

# *Group News*



*\* 2016 \* February \* 2016 \**

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

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

## **Minister**

Rev Catey Morrison, 2 Stanghow Road, Lingdale (01287 651926)

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Dear Friends,

I have ended up hearing a lot of stories this week about people who have come to find Christ. But the amazing thing as you read them is that many a time it was not directly a person who led them to Christ but their own relationship with God even before they had come to believe. For instance, I read about Bear Grylls, the famous survival expert and former SAS as he recalled... 'I remember praying a simple prayer up a tree one evening and saying, „God, if you're like I knew you as a kid, would you be that friend again?'" It was no more complicated than that. And Bear Grylls went on to comment... 'actually the amazing thing is that all God asks is that we sort of open the door and He'll do the rest.'

Another story which particularly fascinated me was the story of a well respected, and world renowned, hindu priest, Rahil Patel. Rahul was brought up as a Hindu, although he did encounter Christianity as a child at his Christian led nursery and primary school. But as he got plugged into the Hindu temple growing up, his early fascination with Christianity vanished.

As Rahil entered adulthood he was recommended for the priesthood by a highly respected Guru or spiritual leader. So the decision was an easy one for Rahil to make. The six years of training was intense and vigorous, with great discipline expected from all the trainees, including getting up at quarter to five every morning. As the routine took hold in the early months, Rahil's found it easy to contemplate being a priest. However, a few months in, and despite the rigours which encouraged them to focus, doubts began to creep in. Gurus told him sternly not to think too much and to block out such thoughts.

Rahil did become a priest and a major international speaker, something that came easy for Rahil. He spoke with ease and was well received. However, the doubts remained deep down. It was when Rahil was in a bookshop that he saw and bought a children's bible. He had a whole library of books in his office so it wasn't hard to

keep it secretly hidden amongst the other books. Rahil remembers taking the bible out one day and looking at the stories and immediately found a connection. “It was incredible: it felt so good. I had to shut the book and put it away, because it was a completely different world to the one I represented. I was wearing orange robes, yet I was in my office reading a Bible. It was just too paradoxical to absorb. I knew there was something very special here, but I shouldn’t explore it. It would be dangerous to do that.”

But in 2011 Rahil finally gave up the priesthood, moving back to London and booking into a hotel in the West End. Three weeks later he was walking towards South Kensington Station when he saw the tower of St Paul’s, Onslow Square. Rahil thought: ‘Let me go in and sit in there for a bit.’ It was Sunday morning and people at the entrance to the church met him with smiles and with “love oozing off them”, and with that welcome Rahil went in.

Inside the church Rahil felt an incredible peace fall upon him. He simply felt at home. It all just felt right. The sermons made sense. And so Rahil drank everything in, not having the urge or even the thought to question anything. It just finally seemed right. After the service Rahil went back to his hotel room, where he said yes and secretly in his heart gave his life to Jesus. It was then that it all made sense. Jesus had been there throughout his life, knocking on the door.

Now I wonder where we are in our faith journeys... Do we feel that sense of welcome, that sense of peace, that sense being right with God and with the world? Are we helping others on their faith journeys inviting them in to find the peace of Christ? Sometimes we forget that God can and will act without us as well as with us. Which is God doing in our church, and in our life? What is God doing with us or without us? May this challenge our reflections this Lent...

God bless!

*Rev Catey Morrison*

# *For Our Prayers*

## **Synod Prayer Diary**

**7th February** Lent- West End; Jesmond; Robert Stewart Memorial, Newcastle; Revd Meg Robb, CRCW Ms Ann Honey

**14th February** United Nations World Day of Social Justice; Trinity LEP Bedlington; Christ Church LEP, North Broomhill; Revd Greg Thompson

**21st February** St Andrew's Blackhill; Bethel, Chester-le-Street; Christ Church Stanley; Revd Gordon Brown and Revd Elaine Brown

**28th February** Fair Trade Fortnight: PCM their Moderator Revd Ernesto Langa, and President of the Synod Council Revd Jose Tovela jnr; Women's World Day of Prayer this week led by women from Cuba

## **A Message from the Moderator Devotions for Lent**

This year for Lent we are trying something different. We are sharing the writing of the reflections between members from North Western and Northern Synods and their Synod Clerk will post these out to anyone who signs up to receive them. I can assure you they are worth reading, so why not help your Lenten journey with a short time of reflection via email each day. They will also be posted on the Northern Synod website. They will run from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday.

