

Memorial Service for David Houston 1938 - 2020

After a long delay, caused by the closure of the church due to pandemic regulations, a Memorial service was held in honour of our long serving member, the late David Houston on Sunday, 25th, July. Dr Donna hi Moore, one of our members and a lay preacher, led the tribute to celebrate his life and times.

Born in Edinburgh, in 1938, David spent his early childhood in Malaysia where his father worked. When the Japanese invaded the country in 1942 his father was taken as POW. Later, the family were able to return to Scotland in 1944. His father survived the war going back to the Malaysia later to work. This meant the David spend a considerable time in boarding school. It was an experience that gave him a fine ability to look after himself.

As a young man he attended Keele College in London to get his degree. Later, he met his wife, Maureen, through the friendship of both of their mothers. They married and had two children.

In 1969 David and Maureen came to Guisborough, as David was employed at ICI. Working in industry his Christian faith led to him to being concerned about the ethics involved in making agreements - and how strict integrity, in such dealings, led to some colleagues missing out on promotion.

He became an elder of the church and later was church secretary for a period of six years - handling the essential administration of the fellowship with care and efficiency. He was a regular member of the Church Bible study group and also acted as a leader when Junior Church children when out on trips into the countryside.

In private life he was a keen traveller going, with Maureen, to various far distant places around the world - and returning to give detailed and vivid descriptions of the countries they had visited.

In later life Maureen and David often visited a campsite in Austria. He was a keen walker and so there were plenty of mountain paths to explore and

enjoy the rugged beauty of this part of the world. It was a regular holiday destination over many years.

David was a thoughtful, intelligent man and so joining the University of the Third Age was a natural activity for him in retirement.

As a person David was naturally reserved, but also kind, thoughtful, hospitable and a man of integrity. There could be no better memorial than such attributes.

God bless you, David.

The Future of Ministry in the Teesside Area.

With the Rev'd Sue Fender leaving the Hartlepool and Teesdale Group in April of this year, to accept a call to ministry in Cambridge, the seven churches north and south of the river Tees have no ministerial support. In the case of the East Cleveland Group it is now over five years since the Rev'd Catey Morrison departed. However, there is now some hope of help in the near future.

The Synod, in Newcastle, have arranged for the Moderator, along with other officials, to convene a meeting in St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby, on the 24th, September, with the secretaries of each of the churches, to discuss this important issue.

Jenny Reynolds, Church Secretary, will be our representative at the meeting when we all hope that the moderator, David Herbert, can offer us some good news.

The Wedding

Hayley Ashton and Rebecca Axford were married in our church on Saturday, 4th, September. The Reverends Ken and Margaret Harris performed the ceremony - attended by relatives and friends of the brides. The fellowship of the church wish Hayley and Rebecca every happiness in their future life together. God bless them both.

URC JOINS COALITION FOR REFUGEES

The United Reformed Church has become a founding member of a new coalition Together With Refugees. The coalition of more than 100 UK groups calls for kinder, fairer and more effective support for people fleeing war, persecution or violence. It aims to inspire hope and win deep change in the UK's approach to refugees.

Locally, St Andrew's Mission, URC, of Thornaby, is in an area where some refugees are housed and have been welcomed in as part of the Mission fellowship. Now that we are faced with the obligation to take in refugees from the strife torn country of Afghanistan, some could soon appear in this area for temporary accommodation prior to re-settlement in other housing by the local authority.

The Bridge Association.

Throughout the pandemic the work of the Bridge has continued, all be it with a reduced programme of projects. The Food Bank has been given priority, as an essential service in the community, with distribution centred in the Southside Methodist during weekdays Monday to Friday, except Wednesdays.

The restrictions imposed by the pandemic has meant that our youth work has become an out door activity. The main base for which is the King George V Playing Field - supplemented with other locations around the town.

Other work includes: providing craft and food packs for families, who normally receive Bridge support, and similar help for families who have children with special needs.

From mid September it is hoped that the Bridge will be back in business as normal doing: the Soup and Roll mornings, at the

Methodist Church, youth clubs, luncheon clubs and other activities.

After eighteen months of pandemic restrictions it will be so good for the Bridge to be fully free to continue with our mission to cover the unfulfilled needs of the Guisborough community. This we have endeavoured to do over the past twenty years.

The Coffee Morning

The church coffee morning was established by the ladies of the fellowship in 1981. Initially, the church hall was opened on Thursdays and Saturdays offering coffee, tea and scones to the general public. After a few years the Saturday event was dropped in order to focus on the Thursday market day opening.

This event provided not only refreshments to the general public but also an opportunity for members to meet people - and to establish friendly relationships with the Guisborough community and visitors from other areas.

Some years later a regular jumble sale, held once a month, was established. Sandra Verrill, the church caretaker, was a prime mover in organising the collection of materials and sales. This venture has raised a large amount of money for the church and local charitable donations - so a commendable effort and enterprise.

Around 1995 the Reverend Norma Johnson, at the beginning of her ministry in our church, set up a prayer group meeting. This met in the church sanctuary after the coffee morning was closed. Bible study was led by ministers of the church with assistance from the Reverend Ken Harris, Maureen Houston, Madge Baird and others.

The group was made up members, friends of the church and occasional members of the public. During the 26 years of existence it has covered a wide range of topics most of which were directly relevant to our lives and concerns today - and was continued online during the church closure because of the pandemic. Our thanks go to the Reverend Ken Harris for doing this- assisted by one of our elders, Madge Baird.

In in order to raise our profile with the public a large a banner has been displayed at the front of the church announcing what we have to offer. This was put up in 2012 after the church had been involved in work on evangelism. Much much later, when work was being done on the hall entrance, the public were invited to enter the building via the church sanctuary. This happy accident continuing until the coffee morning was closed on the 12th, March, 2020 because of the pandemic restrictions.

Looking forward to the time when we can reopen later in the year. When the banner can be seen displayed on the church railings please come in for coffee, scones and a chat.

Services in September

Sunday, 5th. Dr Donna Moore
Sunday, 12th. Revd Keith Martin
Sunday, 19th. Revs Margaret & Ken Harris
Sunday, 26th. Dr Donna Moore - Harvest

Our services are open to anyone who wishes to worship the Lord God, or to learn more about the Christian faith - or simply to meet new friends. There are no strangers who come to our fellowship - just friends we are about to meet.

GUISBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Founded 1798

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

News Letter

September 2021

Secretary 01287 637273

Commented [RT1]:

Commented [RT2]: