

Group News



*** 2022 * October * 2022 ***

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

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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 blessings of your father are stronger than the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills’

Genesis 49 v. 26

Sometimes in life something happens to remind us of how much we have to celebrate, - the many blessings and gifts that God so freely showers upon us. Sadly, such moments can be all too rare. More often than not we lurch from one demand, one crisis, one responsibility to another, scarcely finding time to draw breath and reflect on the reasons we have to give thanks. If we're not careful we end up brooding on the things we haven't got, sucked into a vicious circle of self-pity; the more sorry we feel for ourselves, the more grounds there seem to be for such feelings.

We need to stop occasionally, and in the words of the old hymn, make time to 'count our blessings', for when we do that life can seem very different. There is so much in life that isn't only good, but wonderful, beautiful beyond words. The words from Genesis above were concerned not with God's blessing but with Jacob's blessing to his sons; however they could speak very appropriately of all that God has done for us.

Hopefully we will make time to consider such things, and far from feeling sorry for ourselves we'll realise how much reason there is to give thanks.

May God bless you and keep you.

Shalom.

Jan

Synod Prayers

2nd October:

Preparations for October Synod Meeting (15 October). Moderator's Secretary, Mrs Wendy Watson; Trust Officer, Mr Andrew Atkinson; Finance Officer, Mrs Helen Hogg.

9th October:

Homeless Sunday and Prisons Week (9-15 Oct). United Church of Christ New York Conference, and Conference Minister Revd David Gaewski.

16th October:

For the Joint Public Issues Team and its work. The work of Mission Committee and Convenor, Revd Dr Grant Wilson; the Synod's Racial Justice Advocate, Pat Poinen; the Synod's Rural Consultant, Revd Ian Ring. North East England Divisional Salvation Army Commanders, Majors David and Gillian Burns.

23rd October:

Revd Mary Taylor; Wooler URC; PCM, their retired ministers and those newly appointed to posts with PCM.

30th October:

West Denton URC Newcastle; Robert Stewart Memorial URC, Newcastle.

Social Media

Darren has worked hard to maintain the presence of the East Cleveland Group on Social Media over many years. Unfortunately for us, he now feels it is time to resign from this task and the Group Elders would like to hear from anyone who feels able to take on this task, to ensure our continued presence in the world of social media.



Guisborough

Darren Thompson Shaved on 25 Aug 2022

Shaved in memory of Lynn

Despite growing up in the 70s and hearing all the mother in law jokes, my mother in law was amazing! Normally it would be Andy raising money in memory of her mam, but she was reluctant to get all her hair shaved off, no idea why. I haven't had my hair cut since October 2020 and as Lynn was a qualified hairdresser, it seems only fitting that I raise money by Braving the Shave in her memory for Macmillan. But this isn't just about remembering Lynn, it's for all those we have loved and lost - Nana, Auntie Val, Uncle Dave, Biddie, Auntie Sheila. It is also for those who have fought and won and those still battling - Grandad Eric, Nana Jack, Auntie Anita. (anyone we have missed - we apologise) We understand times are hard and any donations, big or small will be very much appreciated.

To date, Darren has raised over £300.00 for Macmillan. For those who would like witness The Shave a video is available on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/CeMaPw3z-R4>

For those who would like to make a donation or learn more, there is further information at:

<https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/darren-thompson1>

If anyone would like to knit me a hat for the coming winter months it will be well appreciated and worn often!

A big thank you to each and everyone who has donated so far.

Guisborough Calendar

Darren Thompson

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

What is Love

Here we are again, another year has passed since the last time I wrote. I once more have gleaned more understanding of life through the eyes of my four-year-old granddaughter (who is 4 going on 24). There is a certain wisdom with children who see the world clearly without prejudice. Though they may not be able to articulate as adults want; the error is ours for not understanding and not theirs in the innocence of their vocabulary.

I was babysitting recently. 'babysitting', there was no sitting to be done throughout my eight hours in her company.

We were running from dinosaurs disguised as her dog Rusty. Poor Rusty every time she came near, Alissa let out a scream and ran away from her shouting 'Nana quick or she'll eat you'. I felt guilty momentarily but couldn't stop to stroke Rusty to let her know she was loved, and we were only playing a game. Rusty's canine understanding played into the game we were running, and she was following. The incorruptibility of children and animals for each have the uniqueness to surprise adults with their playful love and immeasurable understanding of our emotions. How often does the family pet snuggle into you when you are feeling low? Therefore, they are so loved by the Lord God.

Isaiah 11:6-9 Wolves will live with lambs. Leopards will lie down with goats. Calves, young lions, and year-old lambs will be together, and little children will lead them.

While babysitting I received a message which caused some sadness. Babysitting no, more rather the assault course of balls, hula hoops, trampolines, bushes and discarded dolls all of which I had to evade like an

	Welcome	Vestry/notices	Communion
2 nd October	Jenny	Martin	
9 th October	Martin	Peter	
16 th October	Sandra	Maureen	
23 rd October	Peter	Joyce	
30 th October	Joyce	Barbara	
6 th November	Barbara	Ray	

ancient ninja to protect my granddaughter whilst now evading dinosaur's, who had morphed into the canine dragons. A chance to be alone. I was standing in the kitchen preparing tea whilst Alissa was being entertained by Bing, apparently a naughty rabbit on the television. Visibly upset I reread my message and tears came quickly to my eyes, letting out a sob I felt a tug at my dress.

