

Group News



** October * 2017 * October **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Dear All,

This year has been designated a year of celebration in the Denomination. ‘Feasts and Festivities’ including the 500 anniversary of the Reformation, which was marked in our Group Service; the 100 year anniversary of the first woman to be ordained in any mainstream denomination; 25 years since the ‘1% appeal’ became ‘Commitment for Life’. The year sees the launch of ‘Walking the Way’ reminding us that our Christian life is about walking the way as disciples of Jesus Christ. Before we were nicknamed ‘Christians’ we were called ‘people of the way’.

Yet I am also reminded that whilst we may find rejoice in these anniversaries that not every anniversary is a cause of rejoicing.

There were many moving stories as the 70th anniversary of the partition of India and Pakistan was recalled by many who had witnessed at first hand the atrocities carried out on all sides. 70 years also marks the beginnings of uprisings in the Middle East which led to the founding of the state of Israel in 1948, but also 100 years since the Balfour agreement when Britain gained control of Palestine. 1967 was the year of the Six Day War which annexed Palestinian land and 1987 the 1st Intifada as the Palestinians began to revolt against the occupation by Israel and it goes on still, both the oppression and the sometimes violent outbursts. Yet there are many from both sides of the conflict who, against great odds, still seek to work for peace and justice in the region.

In both instances – the anniversaries we celebrate and those we note with deep sadness we are called on to reflect on what they can teach us two or three generations later. What can we learn about listening to God in our own time and culture and being bold enough to declare ‘see God is doing a new thing’; but also what can we learn of past mistakes and conflicts that may inform us, not just how we deal with immediate threats, but also how we seek just peace for all when conflict is over. There are some very profound lessons for us here.

But I am reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes ‘to everything there is a season’ and so let us continue with our ‘Feasts and Festivities’ and in the light of the God we find in them walk forward in that faith which we celebrate.

Yours in fellowship

Hilary Collinson

Group Service

The Elders had suggested that the Group Service at Guisborough should be used as an opportunity to celebrate 500 years since the Reformation and in particular to focus on the work and achievements of Martin Luther.

The Service was led by Rev. Hilary Collinson who began by producing a long strip of closely typed papers to represent the ‘95 Theses’ that Luther had published in 1517. The young people then nailed this to a plank to represent the Church door.

We don’t generally spend much time in our Worship looking back at the history of the Protestant faith but this anniversary is important and significant, leading to the assurance that we each one of us has a direct personal relationship with God, through

Jesus Christ. Not for us the need for the Priest to intercede for us, or the need for monetary transactions to secure a ‘place in heaven’ or a fragment of wood supposedly from the Cross. Did you ever wonder where all the money came from to create the glories of the Sistine Chapel in Rome? When Luther visited Rome and saw the extravagant lifestyle of the Catholic Church his worst fears were realised

Luther was a great scholar and believed passionately in the importance of the Bible being in our own language and therefore accessible to all. Hilary quoted Thesis number 62 ‘The true treasure of the Church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God’

His theology was indeed radical and was part of the huge wave of new thought sweeping Europe at

the time which of course created divisions for many years. (Think of this country after Henry VIII broke away from the Pope and Mary Tudor struggled to take us back to what she saw as the 'True Church')

In true Lutheran tradition of worship we stood for the prayers and sat for the hymns!

The Service was stimulating, informative and interesting and we must thanks Hilary for arranging it.

The Celebration can be continued at Zion URC in Northallerton on Sunday 19th November at 3.00 p.m. with Revs..Malcolm Hanson and Kevin Watson.

Jane Tomlin

Synod Prayers

- 1st October: Synod meeting on the 7th October; Moderator's Secretary, Mrs Wendy Watson; Trust Officer, Mr Andrew Atkinson; Finance Officer, Mrs Helen Hogg; Ecumenical Officer, Mr Andy Lie
- 8th October: The work of Mission Committee and its convenor, Revd Meg Robb
- 15th October: Berwick URC; Crookham URC; Wooler URC.; Revd Mary Taylor; Erskine & St Cuthbert's URC, Belford; North Sunderland URC
- 22nd October: West End URC; Jesmond URC; Robert Stewart Memorial URC, Newcastle; Revd Meg Robb; Ms Ann Honey (Church Related Community Worker)
- 29th October: PCM, their churches of the Central Presbytery and the Presbytery of the North. In these regions life can be very tough as resources are scarce
Bishop of Whitby, Rt Revd Paul Ferguson

Guisborough

Celebrating the Reformation - The United Reformed Church

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500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses

For those who missed it, Hillary Collinson based her service around this at the East Cleveland Group Service on 30 July 2017. I am not going to reiterate Hillary's service but I would recommend you read the 15 page booklet and consider the 12 reflective questions in it and about what they mean to you. But these two things got me thinking about a trip to Wittenberg I made in September 2006 with my motorcycling minister friend Revd Philip Gray.

