

Group News



*** 2024 * February * 2024 ***

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 Pastorate

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

Jacob left Beersheba and set off towards Haran. He reached a certain spot and stopped there for the night. In his dreams he saw a ladder reaching up into heaven, and the Lord appeared standing before him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac." Jacob woke and said "Surely the Lord is in this place and I didn't know it."

Genesis 28.

Of all the great figures of the Old Testament, few showed less initial promise than Jacob. He comes across as an opportunist and a cheat, callously tricking his brother Esau out of his birthright, and then compounding this with the shameful deception of his father. As he made his way towards Haran it was no doubt with a smug sense of self-satisfaction at having secured the prospect of a highly prosperous future. The last thing on his mind would have been God!

God, though, had other ideas, confronting him during the night in a vivid and unforgettable dream. It was the beginning of a gradual change in Jacob's life; not that he changed overnight, - far from it. He continued in many ways to be the wily schemer of old. Yet the seeds had been sown; God had met with him and opened up a new perspective on life and the beginning of a new relationship. It was one, ultimately that would see Jacob revered as one of the founding fathers of the Jewish faith and a celebrated 'man of God'.

And there is the hope for us all! No matter what we may have done or thought, - God is always willing to forgive us and offer us the chance of a better relationship with Him!

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

Interim Moderator Letter

May you have a Blessed New Year. I am always a bit wary wishing someone a Happy New Year, there seems to be so many other wishes I could give, like Peace, Good Health etc. All of these are blessings, including happiness, so by wishing blessings, I pray that all the blessings YOU need will come to you

New Year is a time of reflection, we look back and see what we haven't had rather than what we do have. Looking for a text for New Year I thought of Jeremiah which brings hope and I know I certainly can be low on hope sometimes

Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

Plans to give you hope and a future, just the words Cleveland Pastorate need to hear again as we pray for a candidate to be interested in us. Also the words of the poem by *Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)* kept coming into my thoughts

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.' *And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.* With us if we use uncertainty rather than darkness

it's not a matter of removing the uncertainty. It's a matter of accepting it and working with it prevailing in it. God's hand is big, protective, and firm. He doesn't let go of you. People might. He won't! If its safety you crave, then the most perfectly safe place in the universe is in the hand of God, and it doesn't matter how uncertain it is.

As I was looking again at hymns for next Sunday I came across this one

I do not know what lies ahead, the way I cannot see

Yet one stands near to be my guide He'll show the way to me

I know who holds the future and he'll guide me with his hand With God things don't just happen **Everything** by him is planned. So as I face tomorrow with its problems large and small I'll trust the God of miracles, give to him my all.

Alfred B Smith ; Author: Eugene Clarke.

Now that I have reread what I have written I wonder once again how often we forget that everything by God is planned, how often do we expect answers when we have actually forgotten to ask?

I am feeling much more hopeful now, I hope you also will look to what the New Year with hope in your heart and trust that the God of miracles knows our plans and when his time is right we shall see them come to fruition.

Blessings

Maranny

Ps. When I was walking Lucy I saw the blanket of snowdrops that come every year just about to open. Another reminder of Trust and hope.

Synod Prayers

4th February

Churches: Stamfordham LEP; Minister: Revd Jona Sewell. St John's the Evangelist, Kingston Park LEP; Minister: Revd Adele Moorhouse.

11th February

Church Action on Poverty. Work of CRCWs: Alison Dalton, Ann Honey and Fliss Barker.

18th February

The Trust, all members, Convenor: Revd Alan McGougan. The work of The North East District Council.

25th February

Fairtrade Fortnight (27th – 12th March). Giving thanks for all those who work towards equity and fair pay for all.

Guisborough

In October last year Guisborough Church celebrated the 225th anniversary of our foundation with a Saturday Coffee Morning, which included a historical exhibition and performances of a short play illustrating a significant event that took place around the time when the fellowship came together in Guisborough. This celebration has now been extended by the publication of an article in the December edition of the Guisborough Business Directory.

The Directory it is distributed around Guisborough and the surrounding area and so covers a large number of houses -providing some welcome publicity for the church in the town. A greater awareness of our presence in the area may provide some benefit to the church and the wider community. Reflecting on the church's long history I noted a surprising connection with the past, for in the first eighty years of our existence the fellowship was a completely independent church until joining the Congregational Union in the late nineteenth century. Today, being in a vacancy for over seven years it seems, in practice, like the same situation - being an independent church. But, like other congregations in the Group, we have managed to cope well over such a long period of time, through the work of the pulpit supply secretaries, Jenny Reynolds - succeeded by Madge Baird. and other members contributions to the spiritual life of the fellowship.

