

# *Group News*



***\* 2022 \* May \* 2022 \****

The monthly magazine for:

**Guisborough URC**

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# Pastoral Letter

*'The Lord said to Abram , 'Leave your country, your kinfolk and your father's house and head for a land that i will show you.' Genesis 12 v. 1*

What are we most afraid of? With me it's spiders, - other people have a fear of snakes. I can remember my son being afraid of the dark when he was small. According to those who claim to know there is one thing that all of us are afraid of still more, and that is quite simply fear of the unknown. Familiarity may breed contempt as the saying goes, but it also brings a sense of security, and the thought of venturing out into uncharted waters can be a daunting challenge, which I imagine that many of us prefer to avoid. It can be traumatic enough moving to a new house or starting a new job, - any change more radical than that can be bewildering indeed.

This, though, was the challenge faced by Abram, - later to be called Abraham. Comfortably settled in the town of Haran, he suddenly felt a call to move on. The destination was unclear, as were any details about what he might find when he eventually got there This was to be a step into the unknown, - a journey of faith.

Few of us today will be asked to make such a bold decision, yet there are times when we need to let go of the tried and trusted nonetheless. We may be called to a new venture, or a new lifestyle, not knowing where they might lead or what will be asked of us. We may be asked to make new friends, embrace new ideas or explore new horizons that, once again, we have no way of quantifying. Will we be ready to respond if we believe God is speaking to us, - not putting off a decision to weigh up all the implications, or brushing aside what we'd rather not hear, - but following, - stepping out in faith?

We may not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds it, and surely that should be sufficient inspiration for us?

Grace and peace to you all.

Shalom

Jan

# *Synod Prayers*

## **1 May:**

Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner, Dr Ann Sinclair, and our resource of lay preachers across our Synod. For our hospitals, medical centres, and clinics, for everyone who works for our NHS; Hospital Chaplains: all in hospital chaplaincy.

## **8 May:**

The work of Christian Aid and those congregations supporting Christian Aid partners through Commitment for Life in Bangladesh, South America, Israel and The Occupied Palestinian Territories, and for generous giving during Christian Aid Week.

## **15 May:**

Grindon Mission Project; Stockton Road URC, Sunderland; Roker URC; CRCW Alison Dalton.

## **22 May:**

Mr Matt Knowles, our Synod's Safeguarding Advisor shared with Yorkshire Synod.

## **29 May:**

Those training for the ministry from Northern Synod: Felicity Barker, Lisa Wilson, Louise Sanders and Roberta Ritson.

# **Christian Aid Week**

## **15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

# Guisborough

## Changes.

How do you cope with change? Do you worry, panic or sail through it? There have been so many changes lately, large ones as well as the usual ones we all have to cope with in everyday life.

One major change we have all had to go through is the Pandemic. This has been a big shock and for some has caused major changes – death, loss of family and friends, loss of jobs. The whole way we live our lives now is different and very scary for some. Brexit brought about major changes and we are still feeling the consequences of that. Now the war in Ukraine is adding to the burden of so many. Loss of income, loneliness and poverty are changing people's lives too. All this we know. How do we cope with it all?

I have had a lot of changes in my life in the last two years too. I have been so lucky, which I daily thank God for. Moving house has been one major change in my life. It has been worrying, scary, upsetting and exciting all at the same time. Questions like 'should I/shouldn't I, where to, when, how do I go about it? It was very stressful, but through it all one thing sustained me – prayer. I prayed for guidance, wisdom and strength. I asked for signs of confirmation to reassure me that I was doing the right thing.

The answers that I received were absolutely amazing. In my usual prayer and Bible times each day, the verses that came up, exactly answered my prayers. I was given 'pictures' in my mind and moments of insight. Bible verses of 'Do not be afraid', 'I am with you', 'Trust', 'Have faith' and 'Pray for more faith' repeatedly appeared. It was a stressful time but I felt closer to God than I had at any other time in my life. I was 'lifted' and supported every step of the way. It really has been an incredible journey. Everything just fell into place; each step led to another door being opened.

