

# *Group News*



**\* 2024 \* April \* 2024 \***

The monthly magazine for:

**Guisborough URC**

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Our churches are members of the Cleveland Pastorate

Part of the URC Northern Synod – [www.unc-northernsynod.org.uk](http://www.unc-northernsynod.org.uk)

[www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk)

# Pastoral Letter

*'We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because we have heard of your faith and your love for all the saints, springing from the hope stored up for you in heaven, that you heard about in the world of truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it has been bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so, from the moment you first heard it, and truly understood the grave of God, it has been bearing fruit amongst you'*

*Colossians 1 vv. 3-6*

When Gareth was a little boy of 6-7 (seems a geological period ago now!), he loved throwing stones into water, - the bigger the better, since the more exciting the splash! Not that it needed a big stone to have a profound effect, - just a tiny pebble tossed into the centre of a pool sent ripples radiating outwards until they reached the bank.

In a sense the same could be said of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. It all began so quietly in a stable in Bethlehem, and a baby lying in a manger, and even at the height of His ministry, the majority of the world's population would have been oblivious to His existence. What could one man hope to achieve through his life, death or even resurrection? In global terms it was a drop in the ocean.....but what a drop!

For today the ripples of Christ's coming are still reaching outwards. Who would have believed, two thousand years ago, that the gospel would still be changing lives, and the church continuing to grow? It was beyond His enemies worst nightmares, and greater than His followers wildest dreams.

Yet this is the nature of our God: the God who, in His sovereign power plunged Himself into the pool of human history in such a way that the world would never be the same again!

May the Lord bless you all and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

# *Synod Prayers*

## **7th April**

Churches: Trinity, Ashington LEP: St Andrew's, Monkseaton;  
Minister: Revd Louise Sanders. Widdrington; St George's Morpeth;  
Great Bavington, Minister: Revd Julian Sanders.

## **14th April**

Pastoral Committee, all members and Convenor Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn.

## **21st April**

World Earth Day (22<sup>nd</sup>). Green Apostle: Revd Alex Mabbs and Charles Jolly

## **28th April**

Churches: Trinity, Bedlington LEP; Seaton Delaval LEP; St Andrew's and St Mark's, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea LEP; Minister: Revd Alan McGougan.

# *Guisborough*

Fear Not.

How many times do you read this in the Bible?

In the King James Version of the bible, the phrase "fear not" appears over 80 times throughout the text. This phrase can appear two ways, as "fear not" or as "do not fear".

Scholars believe that this phrase emphasises the importance of trusting God.

The bible expands upon the phrase with different expressions such as "fear not for I am with you" and "be strong, fear not".

Not to contradict the above statement, the Bible also says, "Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name." [Deuteronomy 6:13 KJV] Jesus later updates His followers about swearing oaths in Mathew

5:34-37. And again, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding [Proverbs 9:10 KJV].

The Bible states that the only ‘fear’ we should have is toward Almighty God due to who He is and His wondrous works, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” [Psalm 139:14 KJV]

So why are we told to fear God and yet also ‘do not fear?’

This can be possibly answered by looking at what the Bible states we should fear and shouldn’t fear. To me it seems God is to be feared but worldly things that cause fear should be looked at through a ‘lens of faith’

The following words are taken from an interview given by John Piper, the founder of the ‘Desiring God’ website:

#### Fear in the Old Testament

Proverbs 28:14 says, “Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.” So fearing God is contrasted with a hard, unperceptive heart.

Or Isaiah 66:2 says, “This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” So again, fearing is corresponding with

humility and lowliness and sensitivity of heart. The sheer majesty of God, as well as the holiness, and justice, and power, and wrath of God, cannot be approached in a cavalier spirit. It would be insane to think we can just stroll up to the Creator of the universe and have a cavalier spirit. We are blind if we think we can do that without trembling.

#### Fear in the New Testament

Now, is that just for the Old Testament? What does the New Testament say? Philippians 2:12–13: “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you.” This is really interesting. You should fear and tremble because God is working to keep you. And I think it means the sheer awesome presence of God in our lives working for us, not against us, should produce trembling. That is amazing. So, the New Testament treats the fear of God as a motive for not turning away from him. We should fear in the sense that

we seek refuge from God away from God’s terrible wrath. God’s grace in Christ is the refuge from God’s wrath outside Christ. There is terror outside of Christ, and there is a different kind of trembling inside of Christ.