In fact, in many ways it may be a good thing, and ties in well with the U.R.C theology of the priesthood of all believers. In our occasional Guisfolk services all members and friends have the opportunity to offer their spiritual insight into the message we can discern from the Bible readings of the day. In this way we may follow the path to biblical truth that our forbears suffered and fought so hard to gain: that every person can have direct and equal access to God. It is a sure way to strengthen faith and encourage enthusiasm in living the Christian life.

In this New Year we are faced with so many things in the world that are going wrong. The continuing war in Ukraine, the terrible conflict in Gaza - now spilling over into attacks on shipping in the Red Sea from Houthis rebel forces in Yemen presents to us a terrible general situation over which we, as ordinary, people would appear to have no influence for change. But is this, in fact the case?

Guisborough Calendar

Weekly

Thursday from 9.30am Coffee in Church Hall
 from 10.30am Church open for private prayer
 11.30am Thursday Prayers led by Maureen and Ray.
 Details on church notice board

In an early January Thursday Coffee Morning Prayer Meeting the Bible reading delivered was of Psalm 29. The Psalmist said in a thunderstorm with all the terrible sounds and effects and damage this could cause. It's a good reflection of how in the world appears to us today and then all of this where do we find God. The first suggestion was that we find him in the still small as heard by Elijah when the storm abates. It is our conscience awaking and speaking to us. But the question is: how does this help us out of difficult, wrong, unjust situations? A good example was of the Post Office scandal where many postmasters were wrongly accused of theft. A recent TV drama about this injustice brought the matter into focus in the public's mind and so placed irresistible pressure on the government to take action to right this wrong.

Although there is much that is wrong in the world today we need to remember all the good that is done by the goodwill of the majority of people. The Guisborough Bridge (Association) is a good example of this. For over 20 years it has been there to provide care and support to the people of Guisborough and surrounding area by providing: Foodstop (a food bank).

	Worship leader	Welcome/door	Vestry/notices
4 Feb	Revd Ray Anglesea (C)	Martin	Peter
11 Feb	Maranny	Jones	Sandra Joyce
18 Feb	Dr Donna Moore	Joyce	Maureen
25 Feb	Bill Reynolds	Peter	Ray
3 Mar	Dr Donna Moore (C)	Ray J	enny

Youth and children's clubs and initiatives: Guisborough lunch club - A weekly lunch for the elderly; Christmas Day meal; Monday Friends, Soup & Roll lunches and Coffee Mornings; Bridge2Parents etc. in their January newsletter new volunteers are announced as beginning to work with these activities - showing the goodness that exists in the community - good will that has been harnessed in various ways.

As we move into the new year these people and beneficial activities must give us hope for the future. We must give thanks for this in our prayers. Give thanks to a loving God and his son, Jesus for being alongside and among us. A Happy New Year to you all.

Ray Tunnickliffe

St Andrew's

17th Teesside Celebrate 50 years

Our Boy's Brigade Company celebrated their 50th Anniversary in the Church on Saturday 20th January. The event was attended by a large number of people associated with the company past and present. Attendees included a number of past officers together with a good number of old boys.

The old boys managed a commendable performance in a drill competition with the current lads ending in what is best described as an honourable draw. The old boys band also managed a creditable performance and the drummers ensured plenty of noise.

Pictures of the event have been posted on the Brigades Facebook page.



Thanks to Shirley

Shirley Morse raised £800 for a homeless charity and Woodlands Trust through her sponsored walk.

World Day of Prayer

at

St. Cuthbert's Church, Marton

on

Friday, 1st March at 2.00p.m.

All welcome.



Coffee for Charity

19th Nov 2023	Woodlands Trust	£31.50
26th.Nov 2023	Daisy Chain	£36.00
3rd Dec 2023	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£29.30
10th Dec 2023	British Heart Foundation	£16.25
24th Dec 2023	Daisy Chain	£27.45
31st. Dec 2023	Leprosy Mission	£51.55
7th. Jan 2024	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£24.00

Redcar

June Haverson

June Haverson passed away on Monday, 15th January. She had been a substantial presence both in the church at Linthorpe and Redcar, we remembered her work and support for these churches and that she had been instrumental in the journey that Redcar URC has now embarked on with the Redcar Baptist Church. June will be greatly missed by many.

Building News

After many fraught months, Redcar has been awarded a grant from Synod of £55,000 for urgent electrical repairs and fire safety doors.

Hopefully the work will be undertaken soon and lead to the reopening of the church.

Preachers

Marton	Guisborough	Redcar
10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
4-Feb Dave Elliott	Ray Angelsea Communion	Redcar Baptist
11-Feb Brian Stephenson	Maranny Jones	Redcar Baptist
18-Feb Maranny Jones Communion	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptist
25-Feb Chris Eddowes	Bill Reynolds	Redcar Baptist
3-Mar Jan Harper Meeting	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptist

Material for the March Magazine to church editors by
Sunday 11th February please

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

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com