



www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Group News

Minister

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** September * 2011 * September **

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

Dear Friends,

When you turned your tap on this morning did you stop and consider how dependent all life forms are on this commodity? From our earliest beginnings humans have needed water. It not only quenches our thirst but also causes the earth to provide nourishment for us. Children have fun splashing about in it and without it we would find great difficulty cleaning our homes and washing our clothes. And, of course, we need it to cleanse our bodies.

So imagine, as our ancestors did here in Britain and people still do in many African countries, having to fetch water from a tap, a pump or a well. And imagine that your the first cup of the day may not come until well after 10am as you not only have to collect water but also light a fire on which to boil it. And, of course, you have had to heat water for every member of the household to have a good wash before you can begin to think about tea and breakfast.

This is daily life for most people in Mozambique. Life is hard and water rarely does flow from taps within houses even where people have such taps. Lack of water can cause drought and the suffering of famine which now badly affects the north eastern part of Africa. And, you may remember the great floods of just a few years ago when some of the people in Mozambique climbed trees to escape from the rising water.

Fortunately in our own part of the world, our own part of Britain, we rarely experience drought or flooding and we are blessed with cold and hot water on tap. But we are less ready than the church members of the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique to tap into the Spirit of God to be filled with that life-giving water that Jesus promised to the Samaritan woman at the well (John, chapter 4). There, where most have so little in comparison to us, there is a real joy bubbling up within the people. And I'm left wondering whether it is they or we who are the less fortunate when all is said and done.

Jesus offers all of us the joy which comes from the life-giving water that he offers. And this water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit which flows freely for all of us. May we each discover the real joy and life which is ours if we would only tap into it as easily as we so often turn on our taps.

Blessings,

Meg

Synod Prayers

Mid Northumberland Mission Partnership

Week beginning 4th September

St James's, Alnwick; Warkworth; Rev Joan Grindrod-Helmn

Week Beginning 11th September

St Mark's, Amble; Rev Alison Mills;
Rothbury, Thropton; Rev Pamela Ward

Week beginning 18th September

Felton; St Andrew's, Glanton; Longframlington; Rev Edward Butlin
Chaplains – Rev Nigel Goodfellow and Rev Margaret Johnson

Week beginning 25th September

The Presbyterian Church in Mozambique, pastors and church members who have been involved in our exchange visits

Manse Prayers

Manse Prayers are held every Tuesday at 8.45am and everyone is welcome to attend.

6th September: Lingdale

13th September: Guisborough

20th September: Marton

27th September: Lingdale

4th October: Guisborough

Venues are as follows:

Guisborough: 31 Oakley Close;

Marton: 10 Farington Drive

Lingdale: 2 Stanghow Road

St Cuthbert's Centre The United Reformed Church on Holy Island

The Northern Synod invites you to the induction of

The Reverend Rachel Poolman To her ministry as Warden of St Cuthbert's Centre

Saturday 24th September at 16.30 in St Mary's Parish Church, Holy Island
(causeway opens at 15.45)

Please join us in the Centre afterwards for a wine and cake reception

RSVP: by 3rd September to: Janet Dypevaag, Secretary
St Cuthbert's Manse, Lewins Lane, Holy Island, TD14 2SB

Fairtrade

The following text is part of a recent speech made by Alan Duncan MP, Minister of State for International Development:

“I've had 20years in international business, and I'd like to think that you cannot pull the wool over my eyes. And I've sensed that some people just remain a little bit sceptical about the real, practical justification for the whole Fairtrade concept.

So let them hear it from me today, from a source they simply cannot challenge on these business

terms, I say this: don't scoff at Fair trade, Those who sneer at Fairtrade and think its some sort of sippy, do-gooding trendy left-wing notion are completely wrong. It is a robust, economic model which delivers direct benefits to some the world's poorest people.

It injects fairness and sensible economics into business communities in poor countries. And it rewards hard work and quality produce with a fair price. And everyone should support it.”

... So support fair-trade more rather than less!

In Celebration of Linthorpe

On Saturday, 23rd July members of Linthorpe URC were joined by friends to celebrate the life and witness of not only Linthorpe URC but also of the various congregations which fed into it. Friends included those from across the East Cleveland Group and from elsewhere in Northern Synod. Some, who had been members in the past, had travelled long distances, showing how much of a positive impact being part of this church has had many folk over its long history. It was good to meet up with old friends... and to meet some new ones. It was good to see the church packed. It was good to have a choir as a choir was very much part of the past. Most of all it was good to thank God for that past and to trust him for the future for members can walk into the future knowing that His love is constant and that He will always be there.

The following is a very much shortened history of how Linthorpe came to be and of some of the people who were part of that. If anyone would like a full history of Congregationalism and Presbyterianism in Middlesbrough please ask for one. Richard Harris has produced a much more comprehensive history than can be included in Group News.

