps even killed. I think I would much rather talk to a pastor than an ambulance chasing lawyer.

Try typing *Auobahnkirche* into Google

God Bless

Maureen Houston

Guisborough Choral Society

Saturday October 18th, 7.30pm

St Nicholas Church, Guisborough

The highlight of the evening will be Robert Schumann's intensely-moving Requiem, Opus 148. The programme will also include Jan-Dismas Zelenka's Magnificat, and motets by Anton Bruckner.

Tickets are available from Guisborough Bookshop and Greensleeves Music, www.wegotickets.com, or on the door. Prices are £10, £8 concessions, £1 under-19s.

Redcar

Baptism Apology

Catey would like to apologise for the chaos caused on 7th September by the huge baptismal party attending church that day. I gather that they were completely without respect for what was going on in worship and disrespectful of the worship leader as they attempted to lead worship. The whole experience left many completely unable to worship that day and rather upset.

I will work harder to prepare a baptismal party for the experience of coming to church. I would also question whether that

The Annual Bazaar Saturday 8th November 11am until 2pm.

Donations of the following will be gratefully appreciated:

- food for raffle hampers
- items for a tombola
- cakes on the day.

THANK YOU!

same family could have any subsequent baptisms at our church, and would only consider it if they agreed to abide by our basic rules to respect those in our congregation and those leading worship.

Redcar Calendar

Tue 7th Oct 2.00pm Craft and Chatter

Weekly

Wednesday 11.00am Singing Group

Thursday 9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

2.00pm Thursday People – at the home of Catherine Milburn for Bible Study.

A Different Cover

August for churches is a time when things are different because their people, congregations and ministers are often away on holiday.

There is a positive side to this as visitors hopefully soon become friends after having visited our local churches.

Referring to my title – the church magazine which we take each month, had a different picture on it after years of the same one.

I'll describe this as it has a link with what I'm going to write about.

The picture is of a fragile semi-circular bridge structure. To make us stop and think it has six words hanging from it. They make up the sentence: 'Where do we go from here?'

A semi-circular structure supports the roadways of a number of north eastern, bridges such as the Tyne Bridge, Wear Bridge and on a smaller scale the one at Ruswarp upstream on the Esk from Whitby. But we must not forget faraway Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Dorman Long connection.

Ruswarp Bridge I'm familiar with as during the war-years I went to school in Ruswarp village. Whilst I was there a daring boy in the top class climbed up and over the bridge structure. This was in the days when 'elf and safety' hadn't been dreamed of!

The words on that magazine cover 'Where do we go from here? Have a

Commitment for Life envelopes for Israel and the Occupied Territories envelopes will be available on the 5th and 12th October

link with the problems of climate change and of a fast growing population.

The twenty seven wind turbines which we are all now familiar with tell us that efforts are being made to limit the effect of global warming, the carbon footprint which grows when fossil fuels are burnt and their emissions released into the atmosphere. The word 'subdue' was used in old translations of the Bible but we are learning that we need to cooperate with the natural world and not to let greed ruin what God has given us.

The answer to the question: 'Where do we go from here? Is impossible to answer with our present technology and our planet with its finite resources.

Mars is a cold, red, dusty desert with an unsuitable atmosphere which cannot support life. It seems similar to our moon although it has some colour.

Space telescopes can now detect planets which orbit other stars yet their similarities to Earth cannot be seen because of their great distance.

Light takes about eight minutes to reach us from the sun yet over four years to reach us from the nearest

star. I'll leave our readers to work out that ratio!

The answer to the question must therefore be one of faith, being governed by God's love for us because of the sacrifice of Jesus. It is our 'Hope of Heaven' – that is where we go from here.

Sticking with August. My Bible Society calendar has a picture of a large

bumble bee with very small wings pollinating a flower.

The text is from Philippians Ch4 v 13 (N.K.J.V.) 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' to which looking at the picture we could add – 'Even fly with too small wings.'

John Crowther

Lingdale

Book Club

The next meeting will be on 7th October at 7pm when we will be discussing *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson.

Church Open Day

Thank you to everyone who helped with our open day – we raised just over £100 for Church funds.

Flower Rota

5th October – Mr B Dove
12th October – Mrs M Saunders
19th October – Mr T Waller (in memory of Miss J Scarth & Mrs B Waller)
26th October – Mr T Waller
2nd November – Mrs J Scott

Harvest

Harvest Pie & Pea Supper and Quiz night will be held on Friday 3rd October at 7pm with the Harvest Service on Sunday 5th October at 5.30pm. Donations of food for the food bank would be greatly appreciated.

Fat to Fit Club

If you are looking to lose weight but find it hard to keep motivated why not come along to the Fat to Fit Club, a new weight management group. Meetings are on Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 and are free. There is also the opportunity to sign up for the NHS weight management course.

