

Group News



*** 2022 * June * 2022 ***

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

'The Pharisees came and engaged in debate with Jesus, testing Him by asking for some sign from Heaven. He sighed deeply in His spirit saying ' Why does this generation seek a sign?' I tell you that no sign will be given to this generation' Mark ch. 8 11-12

All of us at some time or another will have been asked for proof of our identity. When applying for a passport, or driving licence for example we need to produce a signed photograph and an official document such as a birth certificate before these can be issued. Increasingly, today, we are asked for evidence that we are who we claim to be.

Similarly, many people wanted proof concerning the identity of Jesus. They knew that His followers believed Him to be the Messiah, but before they could even consider such a claim they wanted some concrete confirmation. We might feel a little sympathy with their request, - after all it was an astonishing claim that Jesus was making. Add to that the fact that many had come previously claiming to be the long-awaited Messiah, and we can at least begin to understand their hesitation.

So, why was the reply of Jesus so curt? Matthew's gospel is even more abrupt than Mark's! The answer is that He had already given innumerable signs, if only they had eyes to see them. Everything in His life and ministry pointed to who he was, testifying to the hand of God upon Him. If they couldn't see the truth that was staring them in the face, then they would never see it, no matter how many more signs they were given.

We, like the Pharisees may sometimes wish there was a little less need of faith and more certainty in Christian belief. We may long for some sign to put paid to any lingering doubts we may have. But I suspect that Jesus' answer to us would be the same! The signs are all around those with the humility, the insight and the faith to see them.

Grace and peace to you all.

Shalom

Jan

Synod Prayers

5 June:

Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Gosforth; Revd Alex Mabbs; and Chair of the Newcastle Methodist District, Revd Stephen Lindridge.

12 June:

PCM, the churches in the Limpopo presbyteries in and around Gaza Province. The Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Berwick, the Rt Revd Mark Wroe.

19 June:

Refugee Week (20-26); Revd David Haslam, Chaplain, RAF Leeming; all military chaplains. Congregations that have closed in the last year, and visions of new beginnings

26 June:

St Columba's URC, Billingham; Ms Ann Honey (Church Related Community Work Minister); Stockton URC; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; St George's URC, Hartlepool.

Redcar

We are looking forward to sharing worship with the Baptist Church on alternate Sundays. We will be joining them for their 10.30am service. For the other Sundays we will worship at 11.00am in our own church.



Guisborough

Many of you will know that the sanctuary at Guisborough had a 'make-over' while we were closed for the pandemic, all the pews were removed and a new wooden floor put down. New chairs were installed, and not only are they more comfortable, they have the advantage of being able to move them into different patterns for worship etc.

For the first few Sundays after we re-opened last May, the Communion Table was moved to the side wall, and all the chairs faced that way. Most people however, felt they were looking at a blank wall (in spite of the banners that were put there) and preferred to face the Communion Table and the organ.

Covid restrictions meant that the chairs were set a little apart, but still in rows. However, on Easter Sunday we celebrated Communion with Norma in a large circle which worked so well that we repeated it for Communion on 1st May, this time with Jane Rowell.

I might just add, on a personal note, I have always sat in the pews for the sermon (and Communion), so it was my great pleasure to sit in one of the new chairs. And, I might add, a big and most comfortable contrast after the hard organ bench!

We have now resumed our Thursday Coffee Mornings, and in the hope that people coming for coffee, will spend some time in the sanctuary where Darren and others have set the chairs into little prayer corners. There is a little informal service at 11.30 at the rear of the sanctuary led by Ray and Maureen where four or five chairs have been pushed together, a coffee table with flowers and a bible set in front.

On Easter Week, Darren set up posters round the sanctuary illustrating Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, I was sorry not to be able to see this, but I had had the dreaded Covid and was only relieved to be able to play on Easter Sunday.

So as you can see we are fairly making use of the new chairs etc.,but if anyone has any bright ideas,for changes in patterns we would be grateful to hear them.

Jane Rowell's service was based on Peter and his announcement that he was going fishing, followed by Jesus' command to 'feed my lambs'.

Guisborough Calendar

Weekly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays 11.30am Quiet Time in Church. Prayers and reflections with Maureen, Madge, Ken and others. Details on church notice board

We must follow Peter, but how do we do it? We need to be more of a 'presence' in the community, by making the building available to the community, Thursday mornings are a good start, but surely there are small groups who could use not only the hall, but the sanctuary as well. Keep thinking!

I was very interested to watch a TV programme the other week on the repairs to the fire-damaged Notre Dame Cathedral. Like many others I had watched in horror that night when fire had raged through the ancient building, and especially, the collapse of the Spire. Thanks to the superhuman efforts of the Paris Fire Service, some of the building was saved, and this programme showed very clearly the damage done, but also the efforts to repair it.

The historian Lucy Worsley had been given access to the work, and we were shown the gaping holes in the roof where the spire had fallen through, and told how the damage had been made worse by first the water used to fight the flames, then the elements. A false roof has now been erected, which has helped matters. Ancient medieval staples have been used to 'staple' the stonework together, and wood to rebuild the spire was sourced from all over

Guisborough Rotas

	Welcome	Vestry/notice	Communion
5th June	Ray	Barbara	
12th June	Jenny	Ray	
19th June	Martin	Jenny	
26th June	Sandra	Martin	

France (I thought the Spire was made from metal) The wood had to be straight and with no flaws, and we saw it being sliced very thinly with very modern saws.

It is hoped that the work will be finished, and this ancient building which is so symbolic of Paris and France, will be open to the public in time for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

And so, all the work, materials and money expended on Guisborough United Reformed Church, pales into insignificance beside what is being put into restoring Notre Dame, but the aim is more or less the same – to glorify God and to worship him in beauty and peace.

Madge Baird

St Andrew's

Tree Planting

The Boys' Brigade kindly invited us to a tree planting ceremony after our service on Sunday 8th May.

The tree, a Whitebeam, was planted in the church grounds in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was a lovely sunny morning and the tree, when established will look lovely and be much appreciated.

Thank you for inviting us.

Coffee Morning
Saturday 2nd July 10.30am
at St Andrew's URC

to celebrate the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Tickets £2.00 available soon.

There will be a Tombola and any donations gratefully received.

Proceeds to Middlesbrough Food Bank.

Coffee for Charity

17th April 2022	British Heart Foundation	£12.00
24th April 2022	Middlesbrough Foodbank	£21.50
1st May 2022	Zoe's Place	£29.00
15th May 2022	Christian Aid	£35.80

Preachers

Marion	Guisborough	Redcar
10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
5-Jun Jan Harper	Dave Elliott	Joint Worship 10.30am Baptist Church
12-Jun K & M Harris	Donna Moore Communion	Jan Harper
19-Jun Jane Rowell	Guis Folk Communion	Joint Worship 10.30am Baptist Church
26-Jun Dave Elliott	Donna Moore	Julie Martin

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th
June please

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

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com