To sign up for these please go to: <http://eepurl.com/bKR8mz> and fill in the form but remember, Lent starts soon!

## Prayer Points for February

**Sunday 7th February** - Pray for the hundreds of thousands of children trudging thousands of miles across Europe in these cold winter conditions in an attempt to reach a place of refuge from the conflict in Syria. Pray for their health and safety.

**Sunday 14th February** - Pray for the students in our schools facing a build up of stress as they face their mock exams and prepare themselves for these final months of study for their GCSE's and A-Levels and Btec qualifications. Pray for peace and calm for them.

**Sunday 21st February** - Pray for some elderly who are getting progressively left behind in terms of their ability to access services when more and more is being done online on the internet. Pray for new council posts which are seeking to address this inequality and bring together information on local services and opportunities.

**Sunday 28th February** - Pray for those suffering from ill health in these winter months, and pray for God to show us how we can help those who are struggling, with simple actions of support and care, and to do this as Jesus would have done.

### A Pause in Lent

Catey is proposing to organise a midweek local away day to help us move into the time of Lenten preparation for Easter towards the end of February or beginning of March. The size of the group will determine which local venue Catey organises to book, so please register your interest in the day and any

issues with availability and Catey will organise the day. The plan so far is to spend time in prayer and reflection in the morning, followed by lunch together. There will then be opportunity to finish your day out by exploring locally or heading back. Please ring Catey on 01287 851926, email her on [our.rookery@gmail.com](mailto:our.rookery@gmail.com) or speak to her in church.

## New Year Resolutions

Do you make them? Do you keep them? I am sure there are statistics on how long the average person manages to stick to their New Year resolutions and I suspect it isn't that far into February, if most of us manage to last that long. I must admit that I don't usually bother. The depths of winter always seem a bad time to decide to get fit or lose weight (both something I could do with) but last year I did make a resolution – to read the entire Bible in a year.

I have read the New Testament more than once but the Old Testament I had only read in bits and pieces. I always think the way we read the Bible in Church is odd – what other book would you start to read in the middle? And then go back to the beginning? And only read part of a chapter at a time? If we read novels that way I don't suppose any of us would ever finish one, let alone go on to another, although I appreciate that the Bible is most definitely not a novel. I have started to read the Bible from beginning to end before but always got bogged down in Numbers!

A few years ago I bought a New International Version of the Bible with a reading plan in the back – each day there was a few chapters of the Bible – from Genesis on January 1<sup>st</sup> to Revelation on December 31<sup>st</sup>. I'd looked at it but never got any further but New Years Day 2015 saw me start at Chapter One, Verse One of Genesis. By Easter I was with Kings; Summer saw me into Psalms and by October I had started the New Testament. Some days were easier than others and I must admit some days I didn't manage it at all but I did always catch up, so by New Years Eve I read the last verse “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

It was a journey through every possible human experience and a lot more besides. I discovered that a lot of the Old Testament would probably have an 18 certificate if it were a computer game! We complain that children today are exposed to too much violence but some of the books of the Old Testament are blood curdling. But the thing that struck me most about the Old Testament was how much

God loves us. There are so many examples of mankind doing some very stupid, violent things; of turning away from God but that if we truly repent and turn back to God we will be forgiven because He loves us.

The New Testament was more familiar ground, although for the first time I really saw how grounded it is in the Old Testament. I've always known it is but never seen it so clearly as I did when I was reading from start to finish. Jesus' words seemed so much more powerful when only a few weeks previously I had been reading those He was quoting. I have to admit I still struggle with St. Paul – some of his writings were among the most beautiful but others ... well I can see why he is misunderstood. And I still do not understand Revelation.

I'd always intended to complete my year long read and that would be it. It was a resolution I wasn't going to fail at. Towards the end of the year I realised I was looking forward to the time I had set aside, it wasn't a chore I had to do but something I enjoyed. I began to wonder what I was going to do when I had finished. So my resolution for 2016? I am back with Genesis but the NRSV this time!

