

Group News



** 2014 * September * 2014 **

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Minister

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Dear Friends,

What is the most beautiful thing that you can remember seeing? Whether you are remembering a mountain scene, a sunset, or a newborn baby, what I believe will be true in every case is that you will be remembering something of God's creation! Beauty is and always will be connected with God. Even the most beautiful person is God's creation after all, are they not? The Creator should get the credit and not makeup companies or modelling agency.

But beauty is something more than that. Beauty is not beauty until we interact with it, until we engage with it. So a mountain top scene or a sunset is not a scene of amazing beauty until we see it, until we recognise it for what it is. But more than that, beauty is not beauty unless we play our part in that beautiful scene. For our example, our memory of that beautiful waterfall or that amazing evening when the sunset lit up the sky an incredible shade of orange and pink, is not a memory of beauty without our memory of where we were at that moment and what we were doing at that moment, thus our part in it. I have a memory of a beautiful sunset over Ailsa Craig off the Ayrshire coast in Scotland. However, the memory of beauty is not complete until I add in the fact that John and I remember it fondly, remembering sitting and looking out to sea one summer evening while eating haggis and chips and drinking iron brew sat outside on a bench. All this on a summer holiday some 20 years ago. The glorious sunset is not complete until we are part of the scene, and that scene, that memory of beauty, is only beautiful because we were there. It is beauty that was reflected in our eyes as we engaged with it.

For beauty truly is in the eye of the beholder and in the memory of the beholder. It is only beautiful because of the image in our eyes and the memory of what we were doing at the time. In fact another person might have also been out walking that same night all those years ago in Scotland, but the worries of their life and what they were going through at the time may have prevented them from recognising and engaging with this scene and thus for them this beautiful scene just was not there.

Faith is a bit like this. If we recognise it and engage with it, it can be a thing of great beauty, a thing from which we gain inspiration and strength for our lives, but for others it is possible to pass by and not see what we are seeing, not feel what we are feeling, not know what we are understanding about the reality of God, not realising the life and vitality that faith brings us. It is not enough just to come to church religiously every Sunday, we have to engage with God, engage in worship and connect with God through prayer, in order to have faith. And we need to keep on praying that God will reveal to others in our communities the reality and beauty of faith. Prayer for God to act is the single most important thing that we can do for our communities, then we may find individuals drawn to our churches who want to see this glorious thing called faith. God will make it happen in response to our faithful prayers. But that doesn't take away the need for us to point others to see the sun-rise, and the beauty of that moment when we engage with God in faith.

We are about to begin covering the Blowing Your Cover course once a month in our Sunday services, which we will be reminding us to tell our story, share our faith. But more than that, we are called daily to invite others to see through God's eyes the beauty of faith in Jesus and the beauty in the world around us which God has created.

God bless!

Revd Catey Morrison

Ampleforth Abbey Trip Saturday 27th September.

Places are still available for those who have not yet let Catey know at a cost of £5. The trip is being subsidised by Group Funds. Pick up points and times will be made known in the church notices or contact Catey for more information. Please pay on the day and also bring a picnic. Alternatively there is an excellent Coffee Shop at the Abbey that you may like to make use of. We will also be going to Rievaulx Terrace afterwards for our picnic lunch together.

Synod Prayers

7th September

Trust; Convenor Revd James Breslin; Cromer Avenue; Gateshead; Denewell Avenue, Gateshead; Winlaton LEP; Revd Elaine Brown; Revd Gordon Brown

14th September

Racial Justice; St James's, Newcastle; St Andrew's, Kenton; Revd James Breslin

21st September

Redcar; Lingdale; Guisborough; St Andrew's, Nunthorpe & Marton; Revd Catey Morrison

28th September

PCM (Church of Mozambique): Lay training throughout the Church, including foundation evening classes for lay people offered through the Theological School at Khovo; The Churches' Regional Commission in the North East.

Group Service - Marton

Marton on 23rd November -2014 at 10.30am.

The service will be conducted by Rev Lis Mullen

There will be a faith lunch following the service:

Marton and Guisborough will provide the savoury items

Redcar and Lingdale will provide the dessert.

There will be a Fair Trade Stall following the service.

If anyone needs transport to the service or can provide transport please contact Dot on 01642 491172. Posters will be put up in October for availability.

