

Group News



*** 2023 * *February* * 2023 ***

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

56 Westgate, Guisborough, TS14 6AY: Church Secretary 01287 637273

Redcar URC

Station Road, Redcar, TS10 1RQ: Contact 07742 720090

St Andrew's URC, Nunthorpe and Marton

Cypress Road, Marton, TS7 8PD: Church Secretary 01642 550854

Our churches are members of the Cleveland Joint Pastorate

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

‘This is what the Lord says, “I will personally search for my sheep and take care of them. Just as a shepherd searches for his sheep should his flock be scattered, so I will go in search of my sheep and rescue them, no matter where they have been scattered in dark and dismal days” ...

Ezekiel ch. 34

Why is it that when you drop something it invariably falls into the most awkward and inaccessible of places? Instead of dropping into the middle of the room, somehow it always ends up in some obscure nook or cranny, probably never to be seen again! How long we are willing to keep on looking for it depends on the item in question. If it’s a penny we’ll more than likely shrug and forget all about it; quite quickly; a gold ring, on the other hand, and it’s likely that we’ll continue to search for it for a few weeks, hoping that it will eventually turn up. Few, if any of us, however will keep on looking forever.

Yet that is the wonderful picture that Ezekiel paints of God. In Luke’s gospel too, we read the parables of the Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and the Lost Son. God, we are told, is like the shepherd who goes looking for his lost sheep, ‘until he has found it’. What a wonderful picture that is, - a beautiful, astonishing testimony to God’s amazing grace. Here is the ‘love that will not let me go’ of which the hymn writer George Matheson speaks, - a love that goes on looking for us whenever we go astray; never resting and never giving up until we have been restored to the Father’s side. A love like anything else we have ever known!

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

Synod News

Synod Moderator

The Revd Kim Plumpton has been nominated to serve as Moderator of the Northern Synod, following the retirement of Revd Dave Herbert.

We are delighted to confirm that Kim has accepted the call, and we await the appointment by the Officers of the Assembly.

Safeguarding Training

A reminder to all members of our churches in leadership roles and to those who work with children - you are expected to engage in safeguarding training. The basic module is available on line and can be accessed from the Northern Synod website (www.urc-northernsynod.org/safeguarding). together with information about Intermediate training.

'No. 84', Redcar, Cleveland

Is New Monasticism catching your attention? Does being part of a small innovative residential missional community appeal?

Does taking time out to think and pray through new possibilities, or taking a gap year feel timely?

Are you excited by new ways of being and doing Church?

From Spring 2023 onwards for those aged 18 and over, Redcar has a rare opportunity in the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church to become part of a household of three living within a simple Rule of praying, eating, studying and serving together while accompanying Redcar United Reformed Church & Redcar Baptist Church in missional presence in Redcar.

If needed, a modest maintenance allowance is available.

You are invited to register your interest by Friday March 31st 2023.

Information Packs available from Lisa McAvoy,

Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8JJ. Tel 0191 232 1168

lisa.mcavoy@urc-northernsynod.org

Guisborough

After celebrating 50 years since the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational union came together in the first stage of moving towards a United church in Christ, we now look forward in the New Year to where we go next? This original vision has not yet been realised. In his reflection on the United Reformed Church is Jubilee, the General Secretary the Reverend Dr John Bradbury, made the following observation: “whilst the Churches of Christ and the Scottish Congregational Church caught the vision the ecumenical context shifted around as an organic physical union that had been so important to folk in 1972 no longer feels like the primary ecumenical concern. Which leaves us as the United Reformed Church at a seminal moment in our life. We responded faithfully to the call of God but the journey as so often with God did not take us to quite the place that we expected. So at this milestone of 50 years we will celebrate the faithfulness of those who went before us but also must ask profound questions about who we are called to be - what we are called to do here and now in a place where God has put us?”

So who are we called to be and what are we called to do here right now? The National church has made a start to answer this question recognising that, with increased secularism in society, we need to consider a change of direction. To this end a Special Group has been formed consider all the issues involved in such a move and will report into due course. But what does this mean for us in East Cleveland Group and the wider New Pastorate, as we await to call a minister? And can we take action, at the local church level, to address the problem of modern society’s lack of response to faith in Christ. The answer to this, for people if faith, has to be a resounding yes!