*Susan Griffiths*

## **Holy Week Services**

This year there will be a contemplative Maundy Thursday Service to be held at our Guisborough church at 7pm. And on Good Friday there will be a Quiet Hour service at 3pm, the time Jesus breathed his last which is to be held at our Redcar church. All are welcome to both of these services so book them in your diary now!

## **Easter Afternoon Tea at the Manse**

**Saturday 2nd April  
2pm to 4.30pm**

Everyone is invited to afternoon tea in the Lingdale Manse

Just bring yourselves!

Catey

## What's in a name?

How should we refer to those currently known as Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL? And does it matter?

It matters a great deal to the thousands of Muslims worldwide who are at risk of unjustified Islamophobia. They are asking us please only to use the name Da'esh. This is an acronym of the group's Arabic name which delegitimises them and gives them less credibility. It also removes the word Islam when referring to them. (We would be deeply saddened if the word Christian were used to describe a group intent on killing and destruction).

If you want to add weight to this campaign, please let your MP know and ask that the Prime Minister starts to use the correct terminology. It is also time that the BBC and other media outlets did likewise.

Material supplied by the campaign group *Muslims Against Da'esh*

*Taken from Building Bridges in Burnley newsletter Jane Tomlin*

### Yorkshire Synod's 'Big Day Out'

Yorkshire Synod's Children and Young People's Committee have organised a BIG Day Out (for all the family) on **10<sup>th</sup> September 2016** at Flamingo Land. They would like to



extend the invitation to Northern Synod's churches to make it a great day of fun and fellowship. Tickets are £20 per person, regardless of age or whether you intend to go on the rides – Under 4s are free. See Catey if you would like to go!





# Guisborough

In August last year I was one of the group people, from the East Cleveland Group of Churches, to visit that place of Christian spirituality, Iona. This experience I recorded in my diary and now having passed through the festival of Epiphany, a time when the importance of Christ should be revealed to us with greater clarity, it seems an ideal opportunity to look back and reflect, and perhaps learn from some of the highlights of that time.

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup>, August: Maureen and David Houston, Don Beattie and myself crammed into Norma's Yaris and were transported to Redcar Station to catch the 8.07am train to Darlington. Here, on the platform, we met up with Julie Martin and her husband Peter. Julie was to be our guide for the rail journey – negotiating us through the several changes on the way to Oban – successfully. The final leg of the route was on a single track line from Glasgow to Oban where we rattled through such beautiful countryside. My travelling companion was Don Beattie and during the three and a half hour journey we sat with a rather dour, elderly man and his wife. Don soon changed this with a master class in how to talk to strangers on a train so as we de-

parted, at the end of the line, we were by then old friends – and it was good bye with jolly laughter.

The Corran House Hostel, where we stayed for a day, was a tall late Victorian or Edwardian terraced building. It was here that we met up briefly with the people, in our party, from Sheffield. After settling into my room I went for a walk around the town, while Don was off to visit his cousin, Eileen, who is a resident of Oban. We met up later for a drink in the cellar bar of the hotel. The conversation ranged over a variety of topics from Don's merchant navy experiences, to mechanical engineering and then religion – so a good start.

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, August: Got out early for a walk to the port where the ferry was taking on a few cyclists as passengers. All rather quiet as it was 6.30am. Back at the hostel and Catey provided us with lots of food for breakfast. I think I managed a Full English with Maureen making the observation that I had a good appetite. The ferry crossing was at 4.00pm so there was plenty of time to explore the town further in the company of Don. Paid a visit to the Episcopalian Church in George Street. The interior was of a red sandstone and the roof was,

## Guisborough Calendar

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Feb                      7.30pm    Group Elders meet in the Hall

### Weekly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am    Market Day Coffee Morning  
Thursdays                      11.30am    Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Ken, and others, details on church notice-board..

unusually, supported by two large girders, rising up from the floor at an angle rather like the end supports of the Tyne Bridge – giving a rather industrial appearance to the sanctuary. Such a unique atmosphere for prayer and worship.

Embarked on the ferry, where we were joined by Mabel Warren, of Marton Church, and then onto the Isle of Mull. The journey continued by bus over land to reach the Iona sea crossing. Our bus driver showed great skill in negotiating the twists and turns of the narrow, single track road – easing past other oncoming vehicles with sure confidence. For the short crossing it was by a ferry resembling a WWII amphibious, landing craft. At the end of the trip the drawbridge went down and we on the slipway where we were met by staff from the Abbey – who took us straight to the refectory for dinner. I sat opposite

Heather Norton from Sheffield who completely baffled me with a range of riddles and trick questions I couldn't answer. Strange, but I believe riddles were popular in early medieval times – and so could be associated with the first Christians to inhabit the island.