Group Prayer Pointers

Monday 1st

Pray for all those facing new beginnings at new schools, universities and colleges. Pray for the calming of nerves and for young people to grasp opportunities that these new starts will also bring. Pray that the young people will choose to take the right path in life.

Monday 8th

Pray for those who have not been able to have a break or holiday this year due to financial pressures caused by unemployment. Pray for families under pressure at this time because of such stresses.

Monday 15th

Pray for Churches Together endeavours and all that we are preparing to do with the other churches in our communities. Pray for closer relationships with the other denominations as we realise our common purpose.

Monday 22nd

Pray for those we know in residential homes, facing the loss of their family homes and the loss of independence. Pray that we can support those we know who are particularly lonely and struggling with the changes they are facing in later life.

Monday 29th

Pray for the harvest gathered in from the fields surrounding our communities and the world-wide gathering in of the harvest. Pray that we might truly value the effort that has gone into bringing the food to our supermarkets and our plates.

Proverbs 27 v 9

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest council

Workplace Chaplaincy: Meeting the Challenges of Change An Invitation from Tees Valley Ministry

**Lunchtime Event on Tuesday 16 September 2014, 12 noon – 2pm
Stockton Baptist Tabernacle, The Square, Stockton-on-Tees**

We invite you to join us in an interactive workshop to consider the benefits of chaplaincy in the workplace. Whether you're an employer, a member of a faith community, a chaplain or indeed someone with an interest in the wellbeing of people in workplaces across Tees Valley, we'd be delighted to welcome you.

What's it about? The event is a response to requests from businesses, Churches and faith communities to hear more about chaplaincy and its benefits. Representatives from NECAT (North East Churches Acting Together), the business sector and chaplaincy will outline ways that chaplains can help to meet the challenges facing people, commerce and industry today.

If you *are* prepared to give up some of your valuable time, not only will you get a 'free lunch', you'll have the chance to:

- Hear from Tees Valley Ministry about what we're up to
- Find out about the 'bigger picture' from NECAT
- Offer your own perspectives on Workplace Chaplaincy and its future
- Network and make some new contacts

Speakers will include Ruth Gee, Chair of Darlington Methodist District and NECAT Trustee, Derek Rosamond, Community Priest in Stockton, and Stephanie Hogan of Liebherr – Sunderland Works Ltd from the business community.

Why now? This event marks a new phase of chaplaincy for Tees Valley Ministry, celebrating over 50 years of involvement and collaboration. The event is free and a buffet lunch will be provided

For more details please contact Jim Rogers, TVM Chaplains' Co-ordinator, tel. 01642 317078; or email jim@teesvalleyministry.org.uk. For more information about Tees Valley Ministry and our work please visit www.teesvalleyministry.org.uk

RSVP by 5 September 2014

Guisborough

Guisborough's contribution this month consists of a Book Review that of: "Woodbine Willie" (An Unsung Hero of World War One) by Bob Holman. ISBN 978-0-7459-5561-2 Publisher LION

If you are lucky enough to visit Worcester Cathedral you may see a bronze tablet to Reverend Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy MC. It spells out the words:

"A Poet: A Prophet: A passionate seeker after the truth; An ardent advocate of Christian Fellowship: Chaplain to H. M. King George V: Chaplain to the Forces: Rector of S. Edmund King and Martyr in the City of London: Sometime Vicar of S. Pauls in this City: Born 27 June 1883. Died 8 March 1929."

Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy was born in Leeds in June 1883, the son of William a vicar at St Mary's in the Quarry Hill area, an impoverished and overcrowded industrial area of the city. Geoffrey's mother Joan who had 9 children said that Geoffrey was the best baby she had ever had. He suffered from asthma in his early childhood and this kept re-occurring throughout his life. Geoffrey was always fond of reading but it was said that he was outspoken, even boisterous

at home and at school. He first went to Leeds Grammar School, and then on to Trinity College Dublin. After graduating he began teaching but soon realised that he wanted to follow his father into the clergy. In 1907 he entered Ripon Clergy College where clearly his nature changed as there he was described as a quiet and self-contained, able man. The Bishop of Ripon at the time, William Boyd Carpenter saw something special in him saying that he had gifts and fire that in a crisis would blaze out.