In a recent Guisborough church meeting the point was made that being without a minister for over six years may have led to some loss of spiritual direction. It was then agreed that we have

	Welcome	Vestry/notices
5th Feb	Group Service at Redcar	
12th Feb	Joyce	Jenny
19th Feb	Peter	Martin
26th Feb	Darren	Peter

periodic or regular ‘Fellowship’ services where all worshippers are, or become active participants. Rather than the normal service where, whoever acts as leader, takes on the role of teacher, here all member contributions will be of equal value - and so by fully involved in this spiritual journey - a more effective strengthening of faith should evolve. It will work on that well established learning principle: I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand.

The central idea behind the idea of a ‘Fellowship’ service is that as people, of faith in Jesus Christ, working closely together, supporting each other in an exploration of spirituality and discovering or rediscovering the treasures of the Reformed tradition, we will effectively grow in our faith to the extent that we will have a full confidence to tell others. Such an outcome would answer the concerns of growing secularism in society.

In his Jubilee reflection the General Secretary made the point that the journey set out on by the people of 1972 were taken, as so often by God, to a place that was not quite what we expected. So in this new journey of faith this could also be the case. This may be a challenge but the journey will, I am sure, equip to deal any difficulties we have to face. That is that if we have faith or to be said in another way: do we believe what we believe?

Ray Tunncliffe

St Andrew's

Condolences

Sadly we have to announce the recent deaths of Mary and Brian Potter.

We send our condolences and our prayers to her family at this sad time.

**Churches Together
Pancakes for Lent
Saturday 18th February
4.00pm**

The Churches Together Pancake Event this year is to be held at St Mary's Church Hall, Morton Carr Lane. Please come along and join with local Christians in a celebration for lent.

Coffee Time?

Acutely aware that, as a church community we usually only meet together for an hour or so on a Sunday morning, my new year resolution is to trial a once-a-month get together for coffee and catch-up on the first Wednesday of the month at Camphill Community's Larchfield Centre on Stokesley Road at 10.30am. (Easy access from Acklam, Marton and Nunthorpe).

Hope you will come and join me on 1st February. Can you bring someone with you? If you need a lift please let me know. (Shirley Moore Tel.313977)

Coffee for Charity

20th Nov. 2022	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£29.25
27th Nov. 2022	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£25.50
4th Dec. 2022	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£30.00
18th Dec. 2022	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£30.86
1st Jan. 2023	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£19.50
8th Jan. 2023	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£20.00
15th. Jan. 2023	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£19.40

Redcar

After many years of uncertainty Redcar can look forward to a brighter future which hopefully will support the surrounding community.

RURC have been working with Mark from Redcar Baptist Church for some time who has given the Elders a great deal of support and hope. This past month we have been attending the RBC each Sunday to share their worship and fellowship, we have been made to feel most welcome. The Baptist

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Thursday 11.00-14.00 Warm Space Pop in

Church gave their blessing to working in collaboration with us and voted to move their Sunday worship to Station Road early in 2023

We are delighted to share with you that from Sunday 5th February, services will once again resume in our building led by the RBC worship group. On that day a Service of Welcome will be held which will be led by our Moderator, Dave Herbert, other members of Synod will attend and it is also a Group Service for the East Cleveland Group. It seems fitting that this is happening in February - fifty-three years after our Church doors were first opened in our 'new' church. This collaboration is an exciting prospect and we have a history of being open to new adventures. When the Presbyterian Church closed which was on the site of Clinkards) we joined to worship with the Congregational Church on West Dyke Road, (before the URC was formed.)

It is a new beginning which is breathing life into our building and hopefully will fulfill our long held hopes of helping those in need in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Please come to the Service of Welcome on Sunday 5th February at 10:30am followed by refreshments to meet new friends and to learn more about our future.

Elaine

URC East Cleveland Group join Redcar United Reformed Church for

*A Service of Welcome
to Redcar Baptist Church*

at

Redcar United Reformed Church, Station Road

Sunday 5th February - 10.30am

Preacher - Rev David Herbert

Moderator to URC Northern Synod

Refreshments after

Preachers

	Marton	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	10.30am
5-Feb	Group Service at Redcar URC led David Herbert Service of Welcome to Redcar Baptist Church		
12-Feb	Dave Elliott Parade	Ray Tunnicliffe	United Service Redcar URC
19-Feb	Jan Harper Communion	Ray Angelsea	United Service Redcar URC
26-Feb	Jan Harper	Rosemary Taylor	United Service Redcar URC

Material for the March Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th February
please

Group Editor – R Wheeler, 2C Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe,
Middlesbrough, TS7 0DX.

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com