

Group News



** October * 2018 * October **

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

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A Place For All

'Are not five sparrows sold for a couple of pence? Yet God does not overlook a single one of them. Believe me, the very hairs of your head are numbered. Never fear then, for you mean even more to Him than many sparrows'

Luke ch.12 vv 6-7

Dear Friends,

We live today as never before, in an impersonal society, - a world in which increasingly we are treated as numbers rather than individuals. Instead of being people we are reference numbers on a tax form, a policy number with an insurance company, an NHS number on a waiting list, a telephone number to a double glazing company; answer phones, automated messages, emails, the internet, - these have become the order of the day, personal contact reduced to the barest minimum. Disturbingly, many young people relate more easily to a computer screen than to their real life contemporaries.

In such a world, it's reassuring to know that in God's eyes at least, we are still people, each one of us unique and precious to Him. He values us for what we are, - not for what we might become, - with all our faults and failings. He invites us to share in a meaningful personal relationship with Him. More than that He calls us to recognise the value of others, and in doing so to resist the depersonalising forces that threaten to undermine society.

Whatever we do, we should never forget that each person we meet or have dealings with is not a number, but an individual, loved by and precious to God, - just as we are.

Blessings

Jan

Synod Prayers

7th October:

Synod meeting on the 13th October; Moderator's Secretary, Mrs Wendy Watson; Trust Officer, Mr Andrew Atkinson; Finance Officer, Mrs Helen Hogg; Ecumenical Officer, Mr Andy Lie

14th October:

Prisons Week (England and Wales) 8th - 14th October
The work of Mission Committee and its convenor, Revd Meg Robb

21st October:

Berwick URC; Crook ham URC; Revd Mary Taylor; Wooler URC; Erskine & St Cuthbert's URC, Belford and North Sunderland URC

28th October:

West End URC; Jesmond URC; Robert Stewart Memorial URC, Newcastle; Revd Meg Robb; Ms Ann Honey (Church Related Community Work Minister)

Autumn Synod

How often do we say, rather wearily, that nothing in the Northern Synod ever happens down here - in the South? Everything takes place in Newcastle, we hear and some of make regular trips up there.

Well, you will be pleased to hear that the half yearly meeting of the Synod on 13 October is taking place in Darlington, at Northgate Church.

Synod Meetings are completely open to anyone. They are an opportunity to find out what is going on in your Synod. It is also a time to meet new people, make new like minded friends and also meet the people who work in the Office at St James in Newcastle.

This must be the closest venue to our Group suitable for Synod Meeting and transport can be provided for all who would like to go. The day usually begins with coffee from 9.30am and ends around 4.00pm.

Tea and coffee are provided but take your own lunch. I hope that you can come. It's much closer than Newcastle!

Jane Tomlin

Guisborough

What does the church expect of our youngsters

The people who work with children and young people in our Church do a wonderful job and they do it vol--untary. Some of these teachers, for that is what they are, have decades of experience. They work very hard for very little glory, and yet are instrumental in some of the most transformative moments in the lives of the children and young people whom they en--counter.

It is very important that the whole Church needs to be involved in the discipleship of children and young people. I have often been asked to pop into Junior Church and see what they are doing but sadly I don't want to be seen to interfere. But it is the job of the Church collectively to come alongside young people, to in--vest in them, and to show them what a life lived with Jesus looks like.

Young people are not the Church of tomorrow; they are the Church of today. To dismiss them as being just for the junior church leaders to deal with sends the message that they are not full participants in the life of the Church. We need to involve them, discern their gifts,

and take risks by letting them have a go. They come with a particular way of seeing and expressing things, without the inhibitions of older generations. Yes, it can be unpredictable, but there are gems of wisdom in what they see, say, and do. Only a couple of weeks ago a 5 year old asked us “What DOES Jesus look like?” Answer that one if you can.

The discipleship relationship is reciprocal: young people learn from what the rest of the Church teaches and models for them, and we learn from their creativity and fresh eyes.