We had a really enjoyable stay on the banks of the river Elbe and saw many never to be forgotten places.

Wittenberg is the town of the Reformation. It has several UNESCO World Heritage sites and an impressive array of buildings, churches and museums steeped in history: the Castle Church, on whose door Martin Luther nailed his Theses, the graves of Luther and of Philipp Melancthon, the splendid Cranach Houses on the market square, the Town Church where Luther preached, the Melancthon House, home of the man called "Preceptor Germaniae" (Germany's teacher), and the Luther House, where Martin worked and lived with his family.

During the Reformation Wittenberg saw changes that affected the worldwide Christian Church. We saw places where significant events were played out. Wittenberg is a place where you can really experience world history. Time has not stood still here though. Modern university life has taken over the old Leucorea University buildings. The famous artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser has cre-

Guisborough Calendar

Wed 25th October 7.00pm Group Elders meet at Marton

Weekly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am Market Day Coffee Morning

Thursdays 11.30am **Quiet Time in Church.** Prayers and reflections with Maureen, Madge, Ken and others. Details on the church notice board

ated a work of art out of a prefabricated school building. We visited the House of History and saw what life must have been like in the past, particularly in East Germany. There is a zoo and a butterfly park with many unusual species and a falcon house.

Wittenberg is situated between Düben Heath and the Fläming region and is 100km from Berlin and 70km from Leipzig. It is also not very far from attractions such as the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz and the Bauhaus in Dessau.

The river Elbe with its idyllic river-bank meadows is attractive for boats cruising between Hamburg and Prague. The Elbe cycle path runs straight through Wittenberg's old quarter and intersects with the R1 European and R4 long distance cycle paths.

How different it must have been in 1508 when Martin Luther first came to Wittenberg. It was a strongly fortified town with three gates: the Elster gate, the Castle gate (also known as Coswig gate) and the Elbe gate. In front of the Elster gate Luther burnt a copy of the canon law and the papal bull threatened him with excommunication on 10 December 1520. The Luther Oak was planted to commemorate this act, still marks the spot today.

On 15 February 1546 Luther died and his body was received at the Elster gate by his wife Katharina, their children, the university pro-

	Vestry	Communion	Door
1st October	R Tunncliffe	J Basham	D Beattie
8th October	B Ward		J Basham
15th October	P Etwell		M Ward
22nd October	D Moore		P Etwell
29th October	J Reynolds		R Tunncliffe
5th November	J Basham		D Houston

fessors, the town council and the people of Wittenberg, before being taken in a ceremonial procession to his final resting place, the Castle Church.

Luther was born in Eisleben on 10 November 1483, the second son of a miner. He studied philosophy at Erfurt University, graduating in 1505. He then took up law but broke off his studies when a close encounter with a thunderstorm prompted him to request admission to the monastery of Augustine hermits. Luther was ordained as a priest on 4 April 1507 and began studying theology. He answered his call to the monastery in 1508 and stayed in Wittenberg for the rest of his life. In 1512 he received a doctorate of theology and became professor of Bible studies at Wittenberg University.

On 31 October 1517 Luther published his 95 Theses against the abuse of indulgences. He cast off his monk's habit in 1524 and married Katharina von Bora a former nun, on 13 June 1525. They had three sons and three daughters.

The nailing of the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg was a key starting point for the Reformation. Then began a tumultuous period for the church across Europe, and led to the formation of both Lutheran and Reformed Churches.

Peter Etwell

Redcar

Bazaar

Yes it is that time of the year again. Our Bazaar will be held on Saturday 18th November (a week later than usual so we don't clash with Remembrance Day events. Donations of Tombola prizes and 'luxury type' items of food with a good forward date will be gratefully appreciated as will baking for the cake stall - on the day, please. Thank you

Chez Vous

Quite a number of us had a lovely Wednesday morning with Evelyn last week in her new abode. Good company, coffee and shortbread biscuits. Thank you to Evelyn for her hospitality.