Dinner was pasta followed by ginger cake topped with lemon icing. The Housekeeper for the Abbey, Robin Peinado, an American woman, of stern authority, gave instructions on our duties at meal times. We were to be divided into groups known as: Otters for breakfast; Puffins for lunch and Seals for dinner. I was a Seal. The general rule for visitors was that whilst we may choose those activities we wish to do, we would always be expected to attend at meal times.

After diner we went to a welcome meeting in the Chapter House. Ar-

rived a little late but was met by Gemma, a young woman primary school teacher from Somerset, who picked me out as someone to get to know as a first stage in building up our week long community. After a short, enthusiastic, chat we were asked to say something about our new friend to someone else - hopefully an accurate description – and so on. This process was described by the session’s leader as a way of building up, quickly, the idea of being a community all together. We may have our ups and downs, but we must be together was the message.

This was followed by a service in the Abbey Church. The building was reconstructed on the footprint ruins of the former monastery. This was done in the 1930’s by the founder of the Iona Community the Rev Macleod, a Church of Scotland Minister, from Glasgow. The project was aimed to give some meaning to the lives of men made unemployed during the great depression of that time. In the worship we were taught a new song, had prayers and then invited again to

meet up with some one new. This time it was a case of telling each other our perceived strengths, weakness and attributes. I spoke to a man from Oxford. He claimed that his great strength was being foolish – taking a chance to do new things, attempt projects or encourage others to do so. Finished with a jaunty hymn and then to the refectory for evening coffee.

Met up with Peter, a Yorkshire man and a resident at the Abbey. He’d lived in Norton some years ago and was familiar with Middlesbrough. Then received a text from Norma saying that Middlesbrough FC had just been beaten by Bristol City: 0 – 1 – such a disappointment.

Sleeping arrangements was a room for four elderly men in a place known as the Abbott’s House. So I bunked down with Ron Webber from Sheffield, Don Beattie and Ian from Edinburgh. Our combined ages added up to 312 years - so thanks to the Lord for all of us being able to live for so long.

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>, August: Up early and out for a walk but it was raining so

|               | <b>Vestry</b> | <b>Communion</b> | <b>Door</b>   | <b>Flowers</b> |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 7th February  | J Reynolds    | M Houston        | M Ward        | C Robertson    |
| 14th February | B Ward        |                  | D Beattie     | D Moore        |
| 21st February | M Burrows     |                  | R Tunnicliffe | D Cross        |
| 28th February | P Etwell      |                  | D Cross       | D Thompson     |
| 6th March     | D Beattie     | D Houston        | J Basham      | D Kane         |

I retreated to the cloisters to write up my diary from yesterday. After breakfast did my cleaning duties in the Abbots House along with Don Beattie and Donna Moore who also had a room in this residency. Such work is part of the routine for all people staying at the Abbey. Work and prayer – such as the monks and nuns did so many years ago.

In the morning service the theme centred around the issue of refugees, such as those living in the camp at Calais and all of the suffering that entails – and then drawing in on the experiences of poor churches in Africa. The importance of a church as a centre of community was emphasised – like in Calais and also for people in poor undeveloped countries. Sang a lot of totally unfamiliar hymns, which was good.

In the afternoon a ‘Big Sing’ was organised by Richard Lockley, the resident musician, who gave up a teaching job to serve here for a period of three years. Sang various songs and rounds, which we may be asked to sing later in the week.

The important session of the day was in the Chapter House where Peter Marshall, resident maintenance support worker, told us about the work and purpose of the Iona Community. The project, as I mentioned earlier, was begun in the 1930’s by the Rev MacLoud and

completed in the 1950’s. Alongside the unemployed men who built the place served young ministers. This experience gave thee members of the clergy a direct contact the working men of the time – and so an important insight into their lives helping them to develop the skills need to connect with people in their future ministries. Membership is not a commitment for life but a movable feast – so you do as much as can and move on. At the time that Peter joined the community he described it as in the form of a political statement, comparing the Anglican Church once known as the Tory party at prayer – whereas for Iona it could be the Labour Party doing the same thing. Not the wisest of comments to make about an all embracing ecumenical project.