Congregationalism in Middlesbrough

Way back in 1837 when Middlesbrough was no more than a village a handful of Congregationalists met in a house to worship. What were they like, we wonder, way back then as our town was in its very early infancy? Names are mentioned in documentation but we know little of the personalities involved, but they must have been people of faith. Numbers grew rapidly as it became apparent that a chapel needed to be built. So in 1938 the foundation stone was laid by a Rev Bill Himmers who was the first minister of what is now known as Guisborough URC and is currently celebrating its bi-centenary. Even then there was some interaction between the churches in the region.

And so the first Congregational chapel came into being in East Street but within 20 years its congregation had grown and larger premises were needed. Situated in Queen's Square the new larger

building was able to seat 600 in the main church and with rooms underneath for a huge Sunday School. The first Boys Brigade Company in Middlesbrough was begun in this building. The congregation also started a mission in Cannon Street which later became Cannon Street Congregational Church breaking away into independence and it remains as an independent Congregational Church to this day. As the town expanded many members of the Queen's Square church moved with it and found themselves living some distance from the building. In days when there were no cars it was agreed to build a new church on site within walking distance of most of the congregation. So in the 1890s St George's was built with seating for more than 600.

Did those few early Congregationalists in 1837, ever imagine how the work would grow? Did they anticipate that in years to come there would be several others carrying on their work through worship, work with young people through Boys Brigade, Scouts, and several groups for girls? Did they envisage children attending Sunday School and the great number of social and leisure activities that were provided through the church? Their faith, no doubt, was such for them to hope so. We may not know much about the people whose faith guided Congregationalism through those early days in the town but some here are old enough to remember some of the characters from the 1940s onwards.

There was Auntie Gertie who was leader of the Sisterhood and the rivalry between the Sisterhood and the Women's Guild is remembered, especially when at the annual bazaar the two organisations vied to see which would raise the most money!!!

There was Fred Unthank, a grumpy caretaker who grumbled when the Youth Club was late to leave the premises. But he was always there, always around when he was needed.

There was the Murchie family who were involved in running drama groups.

And there was Dennis Robinson, the Sunday School Superintendent who had a strange way of hanging on to notes when singing hymns.

Wilfred Ainsworth was the organist who taught our present organist at St Andrew's to play (well).

Laurie Sharp ran the Livingstone Fellowship, a bible study group for young people. Here there was discussion and learning but also a great deal of fun.

Jo Addison, a quiet man, who ran the Boys Brigade, commanded respect from his lads and had a strong and positive influence on several boys.

Rev Malkinson was one who encouraged folk, especially the youngsters... and, of course, his name will live on as the fund in his name to help educate people, young and old, will still be administered through the East Cleveland Group.

Muriel Tasker moved the Sunday School into the Junior Church era and was a real advocate for work with children within the wider Church.

And Mrs Newby is remembered as she was ready with glass of sherry for each of the young carol singers who visited her at Christmas. And the cream horns that Mrs Yuill provided at church teas were second to none!

These were people amongst many, many others who, in faith and with their own personalities, their own skills and talents, and in their own ways, continued the work begun by a few Congregationalists. About a century after those Congregationalists first met to worship in a room in Stockton Street an offer was made for the St. George's site and others subsequently followed. When the building suffered damage to the roof in a bombing raid during the war the people of Park Presbyterian Church offered to house then during repairs, which lasting about a year. And thus began a relationship between the two congregations. In 1964 it was agreed to accept an offer for the premises and several sites were considered for a new build. None of these ever came to anything and in their waiting they once more moved into this building but remained as Congregationalists in worship and governance. Eventually the two congregations agreed to unite and become as one in the new building. In the end there was no building and in 1971 the two congregations agreed to become as one in this church. This fell into line with the merger of the two Denominations uniting to become The United Reformed Church 1972.

And so we give honour to those Congregationalists of our past, people of faith, who played their part in spreading the gospel message through word and action in Middlesbrough.

Presbyterianism in Middlesbrough

The story continues as the town of Middlesbrough grew and Scots folk came looking for work. Thus they began Presbyterian worship in 1861 when a small congregation met in the British Schools in Stockton Street with the first church being built in 1865 in Newport Road. Again we have no idea of what those founders were like other than that they were people of faith.

As the town grew outwards the need for another site became apparent and in 1924 this building was opened and became known as Park Presbyterian Church. And so the work continued as the Sunday School flourished and Bible classes were held. Outreach brought about a mission at Haver-ton Hill which eventually resulted in St. Columba's U.R.C. in Billingham being established and much later as Middlesbrough expanded a daughter church grew up serving Marton and Nunthorpe.

Work with young people was to the fore and, although a Boys Brigade company existed for a short while, it was the Uniformed Organisations which flourished over the years along with the Youth Club and Bible Class for young people. And as time moved on many of the old austere ways were left behind as, for example, a tree decorated the church at Christmas and light music was introduced. What would those first Presbyterians of 1861 have thought about that, I wonder? But, no doubt, those people of faith would be pleased to see the fruits of their early endeavours.