Fashion Show

Come and spend a few hours enjoying something different on a Saturday afternoon at Redcar United Reformed Church with our:

'Cheap as Chips Fashion Show!'

Saturday 14th October

1.00pm until 4.00pm.



A range of 'pre-loved' clothes will be modelled and can also be purchased in aid of the charity 'Circle of Life.' This worthwhile charity is hoping to raise funds to help young people with learning difficulties to have the experience of pet therapy and other life skills. Our event will include various stalls and raffles.

Delicious gateaux, plus tea or coffee is included in the admission price of £2.50.

Please come and enjoy!

Redcar Calendar

Sat 4th Oct 1.00-4.00pm Cheap as Chips Fashion Show

Weekly

Thursday 9.30am Prayers
10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre
2.00pm Thursday Payers at Catherine's – all are welcome

God's asymmetrical Universe

We all enjoyed the joint churches outing to Pickering.

I bought a £1 book in the 'Flea market.' No doubt others shopped there too.

Number wise Guisborough had the most people on the outing. At twenty two altogether the numbers were a little bit low although the holiday times are over and yet some children were with us – Great! I like a certain T-shirt with Junior school leavers names on it especially as of our three Saltburn granddaughters one started 'proper' school and one entered secondary education this month.

Back to Pickering. We ate at Russels, good but a long restaurant with few awkward steps.

Ken mentioned our views from the high coach in his sermon in Pickering URC. – a lovely church like ours.

Views from the coach – Whitby Abbey, sooner than usual seen just after Scaling Dam. Ken also mentioned Creation which triggered my title.

I peeled my apple usual apple this morning for Margaret and myself. Whose writing style have I now copied? When you peel clockwise the peel falls (a long piece) counter clockwise. Useful information? Perhaps not but Lewis Carroll used it and as Ken said 'Its Creation month.'

Best wishes, John Crowther

St Andrew's

Condolences

It is with great sadness that we announce the recent, sudden death of Bill McKendrick. Our thoughts and prayers go to Joan, Doug, Pete, Callum and family.

Also please remember Una in your prayers. Her sister Betty has recently died after moving back to Aberdeen just several weeks ago.

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Jan on the birth of her lovely, first granddaughter, Grace.

Also to Campbell and Joan on the birth of number 2 granddaughter, Naomi.

All doing well.

Time for Shoe Boxes

It's that time of year once again - shoe box time!! Shona and friends are once again organising our Shoe Box Appeal. There are leaflets available for what should or should not be put in the boxes. Last year it cost £2.50 to send each filled shoe box but so far we haven't been informed if this has been increased for 2017.

Last year we sent 74 shoe boxes to the collection point which was a record for St. Andrew's. We hope, with your help, to get as near to that number as possible.

Annual Bazaar

Our annual bazaar is on Saturday 18th November 11.30am- 1.30pm. There will be cake, bric a brac stalls, raffle, tombola, teas, coffees, soup etc. We would be most grateful of offers of donations and help. Thank you.

Coffee for Charity

20th Aug	Daisy Chain	£20.00
27th Aug	Heart Foundation	£17.00
3rd Sep	Finlay Cooper Fund	£20.00
10th Sep	Boys' Brigade	£14.00

North York Moors Churches Together

Reformation 500

Reformation Echoes

How the Reformation speaks to us 500 years on –
an ecumenical conversation

The Revd Canon Dr Chris Collingwood (York Minster):
Discipleship

The Revd Dr Peter Phillips (Durham University,
Methodist Minister): Faith and technology

Sister Patricia Harriss CJ (Bar Convent, York):
Faith and national belonging

Chair: The Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby

Tuesday 10 October 2017 at 7pm

Northallerton Methodist Church,
High Street, Northallerton DL7 8EG

All welcome. Admission free

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THURSDAYS
ACKLAM LIBRARY
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St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boys Brigade

Details available from ministers
and church elders

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 10.00am	Redcar 11.00am
1-Oct	Jan Harper	Jane Rowell Communion	Catherine Milburn
8-Oct	Dave Elliott Harvest/Parade	Guis Folk	Norma Johnson
15-Oct	Norma Johnson Communion	Margaret Harris	Ken Harris
22-Oct	Ken Harris	R Taylor	Jan Harper
29-Oct	Margaret Harris	Norma Johnson	Julie Martin

Material for the November Magazine to church editors by Sunday
15th October please

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