

Group News



** July * 2022 * August **

The monthly magazine for:

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Pastoral Letter

'Do not base your judgements upon outward appearances, but upon the truth.'

John 7 v. 24

Some years ago a national newspaper ran an advertising campaign based on the slogan. 'One million readers can't be wrong'. The implication being that if enough people subscribe to something it must be right! It's human nature to want to follow the crowd. Those who question the established norms of society are branded as heretic, eccentric or even revolutionaries, - their challenge conveniently side-stepped through the use of such dismissive labels. Sometimes, such questions may be out of place, but equally there are times when they need asking,- faith having to take a critical look at the values the world takes for granted if it's to be true to itself.

The story of Samuel in the Old Testament is an illustration of such a question. Sent by God to the house of Jesse to anoint a new ruler over Israel, he was confident in his own ability to judge the character needed to fulfil such a role. But he came away recognising that he had much to learn about the ways of God, who sees far deeper than any of us can begin to see. Seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, but although he thought any one of them might have been the chosen one none of them matched God's criteria. It was the youngest, David, whom God had decided would be the one, - not Samuel's first choice, - or even the second or third. God sees things differently, - and He sees people differently.

Samuel's experience counsels us to be very wary of judging by appearances, and never to imagine that we have understood all there is to understand.

May you be blessed with peace and tranquility during these Summer months.

Shalom

Jan

Synod Prayers

- 3 July** South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA) (Methodist and URC) and President, Revd Julian Sanders
URC General Assembly meets, 8th – 11th July. We pray for Moderators of General Assembly, their chaplains, the Clerks to the Assembly, all Assembly Officers, and all who gather and contribute.
- 10 July:** Northumbrian Industrial Mission and Mrs Fiona Usher, Chaplain Team Leader.
- 17 July:** The work of Synod Executive Committee.
- 24 July:** St James's URC, Alnwick; Warkworth URC; Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn
The work of LMMR (Local Mission and Ministry Review).
- 31 July:** PCM, their office staff at Church House, Khovo, Maputo
The Anglican Bishop of Jarrow, the Rt Revd Sarah Clark.
- 7 August:** The work of Pastoral Committee and Convenor, Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn
The Anglican Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler
- 14 August:** Ponteland URC; St John's URC, Wideopen; St Aidan's URC, Hexham; Horsley URC.
- 21 August:** St George's URC, Morpeth; Great Bavington URC; Widdrington URC Revd Julian Sanders.
- 28 August:** The work of the URC (Northern Province Trust Ltd) and Convenor, Revd David Grosch- Miller, and Trust Secretary Mr Willie Duncan.
The RC Bishop of Middlesbrough, the Rt Revd Terry Drainey.

Guisborough

I have reached an important milestone in my life. I am approaching one of those big birthdays and I am about to retire. I won't give up work altogether, that seems too big a step and I will still have all my interests to pursue.

Over my life, as I am sure in yours, I have experienced many trials and tribulations. Each time I have waited for them to pass, so I could enjoy the sunlit uplands of peace and tranquility, only to find another one soon follows. I have found an echo in a meditation by Frank Topping from his book, *Lord of Life*.

It's simply called *Living*. In it he dreams of a quiet retirement where time stands still. An idyllic place where he can live in peace. He describes those moments of beauty we can all enjoy, whether we can walk there or are taken there by car, bus or train. These are precious moments but still life goes on.

All around us today people are struggling to make ends meet, struggling with conflict on a domestic and an international scale. Frank reminds us we cannot hide from all this and we cannot opt out of the world. He uses one of my favourite John Donne quotes, "No man is an island," my other is "Any man's death diminishes me,". They represent our interconnectedness with each other.

	Door	Vestry	Communion
3 July	Joyce	Peter	
10 July	Peter	Maureen	Jenny
17 July	Barbara	Joyce	
24 July	Group Service		
31 July	Darren Ray		
7 August	Martin	Jenny	
14 August	Jenny	Martin	
21 August	Sandra	Peter	
28 August	Joyce	Maureen	

I have come to realise that life is all about overcoming the trials and tribulations it brings. Helping each other through the tragedies and rejoicing together in the triumphs. Treasuring the moments of peace and beauty and sharing them when we can. It's all about being alive.