When I viewed the cottage it was exactly what I had always wanted, so quaint and picturesque. It had the most beautiful garden, and everything had been newly decorated, updated and modernised. When I was introduced to the vendors, I knew it was for me because their names were the same as my parents' names and the neighbour had my name. It felt as if God had chosen this place just for me and my parents had confirmed it. There were too many

co-incidences for them not to be God-incidences. I am now happy, settled and at peace.

A friend of mine has just moved house too. His first offer went on an apartment in Scarborough, but this fell through. He was so disappointed and wondered whether to continue. However, he waited and another one came up, this time in Saltburn where he really wanted to be. He is now living there and is very happy.

Prayer can sometimes be very difficult, even feel impossible, but persevere and your prayer will always be answered, though maybe not in the way you are expecting. God knows what is best for us. Trust Him, He is faithful.

**Prayer, Perseverance** and **Trust** were the things I learnt, and the result has been Joy, abundant Joy, and a closer relationship with God.

God bless you all.

*Chris Robertson*

## **Walking Through Holy Week**

From Palm Sunday until Easter Day the experience of Walking Through Holy was presented to recreate the events of the Stations of Cross for our worshippers and members of the public in Guisborough.

Organised by Darren Thompson, one of our members, the eight days were unfolded by posters arranged around the sanctuary giving the story of our Lord's last days on earth and his final triumphant resurrection!

It began at Palm Sunday service with Bill Reynolds, of the Guisborough Christian Fellowship, leading us in the worship of Jesus, the 'Servant King,' and ending with the Rev Norma Johnson helping all, present on that day, to "Plant Easter into Our Souls."

During the course of Holy Week the church was open to the public so that any passerby, on Westgate, could come into the church to walk around the sanctuary to read and learn, or be reminded about the events of the most important time of the Christian Year.

*Ray Tunnicliffe.*

## Guisborough Rotas

	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Communion</b>
1st May	Sandra	Ray	Jenny
8 May	Peter	Jenny	
15 May	Joyce	Martin	
22 May	Barbara	Peter	
29 May	Darren	Joyce	

## *St Andrew's*

### Condolences

#### **Joan Walker**

Sadly our friend, Joan Walker, passed away at James Cook University Hospital on Thursday 7th April. Both she and Harold were members of St. Andrew's for many years.

Her funeral will be held in St Andrew's church on 28th April at 10.45am.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth, Moira, Caroline, Alison and family.

#### **Eleanor Fairest**

We also note the death of Eleanor Fairest whose funeral will be held at Stokesley Parish Church on 25th April at 2.30pm.

Eleanor and Bill McArthur were members of the church for many

years. After Bill's death, the bench at the back of the church was given his memory.

After several Yeats, Eleanor married John Fairest in our church and lived happily for many years on West Green, Stokesley. After a major stroke Eleanor moved to Nunthorpe Hall, where she spent the closing years of her life.

### **Coffee Morning**

Donations for the tombola needed for our coffee morning to be held on Saturday 2nd July at St. Andrew's 10.30am.

Grace, Doreen or Joan will be pleased to receive them.

Thank you.

## Coffee for Charity

20th March	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£21.00
29th March	Mind	£25.55
3rd April	Teesside Hospice	£20.00
10th April	Boys Brigade	£14.00

## St Andrew's Calendar

### Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

## *Redcar*

### Palm Sunday

We had a very uplifting Palm Sunday service with the Baptist Church in our Church Hall on the 10th April. The sanctuary was being used for the 24/7 Prayer week. The transformation had to be seen to be believed!

### Easter Fair

We do not have the final figure for our Easter Fayre but it will be over £300. The amount was enhanced by Jamie Leigh and Ellie May, Dot and Andy's granddaughters, who decided to sing and dance under the outside canopy and passers by gave them some money. They raised about £5 in loose change. Well done girls. Despite a lack of publicity we were well supported, especially by the people from the Baptist Church.

# Preachers

	<b>Marthon</b>	<b>Guisborough</b>	<b>Redcar</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
1-May	Donna Moore	Jane Rowell Communion	K & M Harris Communion
8-May	MarthonWT	Guis Folk	Jan Harper
15-May	Jan Harper Communion	Keith Martin	Brian Stephenson
22-May	K & M Harris	Donna Moore	A Lie
29-May	Songs of Praise	tba	K & M Harris

Material for the June Magazine to church editors by Sunday 15th May  
please

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