'Nana why are you sad when you know I love you and you love me'.

The wisdom of this child was overwhelming, she had put into context in one simple sentence the whole bible and the true spirit of Christianity and the love of God and the Lord Jesus.

We are loved who love. Loneliness will never find us if we believe, our faith is our nourishment, our love is the warmth of a blanket and our prayers the companionship with the Lord God

Never have I felt so proud of my little dragon slayer than at that very moment. Blessed yes, I am.

Angela Etwell

St Andrew's

Joyce Aldus

Sadly our friend Joyce Aldus passed away recently.

Joyce was a member of our church at St. Andrew's for many years and worshipped here regularly with her husband Ken. She ran the Friendship Club at church and was ready to help anyone, always with a cheerful smile.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time.

News from Rosemary

Hi Sister Shirley,

Peace & the Joy of the Lord God be with you! It was nice to hear from you. I give thanks to God our Father for keeping you safe at home. Glad too, that you are still your usual self, taking walks and helping the elderly to get to Church for fellowship!

Sorry I haven't been too well since the rainy season began in late August! I'm grounded due to poor mobility and soggy muddy paths! Yesterday I was able to get to the nearest pharmacy to get my drugs, it wasn't easy but I got some steroid and ventolin inhalers that will keep me going for a while! Today I'm sad and inconsolable! I woke up this morning, with a dark cloud hanging over me, only to turn on the TV and the news of my worldly icon very grim and later on in the day, it dawned on us that the cherished long reigning British Monarch had passed on! I adored, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, very much! Even at Her age and frail state, she remained a solid figure of stability. and unity in the UK & Commonwealth! We will miss her warm smile and firm composure in times of adversity! Most notably, her encouraging and reassuring address to UK and Commonwealth during the Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown! She lifted our drooping hearts when she said that, like it was during the 2WW, we would get through it and be reunited with our families and loved ones! Her prophetic words came true! I send you, and all the British people, my deepest condolences for the passing of the great most cherished and loved Monarch across the World. She is the only British Monarch I have known physically, in my life time and God only knows how the UK and Commonwealth will hold together in the next few years! But, by God's sufficient grace ,we will get through it. I think that's what she would have told us! There's a time for everything in life, and whether we like it or not, it's bound to happen! Our duty to God, is to do what He requires of us, love one another and hold on firm to our faith without wavering in the changing scenes of life and the world we live in! It's wonderful that we have a great big wonderful GOD who loves each one of us, and does so much for all of us unconditionally!

God bless you dear and stay strong in the Lord's Service!

With much love, Rosemary

Coffee for Charity

14th Aug.	Teesside Hospice	£18.70
21st Aug.	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£17.65
28th. Aug.	Leprosy Mission	£33.10
4th Sept.	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£23.03
11th Sept.	Boyd's Brigade	£21.80

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Redcar

Andrew Frederick Mcsherry

We had a lovely service of Worship and Memorial to Andy on 19th September. A lot of Dot's family were there together with members of the congregation, representatives from the scouts and other people who had come into contact with Andy. Dot and Andy met at school when they were 15 and married in the early 80s.

Andy was a huge asset to the church. He was officially our cleaner but undertook many caretaking and repair jobs after our many break ins. Despite a fear of heights he could be found on the roof trying to patch it up on many an occasion. He never charged for any of the work he did, saying it was his contribution to church life and often did not claim for any materials he used.

Shortly after they moved to Redcar from Oldham in 2002 he handed out cards to people in the church, telling them to get in touch if they needed anything doing. I first met Andy in 2011 when I attended Redcar Church

after the closure of Linthorpe Church. When I actually moved to Redcar in 2013 I found I was living only 4 doors away and he helped me on countless occasions doing DIY jobs. He also looked after my cat when I went on holiday, a job which Dot has now taken on!

His loss has left a big hole in our church family and I have lost a good friend.

June Haverson

Collaboration With The Baptist Church

I attended the Baptist Members Meeting on Wednesday 14th September, where their members agreed 100% to the collaboration with Redcar URC. Pastor Mark Hubbard has obtained funding to advertise for another Pastor to work with the two churches and improve the life and outreach of our Church. We already worship at the Baptist Church every other week and are getting to know members of their fellowship. Their church attendances are increasing all the time. Long may it continue!



Preachers

	Marthon	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
2-Oct	Donna Moore	Rosemary Taylor	Julie Martin
9-Oct	K & M Harris Parade/Harvest	Chris Eddowes	Redcar Baptist 10.30am Service
16-Oct	tba	tba	K & M Harris
23-Oct	Jan Harper	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptist 10.30am Service
30-Oct	K & M Harris	tba	Jan Harper Communion

Material for the November Magazine to church editors by
Sunday 16th October please

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