Children and young people can sniff out inauthenticity a mile off, and that can turn them off church. How can we expect them to really believe God is with them during tough times when they come to church and every conversation goes “How are you?” “Fine, thanks. How are you?” “Fine, thanks” - especially when they know that things aren’t fine? We do young people a great dis-service when we pay lip service to God’s goodness.

We need to share our lives with young people (appropriately, obviously) and we need to demonstrate to them what it means for Jesus to be with us in everything.

We need to hold in loving and accepting tension their resilience and their brokenness. It is hard to be a young person. School, friend-

Guisborough Calendar

Sat 6th October 8.00am Bridge Prayer Breakfast in the Hall.

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.

ships, hormones, parents, social media, and worry about the future - the pressures that young people face today can seem insurmountable. They are fantastically resilient at times, and this is to be lauded; but they can also be over-whelmed by it all, and the growing rise in mental-health issues among young people is testament to this. With everything they have to deal with on their young shoulders, we need to show them grace.

Sometimes, they will be grumpy and monosyllabic, but that behaviour is not confined to the young. They will make decisions that have their leaders banging their heads against the wall in despair; but, when that happens, it is important not to write them off, but to keep on loving them. It is important to see the vulnerability masquerading as bravado; and, above all, we need to like them genuinely as well as love them.

I recently asked a middle aged person their views on what it was like to be a child and a young person in one of our churches, sadly now closed, in the 60's and 70's. I must have liked it was the reply as I attended junior church and boys brigade almost every week, but something was just not right because I never got any recognition whilst some of the others who attended very infrequently did. When that person got older and brave enough to ask the teacher why this happened "because I don't like you" was the reply. What a sad reflection attitudes like that leave on those we try to teach.

And what do I wish the children and young people in our church knew? I wish they knew just how much our Church loves them. We may show this love imperfectly at times, but I can promise them our love is indisputable.

Peter Etwell

| | Vestry | Communion | Door |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 7th October | J Basham | R Tunnicliffe | D Houston |
| 14th October | D Beattie | | M Houston |
| 21st October | M Burrows | | R Tunnicliffe |
| 28th October | M Houston | | J Reynolds |
| 4th November | R Tunnicliffe | M Baird | M Burrows |

St Andrew's

Quiz Night

Unfortunately the Quiz, Pie and Pea Supper which was to be held on 8th Sept. had to be cancelled. However some of the quiz will be incorporated into our Christmas Social to be held on Wednesday 19th December.

We hopefully will be able to have the Quiz, Pie and Pea Supper sometime early in the new year.

Annual Bazaar

Our annual Bazaar will be held on Saturday 17th November 11.30am to 1.30pm. There will be a cake stall, tombola, raffle, bric-a-brac etc. Donations for these stalls will be gratefully received together with offers of home made soup.

Helpers are always needed to make a success of this day. Proceeds are in aid of church funds.

Food Bank

Middlesbrough Food Bank appreciates our donations of food for those less fortunate than ourselves.

They require - tinned meat, fish,

veg., fruit etc.; cooking sauces; coffee; milk (UHT or powdered); cereals; fruit juice (long life); tinned pudding; jam; instant mashed potato; pasta.

Thanks so much for your help in supporting this much needed charity.

Coffee for Charity

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|--------|
| 19th Aug | Riding for the Disabled | £15.00 |
| 26th Aug | Rosemary Fund | £15.00 |
| 2nd Sep | Alzheimer Society | £12.40 |
| 9th Sep | Boys' Brigade | £32.08 |
| 16th Sep | Leprosy Mission | £20.00 |

Commitment For Life 2018

Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the United Reformed Church working in partnership with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now. Our areas of focus are: Bangladesh, Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador), Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe.

At Marton we are supporting the project in Bangladesh, where harvests are frequently ruined and homes lost through horrendous flooding. C4L seeks to support communities in small projects such as helping people like Shimu to make a living for her family.