And here, too, some of the characters of the more recent past have been remembered.

There was Rev Jamieson who was minister here during World War 2, who became a Moderator. He was followed by Rev Cullen, who preceded Rev Rathbone, a quiet but strict man from Shetland. Rev Sirkett brought about a lighter touch as the church moved into the 60s and before the United Reformed Church came into being.

There was Mr. Kendall, an Elder and a most commanding figure, who gave the cross now hanging on the wall.

There was Mr McPhail, who as Session Clerk, insisted on seeing word for word the content of a service to be led by young folk... in advance of the service itself. It is remembered that he sat at the back and sang in a strong deep bass voice.

There was Jack Evans who was Sunday School

Superintendent with his many helpers. An injury to his leg strengthened his faith rather than making him bitter and the love of Christ was reflected in his personality.

Edna Scott was also a Sunday School teacher remembered as a lovely, gentle woman.

And Park Presbyterian Church was a congregation which nurtured John Johansenberg and Graham Hellier who became ministers. John is a past Moderator of General Assembly.

Another member who went on to serve the wider Church was Peter Storey who used his knowledge gained at Durham Agricultural College as a missionary in Taiwan and Nepal.

Rev Margaret Taylor worked alongside Park members and helped to establish the daughter church at Marton and she became its first minister.

The Fellowship of Youth, run by Rev Rathbone on Saturdays, brought much fun and laughter. And the young people met again on Sunday evenings for bible study led by Miss McKay or John Johansenberg.

These were people amongst many, many others who, with their own personalities, their own skills and talents, and in their own ways, in faith continued the work begun by a few Presbyterians in 1861. And, as has already been said, more than a century later Park Presbyterian Church also housed the congregation of St. George's Congregationalists. In 1972 The United Reformed Church was born out of the merging of Congregationalists and Presbyterians in England and Wales. Before the United Reformed Church existed the two denominations came together in Middlesbrough and were known as either 'Park and St. George's' or 'St. George's and Park'. It wasn't until after the U.R.C. came into being that this building took on the name of Linthorpe United Reformed Church.

And so we give honour to those Presbyterians of our past, people of faith, who played their part in spreading the gospel message through word and action in Middlesbrough.

The United Reformed Church

And so the story continued through Linthorpe URC for another 40 years. The United Reformed Church will celebrate its Ruby Anniversary next

year. During that time the church was instrumental, along with Anglicans and Methodists, in establishing St. Mark's, a Local Ecumenical Project, in Coulby Newham. And Linthorpe retained its independence when another four neighbouring URCs came together to form the East Cleveland Group. Eventually Linthorpe did become part of the Group and shared ministry with the other churches.

And again there are a number of people who are key parts of the story. Some of the following were also very much part of what preceded URC days. The minister who helped the church unite fully under the name of Linthorpe URC was Rev Malcolm Smith and he was followed by Rev Jaroslav Raich, before the church joined the East Cleveland Group.

There was Sandy Hyslop who was caretaker and an Elder for a number of years.

There was Fred Lappin, an Elder, handyman and musician but also Group Scout Leader whose gentle ways had a positive influence in the lives of many lads over the years.

And, of course, there was Stan Burnicle, who as a very gifted musician, was organist and choir master here for many years. And he was also a humorous raconteur.

There are those members who trained for ministry, Hazel Catton and Sheelah Stevens.

There is Simon Loveitt who, as a Church Related Community Worker attached to this church, began the Credit Union amongst many other things. And we are pleased that the work of the Credit Union will continue into the future.

These were people amongst many, many others who, with their own personalities, their own skills and talents, and in their own ways, continued the work through being members of Linthorpe U.R.C.

And so we give honour to those U.R.C. members, people of faith, who in the past played their part in spreading the gospel message through word and action in Middlesbrough.

And now, we ask for continued prayers for members of Linthorpe URC as they each move on into new spiritual homes. Many will join their daughter church in Marton whilst a few intend to try other traditions. One or two have chosen to travel to Redcar URC. We pray God's blessing on them all wherever their new spiritual home may be.

A Personal Reflection

Linthorpe Church was a large part of my life for more than 30 years - which is nothing when compared with others who were there on 23 July to say good bye to this very well loved building. Its light oak pews and pulpit, the oak block flooring, the panelling, the plain magnificent chancel cross and the light coming through the large windows made it feel a very special place. People came to give thanks, to remember and to meet many old friends. Former ministers Malcolm Smith and Jaroslav Raich were there. CRCW Simon Loveitt and his family were there with their sons now at the student stage. Other sons and daughters who had been in the Scouts and Guides, the Badminton Club and had long since moved away, many for reasons of employment, came back to say farewell.

Many came to sing - there was a choir of about 20 to sing *The Lord is my light and my salvation* one of Stan Burnicle's anthems. For many of us he was the inspiration which helped us to go to Church. He was organist for 50 years and the Choir was a very close fellowship within the worshipping community, supporting Stan as well as each other.