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup>, August: Went into the common room, before breakfast, where I was soon joined by Olivia, a young teacher from Somerset - with ambitions to become a midwife. She then began to practice her Yoga – making moves and holding positions I couldn’t imagine doing myself. At breakfast I had a conversation with William and his wife, an American from Vermont, where the weather temperature stays below 0 c from November to April – so now I had no good reason to complain about the damp conditions prevailing here on Iona.

The first session of the day was led by Sharon Kyle, Iona Deputy Director and entitled: 'Not a Tourist'. We were invited to explore the Abbey and the surrounding area by the touchy feely method. In groups of three we were sent out to explore the place in various ways. My group's task was to explore somewhere in our bare feet, look in various nooks and crannies and then lie down in an unusual way for some time. The idea was to get the feel of the place in an intuitive spiritual way. I walked in the cloisters in my bare feet, looked in nooks and crannies and then ended lying in a field with a totally motionless cow eyeing me up in a curious way. Back in the Chapter House we talked about the experience. For me I was reminded of an actor's workshop where we were given the idea of using the attributes and movements of different animals and birds to build up a character – and this seemed to work better for me. Later, some people seemed surprised impressed by my confrontation with the cow.

A later session was about healing by faith. Ian, the man resident in the bunk house with me spoke movingly about how he'd hoped he could have his speech impediment cured this way, but was now reconciled that this has not happened. I spoke about the thought of cure being of accepting the condition.

This observation provoked a strong reaction from one woman who said such ideas were a cop out. From this session the point was made that all activity leaders were not experts in the various fields of topics being discussed. Whilst this was an initial disappointment for me, on later reflection I came to the conclusion that for an experience of faith this must be right. We must all have equal ability to find out the spiritual truth of any situation.

Missed out on a session about justice and also the ceilidh, which was held in the village hall, but enjoyed the dinner of barley risotto with squash and carrots. Gemma and Olivia arrived in the refectory after having taken three and half hours running and walking to the south of the island and back in their bare feet over bracken, heather and stones. Thought it was some sort of penance – but no just something they like to do - they being so very fit. Read a book about Remembering Scotland, in the common room. And then, as Samuel Pepys so often wrote in his diary: and so the bed.

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup>, August: This was the day of the walk across the island. It all started at St Martin's cross located just to the front of the Abbey. Ali Marshall, The Abbey Programme Coordinator, spoke about its origins from over 1,200 years ago. All of the abbots of the medie-

val abbey are known by name, but only two of the Abbesses, from the nearby nunnery, are recorded. The prayer to begin the walk was entitled: Lord of the Excluded. The walkers included residents of the abbey, members of the public and a good number of children. Stopped for prayers and reflection in the ruin of the nunnery and then paused at the only crossroad on the island. Richard Lockley, resident musician, spoke about choosing routes: easy or difficult and quoting from Jeremiah to develop this theme.

From then it was onwards and upwards over the rough heather and bracken with no visible path to follow just trusting in our guides. Someone lost a boot in a bog but soon pulled out. Stopped off at a marble quarry, which produced a black for of the stone once used for the altar at the old abbey. Production ended in 1915 but abandoned equipment could still be seen.

Arrived at St Columba's Bay where we stopped for lunch and I was joined by some Italian tourists. The guide spoke about how St Columba came to Iona after some sort of copyright dispute with St Finnian. He'd copied his psalm and he wanted it back. The saint's residence here was a high point in the history of the island with the abbey being highly influential throughout Europe at that time. Before leaving

we were all asked to throw a pebble into the sea for all things which were holding us back in life and take another to take us forward.

We went onto the only grassy area on the island known as the Macca. It was created by the islanders in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from a mixture of seaweed and sand on which grass could be grown. Sheep are grazed here and it doubles as a golf course. It was a half way point where we met up with other residents of the Abbey, who had taken a shorter walk, to have tea and refreshments.

Moved onto the last important site the hermit's cell. This monument was a large circle of stones rather like an old fashioned sheep shelter. Ali spoke briefly about running away but I couldn't hear much because of the wind. From then on it was downhill to the abbey and finishing in off in St Oran's Church. This is a 12<sup>th</sup> century building – the oldest fully preserved structure on the Island. St Oran was a cousin of St Columba who, apparently, survived the experience of being buried alive. Finished the session with a Jewish prayer – speaking about the journey of life.