“I had never been seen as an income earner”, says Sumaiya Shimu, a member of the Small Tea Growers Group from the village of Berajot. Shimu lives with her husband and children. They have a small plot of land, but it wasn't providing a good income for the family. In 2015, Shimu joined a Christian Aid and Traidcraft project that offered to train women to grow

tea on small plots; it helped them with saplings and an initial investment to prepare the land. Shimu was hesitant at first – nobody in her family had any experience of growing tea – but as her saplings grew well, she began to see results. The first time Shimu harvested the tea, she sold the leaves for 700 Taka (around £6) – enough to encourage her to keep going. From small shoots to a profitable business. Such aid has made it possible for Shimu and people like her to pay for the education of their children, thus ensuring a positive future for them.

With all the media furore about foreign aid, it is important to know that the money raised by C4L doesn't go to governments, but to local communities, run by groups such as Christian Aid, and Traidcraft; this ensures that the money reaches those who need it the most.

Folk are asked to commit to giving 1% of their take-home earnings/pension(or indeed what they can afford) towards this project. Each church can choose

which of the 4 projects they wish to support, and regular info and updates are sent to the contact person. Posters and letters are available, so please check the notice boards.

Thank you for your continuing generosity, and please remember that Gift Aiding a donation makes it so much more useful, with no cost to ourselves.

Jan Harper

Shoe Boxes

As reported in last months Group News and on Sunday 9th Sept. we are now preparing for the Shoe Box Appeal.

Should anyone need a decorated shoe box and/or leaflet please see Shona, Joan S or Eleanor.

Redcar

The Nearly Christmas Bazaar Scone Coffee morning

It is that time of year again and we intend to hold our annual bazaar on Saturday 10th November. Donations please would be gratefully received for the Tom-bola and Raffle stalls and of course baking on the day for the cake stall. Arrangements will be confirmed shortly.

A huge thank you to all who organised, supported and helped at a very impromptu coffee morning held on the 25th August. The variety of scones was absolutely amazing and very tasty. Thank you to all, who helped to raise a wonderful £200 for Church funds.

| | Door | Vestry | Communion |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 7 th October - | Brian | June | |
| 14 th October - | Norma | Elaine | |
| 21 st October - | Kryisia | Catherine | |
| 28 th October - | Brenda | June | |
| 4 th November - | Margaret | Elaine | Mary and Catherine |

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | 10.30am Singing Group |
| Thursday | 9.30am Early morning Prayers |
| | 10.00-11.30am Pop-In for refreshments and chat |
| | 1.45pm Thursday Payers at Catherine's |

Letting off steam

Is now and evermore..

'Praise the Lord' – which is what I need to do. For on the tenth of August I received three 'season's greetings' cards. 'Welcome back to you Seasons I thought, robins, snow, frost the lot'

But perhaps they don't want to upset other W.W. Faiths with the words 'Christ's mass.' Well they needn't worry for Islam recognises Jesus as a prophet and He and Mary are mentioned in the Koran. But the August Christmas cards are really, sprat to catch the mackerel' or three 'Early birds to catch the donations worms.' For soon after early cards come early catalogues and we have 'tongues in our cheeks,' and are as wise as serpents and yet innocent as kind people.

Linked to Jan's Summer letter is an old story which may be familiar to some. It's a reminder that getting into a too rigid routine of habits can become ridiculous. Church worship is liable to be in this category where change hardly ever happens. We are reminded of the sentence, 'As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.'

For example, 'A visiting minister noticed that throughout the service a place on the organ bench was occupied although the elderly man sat there and didn't do anything. At the end he politely asked why he sat there, 'O I've always sat here because when the old organ was in use I operated the pump. That was about twenty years ago!'

John Crowther

John Crowther

Preachers

| | Marton 10.00am | Guisborough 10.00am | Redcar 11.00am |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7-Oct | MartonWT | Donna Moore Communion | Brian Stephenson |
| 14-Oct | Dave Elliott Harvest | Norma Johnson | Julie Martin |
| 21-Oct | Jan Harper Communion | K & M Harris | Jane Rowell Harvest/Parade |
| 28-Oct | Norma Johnson | Keith Martin | K & M Harris |
| 4-Nov | Donna Moore | Norma Johnson Communion | Jan Harper Communion |

Material for the November Magazine to church editors by Sunday
14th October please

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