Telling the story of the Church from its founding in both Presbyterianism and Congregationalism was Richard Harris, secretary for more than 25 years, Peter Bradley who looked after the property during and after Fred Lappin's illness, and Mabel Warren. Only Mabel mentioned the Choir - all too briefly. But those of us who knew

it well remembered with pleasure the many concerts all over the North East and as far as Ipswich, Chelmsford and yes, even London as well as the Carol Services and weekly anthems which enhanced worship.

Meg summed everything up by reminding us that the Church is a living fellowship, people and not buildings; that it had taken courage for those early pioneers to build their churches and it took courage to decide to leave the building. That once the decision had been taken, Linthorpe's members had begun to feel a sense of relief, tempered by the fact that they had been able to sell the building to another and very different worshipping community. The majority would probably transfer to St Andrews, Marton. - the church Linthorpe founded.

Jan Harper, as retiring Church secretary, offered the opening prayers; the Moderator brought greetings from the Synod and lead us in the intercessions. Madge Baird supported us on the organ, and we sang the hymns well. Linthorpe has always been a generous church, the largest giver to Commitment for Life in the District and that same spirit has been reflected in the way they have decided to share their resources on closure.

Did we go out with joy? I think there were many who experienced mixed feelings. I hope we left with thankfulness that we had enjoyed the privilege of being part of the story of Park, St. Georges and Linthorpe. Thanks be to God.

Jane Tomlin

Audrey Piercy

I have tried to imagine Audrey as a child growing up in Hambledon Road, in the house bought by her parents as a new build a year or so before Audrey was born. She and her older sister, Margaret, would, no doubt, play in the street in the almost traffic free days of the 30s.

She attended Kirby Grammar School and, although she was intelligent, it seems she lived in the shadow of her sister who was exceptionally clever. Her teachers held Margaret in high esteem and expected the same high standard from Audrey. When she left at school, aged 15, she

began working at I.C.I. in the Sales Department and she stayed with I.C.I. for the rest of her working days. She and her friend and colleague, June, would cycle to work in Billingham in all weathers. When June moved to another department she travelled by bus and Audrey bought a scooter, a blue Honda 50, which became her main mode of transport. But June and Audrey remained good friends and when June married Audrey was bridesmaid and later took great delight in being godmother to June's three children.

She had six godchildren in all and she took her role seriously. I think she gave each one a New Testament when they were christened and she always remembered them on their birthdays and at Christmas. One of her god-daughters, Kate, remembers how, when she came of age, Audrey sent her a glamorous bracelet which was a very non-Audrey bracelet. And yes, Audrey would never have worn glamorous jewellery herself but she was happy for others to enjoy such luxury.

Audrey was very generous... not only in her giving of gifts to people but also to the many charities she supported. There was RSPB, since she loved bird watching, and Cats' homes, since she loved cats. She had a love for children and gave to charities such as Save the Children. And she would collect for Christian Aid each year, right up until a couple of years ago and even then her mobility was not all it once was.

Her parents died relatively young and her sister who taught in York died a few years ago. Two maiden aunts lived next door and when Aunt Edith was left on her own and needed care she moved in with Audrey and Audrey looked after her until she, too, died.

At the age of 50 Audrey retired as she had things she wanted to do. A member of National Trust she enjoyed days out with fellow members. She had time to pursue her bird watching and gardening and she went on holidays. Holidays included visiting cousins at Whitley Bay and she often went to Scotland with her friends, Leila. She and Leila went to Portugal once and also to Canada to stay with one of Audrey's cousins.

She remembered birthdays not only of godchildren but also of friends and relatives, often including a hand-written note with her cards. She had great gift for knitting ranging from blankets for Africa to trendy garments for teenage godchildren. And her needlework was exquisite.

As a friend she was loyal. Leila remembers how she attended her first choir practice alone and was welcomed warmly by Audrey who put her at her ease. A long and lasting friendship was born that evening.

Audrey had a lovely voice and sang in the church choir and was a member of the Columba Singers, often singing solo parts.

She enjoyed Scrabble, playing once a week with June and her family. Audrey seemed to have list of very long words which she insisted were in the dictionary! And many an enjoyable game was had until

the early hours when Audrey would rev up her Honda to go home.

She was a stickler for detail, whether that was over a minor point in minutes of a meeting or the shoddy way in which a knitted garment was sewn up.

She was a caring and good neighbour in Hambledon Road over the years most recently to Marion and Brian who missed her when she moved into Kirkley Lodge. And she went beyond Hambledon road to care for a housebound lady who lived in Whinney Banks.

She could be very blunt. It is recalled how when reprimanded for being late for choir practice she relied, 'you're lucky I'm here at all!'

She was self contained, a private person and she has been described as a true and proper lady who was perhaps a little eccentric. She didn't move with the times and saw little need to spend money on herself unless it was really necessary. She bought a new bath mat in Portugal and when asked if she had used it replied that she wouldn't until the one her aunt made during the War had worn out! But, as I've said, she was very generous in her giving to others.