In all of this life we have faith. A Father who loves us, the Son who has lived our human life and suffered and died as we do, and risen again. We have the Holy Spirit to be our guide and comforter throughout our lives. We have prayer and we have each other, the family of the church, brothers and sisters in Christ. We are truly blessed. How much more must we try to share the love we know with others.

Frank ends with a prayer. So I will too.

Lord, you came to give us life, Life in all its fullness.
Help us not to turn tail and run from life,
but guided by your spirit to accept all that life offers,
the rain as well as the sunshine,
the crown of thorns as well as the laurel wreath.
Help us always to be grateful for the gift of life.

Amen.

Donna

St Andrew's

Condolences

Sadly Mabel's husband, Michael, passed away at James Cook University Hospital on the 30th May. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mabel and her family at this sad time.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Grant and Sandra who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 14th June..Best Wishes to you both.

Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning to be held at St. Andrew's on Sat. 2nd July at 10.30am to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Tickets £2.00

There will be a tombola and proceeds are for Middlesbrough Food Bank

Coffee for Charity

23rd May	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£22.40
29th May	Zoe's Place	£20.00
5th June	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£16.40
12th June	British Heart Foundation	£25.00

Redcar

Why do we do the things we do, especially if we feel it's a request from God?

I had such an experience, have a Soup Bar, as opposed to a Wine Bar, for the people on the road where our church is situated. So invites were posted through doors for a date last December. Seven people turned up who had connections with our church but no one from the road. Why was it such a flop? Was it my half-hearted attitude at the time of I must get this done and out of the way? My mum would say "Catherine if you can't do it with a smile, then don't bother".

"A merry heart doeth good like medicine".

Proverbs 17

However I felt obstacles were getting in the way. I did feel at one point I received a message from God through a gentleman on T.B.N. who said "Go for it, don't let brick walls stop you!". And yet no one turned up, why? Jan wrote in one of her letters "we don't understand the heart of God". So was it just the fact I had made the effort and God appreciated that effort, I don't know.

My sincere thanks go to my lovely friends who helped that morning.

Catherine Milburn

Pentecost

We joined with the Baptist Church for Pentecost and Jane Rowell gave the sermon.

It was a very moving service and you could feel the Holy Spirit working in the room.

Norma's Afternoon Tea

We spent a pleasant afternoon at the home of Norma & George Johnson on the 11th June. Plenty of tea, sandwiches, cakes and strawberries. It was good to catch up with people from Guisborough, Newcomen Methodists as well as members of our church and people from our old singing group.

Thank you Norma.

News From The McSherrys

Following a spell in hospital Andy is now back at home and although much better, is far from being well. Dot has now mastered driving their people carrier as Andy is not allowed to drive. This is an achievement as she has not driven for 20 years!

Their granddaughter Jameeleigh has passed her first tap dance exam.

Their grandson Brian has passed his aptitude test for the RAF but has a lot more hurdles to jump before he can be accepted. Good luck Brian with all your future "tests". Brian has also passed his pool life guard course so is waiting for a part time job at the Neptune Leisure Centre.

Preachers

	Marton	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
3-Jul	MartonWT	Keith Martin	Redcar Baptist 10.30am Service
10-Jul	Jan Harper	Donna Moore	K & M Harris Communion
17-Jul	Jan Harper Communion	tba	Redcar Baptist 10.30am Service
24-Jul	T Jamison Group Service	T Jamison Group Service	T Jamison Group Service
31-Jul	K & M Harris	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptist 10.30am Service
7-Aug	Brian Stephenson	tba	Jan Harper
14-Aug	tba	N Johnson/D Moore	Redcar Baptist 10.30am Service
21-Aug	Jan Harper Communion	Keith Martin	Brian Stephenson
28-Aug	K & M Harris	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptist 10.30am Service

Material for the September Magazine to church editors by Sunday 14th
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