Went in for dinner as usual and then afterwards had a rehearsal for a sketch, 'General Conformity' to be done for the concert tomorrow. Abbie and Josh Morrison were to take part with others. Tried to

phone home but no connection. Then went to a service of healing in the church, where a long list of names were read out during the course of the prayers. No further events before going to bed.

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup>, August: The first activity main today was about church music. Richard, the musician, explored the meaning of various hymns and how they fitted into the pattern of modern worship. Asked about our favourite I declared the BB song: “Will Your Anchor Hold” – and then in groups we examined the texts in terms of how any hymn related to God, Jesus and the Church. A main concern was whether some hymns reflected modern views on faith or theological meaning. Peter the Yorkshire man, who is a Quaker, had strong reservations about any hymns – they not being in the tradition of the Society of Friends. He was also rather scathing about those referring to Jesus.

It was an early dinner because people were going to visit the isle of Staffer. I didn't go. Instead I arranged a rehearsal for the dramatic sketch. Did this in the refectory but where soon chased by the sales assistant from the Abbey shop because the tremendous noise we caused for the customers in the shop located below us. The visitor's concert was held in the Macleod

Centre located near the Abbey. In the few days that people been on Iona it was good to see how so many varied acts could be thrown together in so short space of time. We had the story of a Giant in German; a country and western singer; a violinist; action songs; the story of Christianity coming to New Zealand; Olivia teaching us yoga and so on. The General Conformity sketch seemed to work with me ordering every one about and Abbie acting in the role of a hapless Christian soldier. The funniest sketch involved Don acting as a carpenter along with others doing different jobs the sing song dialogue required good timing but it was much funnier when slightly out of sync'. A good evening's entertainment. Later, after dinner, people who had been to Staffer were able to recall the events of the trip. 'Finkle's Caves' were suitably dramatic and atmospheric, but no puffins to be seen.

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup>, August: The main session of the day was a discussion about how we make decisions. Ali started the meeting with a pile of sweets on a table asking us how we made a choice as to which one we would eat first. Such a simple decision and trivial. The talk developed to a point where we were asked to write about what we wanted out of life. A difficult call. After the break the discussion focussed on St Igna-

sias, a 16<sup>th</sup> century soldier, who during the course of his recovery from the wounds of battle he came upon the idea of how to see the actions of God in your everyday life. Looking or rummaging for God in your day was his expression. Emotions were considered important in this process – and so to quote: “when your deepest desires meet the needs of the world” – so perhaps you have found God.

People were then asked to list different ways in which to make good decisions and there were many ideas presented. Much more was said but at the end Ali put it to us whether we would wish to make a decision to come back to Iona to be a volunteer. For myself I thought not - but this was the best point in my visit to Iona. Something to take away and reflect on.

In the evening we had a final farewell meal. Charlotte, one of the volunteers from Germany, was given a birthday cake and we all had a piece. There we had the last chance to speak to the people we had met during the week. I asked Olivia what her best experience. “Ringing the bell for dinner” she said flippantly, “but there were other things that were good.”

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup>, August: Time to leave the island and the long journey home. Had a farewell service in the church before getting the ferry to

Mull then onto Oban and another night in the Corran House Hostel. Spent the day in Oban - part of which was taken up looking for presents to take home to my family. Even managed to have fish and chips in a restaurant in George Street – which was good.

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup>, August: The long journey home. Wrote quite a lot about this in my diary. The main event being leaving my camera on the train in Glasgow. Rushed back to find it and entered the carriage where it was. Didn’t find it and then the door suddenly shut. Thought I was trapped but luckily I was able to attract the attention of the station staff and so released. Managed to have it returned via the Lost Property office. Arrived back in Guisborough at 9.00pm and had pie and peas for supper.

The experience of Iona was a good one. I think I learnt about the value of community in terms of faith. It that in being with others, who believe in Christ, strengthens a person’s belief. Whilst this may seem an obvious idea, being on Iona reinforced that simple concept along with the importance of finding more about faith through your own experiences, rather than second hand from other people. I recommend at least one visit for anyone.