And she was lady of faith. As a private person her faith, too, was private. And yet, maybe the words of the hymns she chose for her funeral ('The King of love my shepherd is' & 'O love that wilt not let me go') speak volumes about her faith. Baptised in Park Presbyterian Church she became a Deacon and then an Elder and also Cradle Role Secretary and did other jobs behind the scenes. Sadly her church going stopped almost 20 years ago when she found she needed carers to get her going in the morning... and the carers' times didn't fit round church time. Sadly, her mobility, which had been deteriorating for about 20 years, robbed her of her independence and she moved into Kirkley Lodge just over eighteen months ago. But she made the best of the transition even though it must have been a wrench to leave the house which had been her home throughout her life. In Kirkley Lodge she was well cared for, and recently she celebrated her 80th birthday there. And she was so proud to reach 80!!

And now, the Christian hope is that her home is with her Father God. So we can be heartened to know that Audrey who struggled in her old age with mobility is much more like the child, Audrey. But she won't be running up and down Hambledon Road but into the arms of her Father God and into the home that is now hers in heaven.

Guisborough

Summertime seems to be a time for absences and there are gaps in the congregation. We are missing Maureen and David Houston who are spending their usual summer in Germany and Austria. Meg is hopefully having a fruitful time in Mozambique and Christine Robertson, our junior church leader, has also been away for a full month in Scotland and elsewhere. Despite this we have had good attendances and have even managed to lead worship ourselves with plenty of volunteers. It has been good to welcome back Mary Sollett and Ernest Dale after recent illness. We rejoice as they gain in strength week by week. We are concerned for Doreen Cross who hasn't been well and pray for her recovery and that she will soon be back amongst us.

Our children have been very loyal attendees despite the attraction of outdoor play. Joyce, Sandra and I have been trying to keep them entertained. We were ably supported by the acting talents of Peter Etwell and Ray Tunnicliffe who provided us with a very funny sketch on the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water.

The weather hasn't been very summery but I still enjoyed the walking group hike from Falling Foss. We were few in number as the rain was lashing down inland, but it held off for us until we got back to our cars. I was delighted to find Midge Hall, a rather forlorn ruin last time I

was there, now occupied and the garden open for tea and snacks. Outdoors and undercover, the perfect combination, we all enjoyed watching a couple of jays in the apple tree.

Barbara Ward has asked me to advertise that she has entered a sponsored walk of the Guisborough Parish Boundary to raise money for Christian Aid. This will take place on Sunday 18th September. She has the ambitious target of completing the full 22 mile round trip and requests your prayers and sponsorship. She is also looking for companions for the whole walk or only a small part to provide encouragement. If you can help please contact her or myself. I have sadly had to say no, as I shall be on my first Gateways into Worship weekend at Ely.

I am rather daunted but excited by this next step towards accreditation as a lay preacher. Thank you for all your prayers and support through my foundation years. I couldn't have done it without all of you.

I hope you have all had a good summer whether home or away and that you have found some time for rest and relaxation whatever the weather.

Thanks be to God who is with us in all that we do, wherever we are and whose love we share in Jesus' name.

Donna Moore

10th Anniversary of The Bridge Association

This spring the Guisborough Bridge Association celebrates 10 years of being a registered charity. The Bridge is the serving arm of the Church in our town, coming under the umbrella of The Churches Together in Guisborough. We feel that through our work we have not only built a bridge into the community but

also bridges between our churches – over 100 people are involved each month in volunteering for our projects, and it has been a wonderful way to get to know each other.

The Bridge began around the time of the Millennium when several people including Rev Kathleen Bowe of the Methodist church had the vision of getting the church to reach out into the community more. A pilot

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
4th Sep	B Ward	R Tunnicliffe	J Basham	D Cross
11th Sep	D Moore		J Bulmer	D Collins
18th Sep	R Tunnicliffe		P Etwell	E Dale
25th Sep	J Reynolds		M Burrows	B Ward

project - a drop-in centre in Bow Street - was held for 3 weeks and demonstrated that there was a need for this kind of outreach. Fund-raising began and The Bridge became a registered charity; at this point in time the aim

was to purchase a building in the town for use as a drop-in 'centre. In 2003 the vision shifted somewhat and we began using existing buildings in the town - the Pursglove Centre, the Youth Centre at Laurence Jackson School, church halls, Sunnyfield House – for our individual projects. Although the vision to purchase our own building has never entirely gone away, there is a feeling that financially, we may be better off without one in these times of economical difficulty,

On the 12th March there was a full day of festivities: one of the funded youth projects (Footsteps) exhibited their year's work to the public in Sunnyfield House all day - presentations and displays that reflected the individual nature of all our churches, refreshments and performances from several church music and puppet groups. In the afternoon and evening of the same day two parties were held with entertainment, games, quizzes, buffet and crafts - all with the aim of saying a huge thank-you to all our volunteers who have worked so hard for the last 10 years,

There is always room for more volunteers and so Guisborough people are invited to drop in and see such events as: Tuesday mornings at our Sunnyfield House coffee morning, or Thursday lunch-times during the ever-popular Soup and Roll at the Methodist church. There are opportunities for youth-work, children's work (A week-long Summer Holiday Club is held in the first week of August), serving lunches to a group of elderly folk at Kemplah House and of course coffee mornings and Soup and Roll to name but a few of the Bridge activities.