Causes of fear and worries in our daily lives.

## Guisborough Calendar

### Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays	10.30am	Church open for private prayer
	11.30am	Quiet Time in Church. Prayers and reflections with Maureen and Ray. Details on church notice board

The world likes to ‘deceive’ folk into fear. If you are inclined to believe many of the news articles that appear via mainstream news outlets, you are more than likely in a varying state of fear most days. Fear to the ungodly is a weapon of control to take a believers focus and trust from God. [If used too aggressively it can backfire when people feel their only ‘escape’ is turning to God.]

Stories and reports of climate crisis, war, disease, food shortages, financial collapse.

Oh, the end is nigh!

The call of Christians is not to fear the End Times, or to flee from them, but to engage them in the power of the Spirit. God is in control, and God’s redemption is secured. Of that, we can be confident, and thus, we need not fear.

Jesus stated that we should “take heed that no one deceives you.” [Matthew 24:4]

If one does fall for a deception, we can then be vulnerable for manipulation. This I think is the goal of ‘the great deception’ mentioned by Matthew 24:24-25

So despite what is happening around you and across God’s creation we need to keep strong in the faith.

As in Marks account [5:36] of Jesus speaking to Jarius, “Do not fear; only believe”, keep the faith, keep your eyes on Jesus.

Finally, to sign off for now, a verse from Isaiah:

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” [Isaiah 41:10]

Fear not.

*Darren Thompson*

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Communion</b>
7 April	Maureen	Sandra	
14 April	Ray	Joyce	
21 April	Jenny	Peter	
28 April	Martin	Ray	
5 May	Peter	Jenny	Peter



## *St Andrew's*

### **World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer Service held at St Cuthbert's on the 1st March was very poignant. It was prepared, long before the current troubles, by the Christian Women of Palestine entitled "I beg you, bear with one another in love." The words and hymns were beautiful and thought provoking. They gave us thoughtful moments.

Next year the Cook Islands theme will be "I made you wonderful." The service will be here at St. Andrew's.

### **Coffee for Charity**

18th Feb.	Teesside Hospice	£25.23
25th Feb.	Christian Aid	£34.25
3rd Mar.	Zoe's Place	£24.00
17th Mar.	Teesside Hospice	£22.30

### **St Andrew's Calendar**

Watch this space for Coffee Morning and Soup Lunch Dates!

#### **Weekly/Monthly**

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

# *Redcar*

## **A brief update**

After a quiet period of time when not a lot seemed to be happening in our church -although behind the scenes a variety of meetings were held to establish a future for the building on Station Road. This was further hindered by the sudden closure of the building in August. Following the most recent quinquennial report, it was felt unsafe to remain in the building until emergency repairs could be undertaken. Northern Synod kindly gave RURC a grant specifically for electrical rewiring and for new fire doors to be installed. Confirmation of the grant came through just hours after June's death – quite an extraordinary coincidence/miracle. Work began the following week and it is hoped that we will be worshipping in the church at Easter – a wonderful 'new beginning'. Discussions are still being held with Synod as to the future working of the RURC and Redcar Baptist Church.

Grateful thanks to Synod, Sue Walker and Mark Hubberd who have worked so hard supported by many others.

*Elaine Robinson*

## **Brian Stephenson**

During the AGM held in February, Brian stepped down as our treasurer. During the fourteen and a half years of faithful service Brian has seen us through some very tough times. At that time Brian kindly stepped in as a favour, thinking it was for one year! He has supported the church not only in his official capacity but also as a Lay-Preacher and fund-raising supporter.

His work has been greatly appreciated and a token of our appreciation and gratitude was given to Brian at the AGM. We still hope to keep in touch especially once URC based short services commence.

We wish Brian a happy, healthy, quieter and less stress-free life.

Thank you!!

# *Preachers*

<b>Marton</b>	<b>Guisborough</b>	<b>Redcar</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
7-Apr Ray Anglesea	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptist
14-Apr MartonWT Parade	Maranny Jones	Redcar Baptist
21-Apr Jan Harper Communion	Keith Martin	Redcar Baptist
28-Apr Ian Smith	Chris Eddowes	Redcar Baptist
5-May tbc	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptist

Material for the May Magazine to church editors by Sunday 14th April  
please

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