In 1908 Geoffrey was ordained Deacon in Worcester Cathedral and sent to work in St Andrews Parish Church in Rugby, which at the time was in the Diocese of Worcester. Geoffrey's mother died in 1908 and his Father began to feel the strain of Ministry. In 1912 Geoffrey felt that it was time to return to Leeds and support his Father. He was made part of a team of curates attached to Leeds Parish Church but freed to be a curate to his Father. It was here that Geoffrey began preaching against atheists in the open spaces of Victoria Square in the centre of Leeds, close to the railway station. He apparently enjoyed these skirmishes very much. Whilst in Leeds he met and married Emily Catlow

on 25 April 1914. His Father died soon afterwards but Geoffrey did not succeed his father at St Mary's because the authorities desired a change from the Studdert Kennedys.

Geoffrey returned to Worcester on 9 June 1914. He chose the poorest area, St Paul's Church which was situated in an area known as Blockhouse Fields, on the south side of City Walls Road. It is still there and very active today. He became known for the fire and passion of his sermons, and was renowned for his passionate approach to Christianity. He felt passionate about helping and supporting those less fortunate than himself and would spend hours listening to those who came to his services. It is said that sometimes he would not return home after the Sunday evening service

until after 10.30pm, and only then at the insistence of his wife Emily, who could see he was exhausted. A few weeks later Britain declared war against Germany.

Revd. Geoffrey Kennedy volunteered to become an Army Chaplain and was appointed on 21 December 1915. Within four days he was conducting a Christmas Day service in a village square in France. He was soon posted to the front line on the Somme to offer comfort and sacrament to the troops suffering in the trenches. He helped doctors treat the injured, tried to staunch the blood, held them during operations and offered words of hope. Frequently he advanced with the men as they went over the top towards enemy fire. He would drag back the badly wounded, pray over the dying, and bury the dead. He

Guisborough Calendar

Thu	Sep 11 th	12 noon	Elders meeting in the Hall
Tue	Sep 18 th	2.30pm	Belmont Care Home Service
Tue	Sept 23 rd	7.15pm	Church Meeting in the Hall
Sun	Sep 28 th		Harvest Festival

Weekly

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

was sometimes described as ugly. He might have lacked good looks but he never lacked courage. During this time he began writing poetry that was as passionate as his sermons. He was highly-regarded by the soldiers and gave comfort to them by offering them cigarettes. Hence the name Woodbine Willie.

It was a common enough scene in those days, an advanced collecting post for wounded in the Ypres Salient, on the evening of 15 June 1917. Twenty men all smashed up and crammed together in a little concrete shelter. Outside the German barrage banging down all around. A boy with a badly shattered thigh, moaning and yelling by turns for something to stop the pain. So it had been for an hour or more. Between this Black Hole of Calcutta and Battalion H.Q. Death and Hell to go through. Hell inside and Hell out. There was no morphine. That was the horror. Someone must go for it. Geoffrey Kennedy went for it because the Hell outside was a bit less than the Hell inside. It wasn't a heroic deed. Nor was it to perform a Christian ser-

vice. He just couldn't stand the moaning any longer. He ran and as he ran, and cowered down in shell holes waiting for a chance to run again. He thought that if he brought the morphine back, it would be like bringing heaven to him. That is the only heaven he wants right now, dead drunk sleep. Heaven is a morphine pill.

Geoffrey Kennedy did get through the shells and bullets and returned through the same with the morphine. The wounded got their morphine and he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery in action under fire. Indeed his nickname of Woodbine Willie comes from one of his poems in the book entitled "The Unutterable Beauty".

In his ministry the first thing that Geoffrey did was to visit the poor people. He was all for the poor. He also had exceptional skills as a spiritual advisor. A steady flow of men and women found a man who thought it a privilege to take upon himself their burdens and their sins. In particular he visited the sick whether they attended church or

	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
Sept 7th	B Ward	D Beattie	D Cross	M Houston
Sept 14th	R Tunncliffe		P Etwell	D Collins
Sept 21st	J Reynolds		M Burrows	B Ward
Sept 28th	D Cross		D Beattie	S Verrill
Oct 5th	J Basham	B Ward	D Cross	D Collins

not. His generosity brimmed over. He regularly took groceries to the needy. He did not charge to marry those on low incomes.