*Ray Tunncliffe*



# St Andrew's

## World Day of Prayer

Advance Notice of the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 4th March at Nunthorpe Methodist Church. Details to follow.

## Flower List

Flower List has still a few empty slots for anyone who would like to add their name

## Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship met for our first meeting of the new year on 12th Jan. We had a very entertaining games afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th February 1.30pm to 3.00pm when our speaker will be Dave Elliot.

All welcome.

## Christmas Social

Our Christmas Social held on 9th December was a very enjoyable evening thanks to all who took part in entertaining us.

Donations of £66.70 were collected for Christian Aid.

## Rosemary

The international transfer of funds to Rosemary, our partner in Uganda, this year amounted to £477.20 (this represents 2,285,717 Ugandan shillings").

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Sunday Morning Coffee Collections                        | £ 87.20        |
| Personal Donations through direct giving and sponsorship |                |
|  | <u>£390.00</u> |
| <i>Total</i>   | <i>£477.20</i> |

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made this possible!

## Any use to you?

Has anyone in the Group a Charity shop unless (or known to you) any anyone has any other use at all for a huge ta- ideas. It could be cut up blecloth? It is white into smaller cloths or it damask and measures 22 may be of use to anyone x 5 feet. It is in good running a cafe? condition and is going to

*Jane Tomlin*

## Quiz

Doreen's quiz has raised £20.00 for church funds. The answer sheet is available from Doreen.

## Shoe Boxes

Several people have already given us some empty shoe boxes for which we are very grateful!

We would still love a lot more so please keep saving them!!!

|          |
|----------|
| 1st Nov  |
| 8th Nov  |
| 15th Nov |
| 29th Nov |
| 6th Dec  |
| 13th Dec |
| 20th Dec |
| 27th Dec |
| 3rd Jan  |
| 10th Jan |
| 17th Jan |

## Coffee for Charity

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Daisy Chain      | £17.00 |
| Justin           | £25.50 |
| Christian Aid    | £15.85 |
| Disabled Riding  | £16.00 |
| Rosemary Fund    | £10.00 |
| Boys' Brigade    | £14.70 |
| Rosemary Fund    | £10.00 |
| Teesside Hospice | £28.00 |
| Leprosy Mission  | £14.10 |
| Boys' Brigade    | £34.00 |
| Macmillan Nurses | £15.07 |

## St Andrew's Calendar

Wed 24th Feb 1.00 - 3.00pm Knit 'n Natter - All welcome.

### Weekly/Monthly

|                |        |   |
|----------------|--------|---|
| First Thursday | 2.00pm | Home Prayer group at 31 Roseberry Mews                |
| Boys Brigade   |        | Details available from our minister and church elders |

# Redcar

Dear Friends,

In 2015 we managed to support Coatham House by giving: 30 - £2 food vouchers, 12 – new pillows, 11 – new duvets, toiletries through the year and a food, sweets and chocolate hamper at Christmas.

So a ‘Big Thank You’ to you all for your generosity, it is much appreciated as we hope to continue our support for this worthy local charity – we count our blessings.

Yours in giving,

Krysia x

The church has received a letter of thanks and appreciation from Coatham House for all the support they have received during the past year.

## Redcar Calendar

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb      2.00pm Craft and Chatter

### Weekly

Wednesday      10.45am Singing Group in the Church

Thursday          9.30am Prayers

10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre

2.00pm Prayers at the home of Catherine Milburn

## Church Finances

For those who did not manage to attend the Church meeting in November, Brian was extremely pleased with the outcome of the Bazaar. Obviously during the past few months our finances have taken a bit of a hit. Brian at the end of his report did suggest if we all added an extra £1 per week to our collection, it would generate £800 per year – it is worth considering.

## *Preachers*

|        | <b>Marton</b><br>10.00am | <b>Guisborough</b><br>9.30am | <b>Redcar</b><br>11.00am |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7-Feb  | J Harper                 | K Harris<br>Communion        | C Morrison               |
| 14-Feb | K & M Harris<br>Parade   | C Morrison                   | tba                      |
| 21-Feb | J Harper<br>Communion    | M Harris                     | K Harris                 |
| 28-Feb | M Harris                 | C Morrison                   | N Johnson<br>and friends |

Material for the March Magazine to church editors by  
Sunday 14th February please

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