The most recent project of the Bridge Association is the Foodstop which will be launched this Harvest-time 2011, in conjunction with Guisborough Churches Together. FoodStop is a response to the increasingly challenging financial situation facing individuals in the community. Through the Bridge (and specifically through our Tuesday Sunnyfield coffee mornings and our Thursday Soup and Roll initially) we will provide 3-day emergency food parcels to those who find themselves in temporarily straitened circumstances. We intend to use a voucher system and will liaise with Social Services and other agencies.

We would like to "start small" and build the provision – until we know how great the demand will be and until we have storage securely established. At the moment we have one large cupboard in the Methodist church we can use – but it would be good to have more if anyone has any ideas! CTG has agreed we can use this year's Harvest services to collect *non-perishable* foodstuffs from our congregations (though of course individual churches are entirely free to donate elsewhere if they prefer).

Our shopping list is very specific – all tins and packets: milk (UHT or powdered), sugar (500g), fruit juice cartons, soup, pasta sauces, tinned sponge puddings, tinned tomatoes, cereals, tinned rice puddings, tea bags / instant coffee (Fairtrade); instant mashed potato; rice / pasta; tinned meat / fish (in oil); tinned fruit, jam, biscuits / snack bars; baked beans, sweet-corn, tinned vegetables, tinned pulses (beans and lentils); fruit squash; porridge; (for children) jelly, Angel Delight, instant chocolate drinks You can also

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	3 Sep	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast - for 'The Bridge' – United Reformed Church.
Sat	10 Sep	10am – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day.
Sun	18 Sep	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together in the Methodist Church.
Tue	20 Sep	7.15pm	Church Meeting.
Thu	22 Sep	7.30pm	Mission Partnership meeting for elders to discuss future of ministry in Cleveland. Queen's Park, Stockton.
Sun	25 Sep	9.30am	Back to Church Sunday at Guisborough. Ask a friend, relative, neighbour or anyone to come to church on the 25 th September.

Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and others.

donate some hygiene items (soap, toothbrush, toilet rolls, washing powder, razors, shower gel) which we will give out where there proves a need. Monetary donations would also be welcome: these will help to pay for other essentials as the need arises in individual circumstances.

The motivation behind this project is that in all things we seek to reach out to our community, offering practical support as well as spiritual (“integral mission”), showing them the love of Jesus – acting as His hands and feet. After all, Jesus said to His disciples, “You give them something to eat.”

As ever, thank you so much for all your sup-

port to the Bridge – without it, we would simply be unable to carry out God’s work in our town.

The Bridge office is in the lower part of the house next to the United Reformed Church. – and was funded by the Northern Synod of the URC four years ago. Bridge workers can be contacted on 01287 636825 or E: staff@guisborough-bridge.org.uk (Website: www.guisborough-bridge.org.uk) Jenny Tyrie, Bridge Administrator

*Shona Joselin, Bridge Project Development Worker
(Edited version of earlier published articles.) Ray
Tunncliffe, Guisborough.*

Finding Practical Evangelism

The Year of Evangelism presents the greatest challenge to all who have been involved in the three years of the Vision 4Life process. For now it is time to take all of the new insights discovered about God’s word, as in the Bible and through prayer – which should equip us to go out into a largely secular community – and tell others about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism is unlike Bible study or prayer in that, for whilst they can be simply private matters, evangelism can only be public – and so we have to break cover, come out into the open and declare our allegiance and beliefs. No easy matter in the modern world. So in March of this year to give added guidance, knowledge and confidence, we in the Teesside South East Mission Partnership of the URC held a Day on Evangelism entitled: ‘Learning to Tell our Stories Day’ which was led by the Rev Paul Stokes of GEAR (*Group for Evangelism and Renewal in the URC*). And it was good to be both challenged and, at the same time, encouraged in the quest to find our way into effective evangelism for the local area and community.

Paul Stokes used as his the model Philip, the Evangelist; taking his story in the New Testament to developed 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 – your beliefs and understanding of faith. What do I actually believe, understand and have faith in? Ask myself this question and find answers and, perhaps, I will be half way there.

I left the meeting with much to think and pray about and so try to form in my mind practical initiatives for my own church at Guisborough. However, as we will know, only too well, whilst ideas, concepts and visions are good for an enthusiastic beginning – careful practicalities are needed for the long haul. So I wrote to Paul Stokes for further advice and he suggested a programme: ‘Blowing Your Cover’ (<http://www.blowingyourcover.com>) to encourage Christians to talk to each other about faith as a starting point to build up the confidence to go on to speak to those outside of faith – and a good starting point.

