

October - Group News - 2020

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Welcome from Jan

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world, our country, and, in different ways, each of our lives. For some this has been devastating, with loss of life and serious illness. Throughout these past months we have prayed for everyone who has died, and for their families and loved ones. We are continuing to pray for all our keyworkers who serve with such selfless generosity. And we pray for our local, national, and global community, as we rebuild our future together. Perhaps we are learning not to take so much for granted and to focus more on who and what matters most. Please God, moving forward, we will treat each other with greater kindness, with greater respect, and with greater love.

We have all missed the special times of worshipping together, and now we at Marton have been able to re-open our doors it has been a real joy to share worship with those who have been able to visit with us from other churches in the group.

I'm sure, at some point we shall resume a more normal way of living, - but there will of course be changes, - not wearing a mask outside seems very strange nowadays, - and maybe the way in which we worship will need to change too. But, whatever changes are needed to be made, we can rest assured that God walks alongside us, - and however we worship, He will always be present with us.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

Moderator's Letter

Dear sisters and brothers

We all have been reminded in recent days of how delicately poised our capacity to suppress Covid-19 remains by the additional social restrictions announced by government yesterday.

As local congregations, we are called to play our part in working toward the common good for all, and so we need to maintain a high degree of preparedness to respond to changing guidelines as and when necessary. We have come a long way in adapting to the pandemic, and I am sure we will continue to explore and maintain helpful ways of reaching out, exercising pastoral care, and ensuring accessible public worship whether online, in our buildings, or both.

..... If there is further information regarding church arrangements in the NE, we will as a Synod disseminate it promptly.

As ever, and in Christ,

David

Guisborough

Seems like another age since we have been able to meet together in the church for worship. Now that the sanctuary floor has been restored, new heaters installed and chairs delivered, replacing the pews, we should have been in a position to reopen this month - but for the second national lockdown. For members this further delay is a big disappointment - but we have achieved the first phase of refurbishment of the church, which means we can be more flexible in how we are able to use our relatively small building.

The Church has been closed since the 15th, March but the work continued, not only in refurbishment, but in worship. Ken and Margaret Harris soon set up an online Thursday prayers and Sunday service. with our elder, Madge Baird, assisting them in the project. For such a big commitment the Guisborough fellowship are most grateful.

In April, after more than a year in vacancy, the church flat became occupied by new tenants: Sharon Hornbrook and her dog. Sharon

soon settled in and declared, "I love it here." However, since then her family situation has changed, so that she will be leaving us shortly. Fortunately, we have prospective new tenants who, hopefully, may take up residency later in the month.

Sadly, in May David Houston, a long serving member of Guisborough Church, who had suffered from ill health for some time, died. At the time our thoughts, prayers and condolences went out to his wife, Maureen and family. There will be a Memorial service for David, at a later date, when we will have the opportunity to pay our respects in his memory.

We look forward to next month when, if current restrictions are lifted, we may be able to worship in the sanctuary at Christmas.

Ray Tunnicliffe

St Andrew's

It is nice that the church has been open for a restricted form of Sunday worship for some weeks before being locked down again. We hope we will be able to resume worship on 8th December. Many thanks to Jan for her work in leading our worship and for the support given by other members. It has been a pleasure to share our worship with some of the Guisborough folk whilst their church is upgraded. Our Harvest gifts were gratefully received by the Middlesbrough Food Bank

It is with sadness that we report the death of Stewart Knox in the summer; we remember Dorothy and her family in our prayers. Cambell Swan was in hospital for several weeks early in lock down and is now back home making slow but steady progress in his recovery. Mike Tomlin fell at home, more recently, and after some weeks in hospital at both James Cook and Brotton is now back home and making good progress.

The church premises were back in use by a number of groups including A-class learning and Boy's Brigade. Unfortunately the music groups and bridge clubs have been unable to recommence meetings.

All these groups are again going to have to close for the duration of the second lockdown but we will be ready to welcome them back when the time is right.

As in previous years the Salvation Army will be delivering Christmas gifts to local families. They would welcome donations of new toys (and food) which can be brought to worship when we hopefully return on Sunday 8th December. Eleanor is happy to receive donations at 2c Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe prior to this Sunday if that is more convenient (or lockdown is extended).

Roger Wheeler

Redcar URC

The church reopened for worship on 13th September and has also been able to welcome back some user groups. Many thanks to Norma, Brian, Cath and Julie who have led worship. Whilst attendance has been low the opportunity to meet in worship has been much appreciated.

In lieu of gifts for Harvest Festival, donations were accepted towards a toilet in a developing communion. We were hoping to raise money towards one £60.00 toilet but as a result of generous giving we will be sending monies for six toilets. Many thanks to all concerned.

Worship has also included a socially distanced communion service in the last few weeks.

It is with sadness we record the deaths of Fred Robinson and Billy Haverson over the last few months. June would like to thank members for all their cards and support. Please remember these families in your prayers.

Look forward to meeting again after this lockdown.

June Haverson