When the war ended in November 1918, Father Geoffrey as he was now known did not immediately return to England but stayed on as an Army chaplain for another twelve months. It is believed that those chaplains who enlisted at the start of the war were released first. On 21 March 1919 he returned to St Pauls Worcester and to his family. He was still a priest devoted to his parish, still generous to the needy and still full of laughter. But now, as something of a celebrity he was asked to tour Britain to give details of his wartime exploits. A few years later in 1924 he toured the USA and Canada to address thousands of people.

Here his talks were broadcast on one of the new radio programmes and he became internationally famous. His talks became nationally and internationally related dealing with the cynicism produced by war and the need to reconstruct education. He was reported in the press, "My real mission is to the poor and outcast."

From being a priest in a small parish he had become the chief speaker for a national organisation and was in demand worldwide. During all

this demand for speaking tours Father Geoffrey continued to write poems and publish more and more books including a novel.

During 1928 and 1929 Studdert Kennedy was being invited to address meetings all over Britain. His books were sell-outs with numerous re-printings. He received coverage in both the religious and national press including the Radio Times. Few preachers and writers had so wide and eager a public as "Woodbine Willie."

In 1929 he was asked to do a series in the popular Pictorial Weekly. His first piece appeared in April, where he introduced his subject as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and its relevance to modern living. He was at the height of his fame. But by that time he was dead.

In March 1929 Britain was hit by a flu epidemic. Geoffrey was feeling ill, he was tired and his asthma was troubling him. He was committed to do a series of Lenten lectures in Liverpool but on arriving there he took to his bed and it became apparent that he had pneumonia. He died at 1.30 am on 8 March 1929 at the age of 45. Typical of the man, his exhaustive work programme must have hindered his efforts to combat a serious illness. His engagement diary shows that between 2 November 1928 and 7 March

1929 he spoke in 37 places in 107 days throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Island. He usually gave several talks at each destination, so they would have numbered over 100.

His body was taken to St Catherine's Church in Liverpool where over 2000 people filed past his cof-

fin to pay their homage. It was proposed that he be buried in Westminster Abbey but the Dean exclaimed "What! Studdert Kennedy! He was a socialist." Just as well for Kennedy himself would have wanted to be buried in his beloved Worcester.

Peter Etwell

Redcar

Charity work

During the month of June Phillip Noble who runs a keep fit class at Redcar church took on the task of raising money for charity.

Phillip donated half of his tak-

ings for the whole month and the church helped by only asking for half of the hall hire fee.

In total Phillip raised a magnificent total of £100.00 for Zoes Place Baby Hospice.

We would like to say *well done* for all his effort.

Redcar Calendar

Tue 2nd Sep 2.00pm Craft and Chatter

Weekly

Wednesday 11.00am Singing Group

Thursday 9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning

June will be holding a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 26 Sept 2014.

It will be held at 27 Buckingham Road from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Everyone is welcome to attend and donations of baking will be greatly accepted.

Coatham House

We received a letter during the summer from Coatham House thanking us for all the kind donations they had received from members of our congregation. They appreciate our support greatly which helps a number of young people. Kryisia is always willing to accept any donations of towels, toiletries or bedding or small donations of money which will purchase food vouchers for the young people to buy fresh produce. *Thank You!*

Jack's Diary

Woof, woof to everyone out there, it's your old friend back at last. I've been taking my sabbatical (I like to be in fashion) actually I've done nothing different, just the usual eat, sleep, beg for food, walkies and eat more food. I have spent a lot of time at the vet's lately, but I don't want to talk about it, too embarrassing.

I'm jotting down mental notes while out walking with Alix, I hope you don't mind. By the way who has a new girl friend. ME, her name is Beau and she is from Wakefield, and she is gorgeous and quite feisty. I don't see her very often, but

that makes it even more exciting when she turns up. I think she is happier with this arrangement than I am. What has happened to Polly I hear you ask, well she is older than me (I hope she doesn't read this) and can't get out as often as she would like, while I am still in my prime although there is a lot of grey hair appearing round the face, in between the toes and down the back of the legs, you men out there know what I'm talking about don't you?