Early on in Paul’s presentation three specific issues were raised: time for change; talking to each other about faith; and having a mission purpose – clearly these are crucial in the process of bringing others to Christ.

Time for change: In the presentation the reference was to a new location, for Philip because of persecution, but for us it will be a new attitude within a local fellowship and towards the local community. Michael Green in his book *Forgotten Dynamite* writes: “*The ability to cope with change:* Is a church so set in its ways that it re-

gards all change as a threat, or is there a willingness to trust God and take risks?" Taking risks was a vital element in the growth of the early church – and whilst talking about risk is not uncommon, today, action is a different matter. Changing our mindset to cope with such an idea is a difficult process – and needs much prayer and then perhaps a leap in the dark.

On the 25th September Guisborough Church will be experiencing a small risk by taking part in *Back to Church Sunday*, for the first time. This project claims to be the largest invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism – that we should invite someone we already know to something we love; invite our friend to our church. So one small move: ask some one to come and hear about Jesus, then see what happens.

Talking to each other about faith, Again Michael Green, in his book, says: "Structures to enable members to share their lives: I am thinking primarily, but not exclusively of small groups in the life of the church. But there need to be some structures 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." By using the material *Blowing Your Cover*, suggested by Paul Stokes, there is one option for making a practical start - an idea that seems to be an invaluable approach towards developing evangelism in a local fellowship. But like inviting some one new to your church there is a risk – the courage to ask yourself about your faith – and not to be reticent about telling your friends in Christ.

Having a mission purpose, Any mission purpose should naturally incorporate the teachings of our Lord Jesus – where his vision must be the ultimate guide as to how we should respond to the various situations we face in the present world. The Five Marks of Mission and the Ten Statements of the Vision 2020 provide a frame work, which ties in with life with a mission (Mark 1:17 & Matthew 10:7-9) under one of Paul's programme sub headings: *What do people need to know?* Clearly if we have the teachings Christ and an idea of mission that comes from these, 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 August riots, in England, point to one area of mission purpose. In one terrible week we saw clear examples of where people lost their moral compass. The destruction, disorder and looting involved not only the usual criminal elements of society – but normally respectable people seem to be caught up in the mayhem. Among the prosecuted were a primary school classroom assistant and a ballerina. Here the materialism and selfishness of modern culture exploded in a terrible way. Christ has an answer for this, but are we, as a church, prepared to expound this in any meaningful sense. And do we see it as our mission today?

At the present time the Guisborough church has a public coffee morning each Thursday and once a month, on Farmers Market Day the church is open in the morning with an invitation for any member of the public to pop in for a free coffee and a chat. How can we develop these two activities into opportunities for evangelism? In addition, we hold a service once a month in a local care home for the elderly, and members are involved with the Bridge Association, which is an ecumenical venture in Guisborough working in the local community with a variety projects, initiatives and activities. From this position there is a foundation to develop *Fresh Expressions of Worship* – where we take our faith out into the community rather than expect people to come to us in our formidable buildings hosting unfamiliar ceremonies.

The ideas and guidelines raised during the 'Day of Evangelism' were obviously of value but I was unclear as to whether they were meant as an exhortation to individuals or can they be developed as part of the corporate life of a fellowship? For in my experience it is not usually effective to put out some words of wisdom, specific strategies, or a general vision concept and expect something to happen. I believe that we need to be in this together on this, supporting and encouraging each other.

So with prayer, faith in Christ and taking a risk can we come to understand and use some of the ideas of evangelism? Maybe we will become able to identify the Holy Spirit, be a good storyteller, be a good listener, see an opportunity or sign, sense when a person has a need for spirituality in their lives. Or, in other words – the Spirit of God moving in us today – to be understood, identified and developed in the context of our local fellowship.

Ray Tunnicliffe, Guisborough.

St Andrew's

Condolences

It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Mary Lang**. Please remember Mary's family in your prayers at this sad time.

Knit and Natter

Please come along and join us in some knitting or just nattering or both on Wednesday 28th September 1pm - 3pm. Coffee/tea/biscuits provided.

Shoe Box Appeal Operation Christmas Child

We are once again taking part in this appeal so please keep hold of your empty shoe boxes. We will be announcing what items are needed to fill the shoe boxes in the near future.

Una and Joan's Coffee Morning

We will be announcing a date (sometime in October) for the coffee morning in the next Group News. There will be the usual raffle and bring and buy stall. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Churches Together Prayer list

Week beginning:

4th September St Bernadette's RC Church

11th September Coulby Newham Baptist

18th September St Andrew's URC

25th September Marton Methodist Church

Please pray for our developing relationships with each other.

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly

Wednesday 9.30am Prayers

Sunday After Worship Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)

Boys Brigade Details from ministers / elders

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship will restart their new session on Wednesday 7th September at 7.30pm at St Andrews with a "shared" supper, some entertainment and chat. All welcome!