Lingdale Calendar

Wed 1st Oct 1.30-3.30pm Craft & Conversation
Wed 15th Oct 1.30-3.30pm Craft & Conversation
Wed 29th Oct 1.30-3.30pm Craft & Conversation

Weekly

Tuesday 10.00am – 10.30am Prayers for our Community
10.30am – 1.00pm Community Café (donations for food bank welcome)
3rd Sunday of the month 6.30pm Fun and Faith Club - Youth Meeting at the Manse

St Andrew's

Bazaar

Coatham House

We are needing helpers and donations for our annual bazaar to be held on Saturday 15th November 11.30am to 1.30pm There will be a raffle, tombola, cake and bric a brac stalls etc plus teas, coffees and soup. If you can help please let Sheila, Doreen or Joan know.

The donations of tinned goods and toiletries were recently taken to Coatham House, Redcar. They were most gratefully received and much appreciated. Please keep supporting this charity. They are very thankful for our support.

Quiz, Pie and Pea Supper

is to be held on
Saturday 18th October
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £6.00 available from Doreen, Sheila or Joan. There will be a raffle and proceeds are in aid of church funds.

Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship resumed their new session with an afternoon tea which was preceded by organising our new agenda. It was good to catch up with everyone after our summer break.

Our next meeting will be an outing to see "Sister Act" at Darlington's Civic Theatre on 25th October.

Shoe Boxes

Shona, with the help of Eleanor and Joan, is once again organising the 2014 Shoe Box Appeal. We do need support and help for this worthwhile charity. Several people have already kindly given us their empty shoe boxes so all we need to do now is fill them! It costs £2.50 to send each filled box plus the items in them. You all have been so helpful in the past and we are again asking for your help. Thank you.

Coffee for Charity

28th August	Daisy Chain	£17.00
31st August	RNLI	£19.80
7th September	Leprosy Mission	£10.85

St Andrew's Calendar

Wed 22nd Oct 1.00-3.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

Weekly/Monthly

Third Wednesday 9.30am Church Prayer Group

First Thursday 2.00pm Home Prayer group at 31 Roseberry Mews

Last Sunday After Worship Traid Craft Stall

Boys Brigade Details available from ministers and church elders

St Andrew's Traidcraft Stall

Traidcraft plc is a Company set up more than 25 years ago as a Christian response to exploitation of the some of the poorest people in the world.

As a result, producers of the staple goods bearing the Fair Trade mark - tea, cocoa, coffee and sugar, are being paid a fair price for their crops, not some knock-down price decided by a huge multi-national which leaves them ever more powerless and in poverty. The work done by Traidcraft to develop and market the foods and craft goods - which need sewing, knitting, carving, weaving and many other skills - is needed more than ever and there's still so much to do.

Nevertheless, it is a fact of which we all must be aware - attendances at Worship at St Andrews are in serious decline. We used to expect between 30 -40 at our services at St Andrews. It is now often less than 30 and sometimes less than 20. Holidays and family commitments are genuine reasons for not being there and more importantly we miss those who are now old and frail and are no longer physically able to come to Church.

Thus the much-needed support for the stall comes from an ever diminishing number of customers. In an effort to boost sales I have tried to introduce new lines (e.g. the cleaning stuff) without much success. I now have to be realistic about this so after much

thought I have decided that there will no longer be a Stall once my current stock has gone. I cannot sell the goods quickly enough to move stock before its sell by date and having to lift goods from cupboard to crate and back again does not do the packets any good. Another concern is the physical weight of the crates which have to be carried from home to Church and back!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the monthly stall since January 2005 when it began. With your help we have sold more than £12500 in ten years. I am hoping to have a **'closing down sale'** at the Church Bazaar on .15 November. Then, please continue to buy Fairly Traded goods when ever you can

However, the new catalogues are now available and I am very happy to take orders for cards and gifts at any time and will continue as long as there is a sufficient flow of orders. But I am anticipating that the last Sunday Stall will be in October, unless someone else is prepared to take it on. If there is any one out there, I will of course give them all the help I can.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way in the past 10 years.

Jane Tomlin

Preachers

	5-Oct	12-Oct	19-Oct	26-Oct	2-Nov
Marton	10.00am C Morrison	C Morrison Harv. P'de.	J Harper Communion	Marton WT	C Morrison
Guisbo	9.30am K Harris Communion	M Johnson	C Morrison	L Bustard	M Robb Anniversary
Redcar	11.00am J Harper	J Durell Committ4Life	C Morrison United 10.45 ZP	N Johnson	J Harper Communion
Lingdale 5.30pm	C Morrison Harvest	C Morrison Communion	K Harris Family Serv	J Coulthard	D Moore

Material for the November Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th October please
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