I have such a lot of friends these days, doggy friends and human friends and most of them ladies and they all love me so much! I am so

blessed, although I'm not sure about Ruby the bull dog, she looks permanently grumpy. Oh dear here she comes now, I'll just go and conceal myself in the bushes 'til she passes I think it's safe to come out now, she's gone. I am a nervous Nelly, as Sheldon would say (Big Bang Theory.)

I don't think I've mentioned Lexi, she's not much more than a baby and the new kid on the block. I had to let her know who was boss around here, turned out it's her! Will you excuse me for a moment while I go behind a tree Sorry about that but I am a dog after all, hope you've brought bags Alix.

I must draw your attention to Alfie, something very iffy about him, looks too much like a cat, and I am terrified of cats but I still consider him a friend and of course there is

always wee Jack, my best buddy, oh! I must have a sniff at that nettle, very interesting, I thought he had left the area.

I must tell you about Storm, I'm absolutely besotted with her (can't tell Beau) her name is Storm because she would fit into a tea cup and when I look at her I don't know whether to love her or eat her! Oh my goodness did I say that out loud, that is so bad, you didn't hear me say it.

While we were out walking a few weeks ago I met some new friends from Guisborough Church. Doreen and baby Lois that was a lovely surprise, I didn't have a lot to say, I was rather tired!

Ooh I am so happy, thank you, Jesus.

St Andrew's

Exam Results

Congratulations to our young people on their recent successful exam results.

Well done everyone.

Knit 'n Natter

The next Knit 'n Natter will be on Weds. 24th Sept. 1.00 - 3.00. All welcome.

Fundraising

The Strawberry Tea held on 5th July raised £228.94 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris and Sarah Wheeler on the occasion of their marriage on 26th July and to Revds. Ken and Margaret Harris on their marriage on 12th August. We send them our very best wishes for their future and remember them in our prayers.

Ladies' Fellowship

The first meeting of our new session will be at the church on Tuesday 9th September 1.30pm and 3.00pm. We will have a shared afternoon tea and discuss our program for the new session. Please do come along and join us. All are welcome.

Coffee for Charity

22nd June	Mozambique Fund	£17.60
6th July	South Cleveland Heart Scanner Appeal	£15.00
13th July	Rosemary Fund	£10.60
20th July	Riding for Disabled	£16.25
27th July	Rosemary Fund	£20.00
3rd Aug	Rosemary Fund	£11.20
10th Aug	Alzheimer Soc.	£22.80
17th Aug	Teesside Hospice	£16.00

Advance Notice

The postponed Quiz, Pie and Pea Supper is now to take place on the 18th October 7.00pm. for 7.30pm. Tickets, £6.00, will be on sale shortly and will be in aid of church funds. There will also be a raffle.

St Andrew's Calendar

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

Lingdale

Flower Rota

7 th September	Mrs H Dunstan
14 th September	Mrs P Griffiths
21 st September	Miss S Griffiths
28 th September	Mrs J Coulthard
5 th October	Mr B Dove

Community Café

10.30 – 1.00 every Tuesday

Please note the new time and don't forget if you have any donations for the food bank they can be dropped off at the Café.

Church Open Day

Saturday 6th September 10am - 4pm

Refreshments will be available as well as a craft stall, book sale and cake stall. There will also be another chance to see some of the photographs from the Lingdale History web-site.

Book Club

The next meeting will be on 2nd September at 7pm when we will be discussing *Letters from Sky* by Jessica Brockmole.

Lingdale Calendar

Wed 3 rd Sep	1.30 - 3.30pm	Craft & Conversation
Wed 17 th Sep	1.30 - 3.30pm	Craft & Conversation
Thu 4 th Sep	7.00pm	Church Meeting at the manse

Weekly

Tuesday	10.00 - 10.30am	Prayers for our Community
	10.30am - 1.00pm	Community Café
3 rd Sunday	6.30 - 8.30pm	Fun and Faith Club at the Manse

Preachers

	7-Sep	14-Sep	21-Sep	28-Sep	5-Oct
Marton	10.00am J Harper Meeting	tbc Parade	C Morrison Communion	N Johnson	C Morrison
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion	B Stephenson	L Bustard	C Morrison Harvest	K Harris Communion
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison Communion	J Harper	J Martin	C Morrison Harvest	J Harper
Lingdale	5.30pm K Harris	tbc Communion	C Morrison plus FAF	N Johnson	C Morrison Harvest

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

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