Please note the annual subscription will be £6.00 and Tea/Coffee and biscuit £1.00.

Strawberry Tea

The Strawberry Tea held here at St Andrews on 9th July raised £286.27 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed a lovely afternoon.

Reminder - Coatham House

We are still collecting dried goods, tinned food and toiletries etc. for Coatham House, Redcar. A collecting box is available in the vestibule every Sunday. Coatham House desperately needs these items and is always extremely grateful for the items we give them. Please help to support them. Thank you.

Annual Bazaar

This is to be held on Sat. 19th Nov. 11.30a.m.-1.30p.m. We will need donations for tombola, raffle, cake, bric a brac stalls and HELPERS. If anyone can help please get in touch with Una, Sheila, Doreen or Joan S. Thank you. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Rosedale Sponsored Walk

John and Shirley raised a total of £206 for the Mary Thompson Fund for refugees and those seeking sanctuary from oppressive and brutal regimes who have no other means of support. A Big Thank You to everyone at St Andrew's congregation who sponsored us.

Redcar

Family News

Our very best wishes and congratulations to Norma and Arthur Creek who will celebrate their **Diamond Wedding Anniversary** on the 15th September.

Congratulations to Margaret and Charles Hales' twin Grandchildren, Sarah and Christopher who have been rewarded for their hard work by both gaining first class Bachelor of Science degrees. They are now looking forward to pursuing careers in Occupational Therapy and Web development.

The 'Pop In' comes of age.

On Thursday 4th August we celebrated eighteen years of the 'Pop In', the hall was full - how I wish it was every week!

Mrs Vera Woodhouse, the widow of Rev. Jim Woodhouse, who did a survey in Coatham to find what was needed in the area at that time. Mrs Woodhouse spoke of its' early beginnings and wished us well in the future.

Rev. Norma Johnson conducted the choir as we sang songs from, 'The Sound of Music' and 'The Lord's my Shepherd,' as a member of our singing group I must say how much we enjoy singing together, if any-one would like to join our group we practice every other Wednesday 11am – until noon. (Please ask for more details.)

We would love to see more of you at the 'Pop In,' some 'pop in' for a quick coffee and are gone, some stay and chat but just come without you we can't go on!

Norma Creek

Badges

Badges and printed words on clothes are very often seen in our society. They may be rude, shocking, informative, thought provoking or religious. They may publicise a leisure activity, skills earned or show a military rank.

They are prized by those who wear them yet usually ignored by strangers who are uninterested, unshockable or embarrassed.

About a month ago our grandson moved up from cubs into the scouts. His mother is now busy re-sewing his achievement badges onto his favourite blanket. Many years ago I remember my wife doing the same for his father.

Are there now too many badges on display? In a society where many people don't often give eye contact they seem rather pointless.

We wear them when we meet with like minded friends. They give us confidence, but we need to be wary that we're not just getting into a holy huddle or a cosy cuddle!

Years ago I saw on the back of a young man in church the words 'Fred Perry.' My ignorance raised a laugh when I seriously inquired "Is that his name?"

Badges are also seen on cars. I saw a modern version of the Christian Fish symbol recently. The fish had legs and it had the word 'DARWIN' on its' body. So the car owner was not a creationist he or she believed the theory of evolution as a fact.

So although we're distant cousins of the three species of ape, further back all life on land came from fish, walking on their fins as mud skippers do on the tidal mud of the mangrove forests.

So it is good for us to end with a dose of humility.

By the way on Fathers' Day I was given a pair of colourful socks. They had on them an elderly man, flying in a cape and carpet slippers. The words were 'My Super Grandad!'

John Crowther

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

Jack's Diary

I want a change of career, I would like to be an electrician or a gas engineer or a plumber or work for B.T. Why? I hear you ask, well because when they are out working they are always offered a drink and a PLATE OF BISCUITS.

I heard Alix say "We can't always have what we want." Anyway who would employ me? I can't hold an electric drill or a trowel, I haven't any thumbs, I am a dog! So I will change my way of thinking and do what God says I do best and love everybody and I always end up getting a biscuit anyway.

God is good!

Romans ch 12 v2 (GNB)

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God, what is good and is pleasing to Him and is perfect.

Catherine Milburn

Lingdale

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

3rd Sunday of month 5.00pm Craft Club followed by
Worship at 6pm.
4th Tuesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Flower Rota

4th Sep Mr B Dove
11th Sep Mr A Thompson
18th Sep Mrs M Saunders
25th Sep Miss J Scarth
2nd Oct Mr T Waller

Preachers

	4-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct
Marion	10.00am M Robb Church Meet	C Morrison Parade	C Morrison Communion	M Robb	C Morrison Harvest
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion		M Robb	C Morrison	M Robb Harvest, Comm
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison Communion	N Johnson	M Robb	C Morrison	M Robb Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm M Robb	C Morrison Communion	C Morrison Craft & Family	M Robb	C Morrison

Material for the October Magazine to church editors by Sunday 11th September please
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