

Group News



** 2016 * September * 2016*

Part of the URC Northern Synod – www.unc-northernsynod.org.uk

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Margaret and I had a very special holiday this year on the Isle of Arran. This was a new experience for Margaret, both in visiting this beautiful part of Scotland, but also her first time on a car ferry – when the small ferry across the River Blyth had been her only river experience!

The Isle of Arran is an archaeological and geological treasure house as well as being a place of stunning natural beauty. Its history stretches back more than 3000 years. Bronze Age settlers, early Christian hermits and the Vikings have left their mark. But it was the devastation of the conflicts of mediaeval Scotland that caused most distress, when Arran was caught up in the Agricultural Revolution which led to widespread misery in the Clearances, as it did elsewhere, with many families being taken from their homes and homeland, to begin a new life in Canada. There is a memorial in Lamlash Bay, erected many years later by the families of those who had made the journey, a reminder of the tragedy that befell them. With hope and hard work, their descendants have created new and successful lives out of the sadness of that time.

Many of the historic characters of Scotland have associations with Arran, including Robert the Bruce, whose family also have links here with the castle at Skelton being so much a part of our own history. The history of the Island certainly impressed us, and a visit to the heritage folk museum showed us how people had coped with changes and challenges over many years. In the First World War, many men left to fight, never to return to the beautiful island with its eventful and colourful past, its songs and stories.

History plays an important part in all our lives, and in recent weeks we have remembered the Battle of the Somme, another tragic scene in the war that was said to be ‘The war that will end

all wars.’ But while it is often in the negative we speak of history, we must always remember that there are many good things that have happened – breakthroughs in medical research and treatment: women’s suffrage: the gift of education and science, and the overall standard of living we enjoy.

At the present time, in our lectionary passages, we are looking and thinking about the letter to the Hebrews, which is a history book about the relationship of the Creator God with humankind. A reminder that we in this present age and time are participants in today’s story, and presents to us how we fulfil our own calling alongside the heroes of the past, such as Abraham and Moses.

The letter to the Hebrews is a book about faith: It is about the faith of the past, but is also a letter showing how the people of the past found not only faith, but hope as they travelled on their journey together.

As we move into the early days of Autumn, we remember The Lord’s prayer, and the words, ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done’, are we ready as individuals to work with God to bring about signs and purposes of his kingdom, here in our own community, now and in the future?

We look forward to the induction of Reverend David Herbert as the new Moderator of Northern Synod. For David this will be a time of preparation and prayer for his future work here within our province. Here on Teesside

we also have work to do about the future shape of ministry. The letter of Hebrews reminds us - “Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking ever to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Ken and Margaret Harris

Church in Prayer

How do I pray?

Hello Everyone,

“Pray for Nice” the Northern Echo urges us this morning (16th July)... but Lord, WHAT DO I PRAY FOR - those who lost their lives in the most recent atrocity of a heavy truck mowing down spectators at a national celebration ... the traumatised survivors ... the families and friends ... those who conceived and carried out a crime which had such a devastating outcome?

My immediate prayer is Lord, have mercy.

My on-going prayer is for greater understanding and tolerance between the religions of the world; not that we should aim to ‘convert’ each other (by living our lives according to our chosen faith we may well achieve this) but by accepting each others beliefs - a ‘live and let live’ principle, if you like. I believe the God I worship is the same God my Muslim brothers and sisters worship, but we see him/her differently, so I am prepared to respect their view.

We cannot, however, endorse the opinion, ideals, or actions of extremists of any belief or persuasion. Radical Islam where, we’re given to understand, the Koran has been inaccurately understood and interpreted cannot be endorsed - a reminder, maybe to ensure we discern the message of our Bibles the way we should! Every soul living on this planet is a child o God’s creation - our lives a gift from Him. Let us be sure we live them to his glory!

May God guide us in our prayers and may we allow them to shape our attitudes and decisions in His way.

Shirley Moorse

Guisborough

So at the time of writing this the Olympic Games are just about half way through the schedule of sports.

Team GB have won 10 gold medals, 13 Silver and 7 Bronze and are in third place behind the USA & China.

A great result for those who have trained hard, with dedication and endeavour over the years. I feel sorry for those athletes who have put in the same work as the winners but have not achieved medals.

Our world cup soccer players have shown us that anyone or any team can “lose their bottle” at any time during an event while others go on to win.

Why is that I wonder? Is it some sort of failure in preparation or does something go wrong on the day; or is it the situation or circumstance that a person finds themselves in. A long term or short term relationship problem can mean that people are not in the right frame of mind. It goes without saying that this can happen to anyone, not just our sports-people.

I am doing a spot of hospital-visiting at the moment and usually patients are feeling a little fragile. The nurses can be a great help but they too are under pressure. One nurse had been reprimanded by her supervisor for failing in a duty, and she was in a bad place. She was heard to say that she would be better off working at a supermarket check-out. This type of unguarded talk in front of the patients can be a disaster to their morale and they can't really walk away from it.

Another patient was awaiting the operating theatre and had nothing to eat or drink for fifteen hours and had been informed he was the ninth of nine waiting to go to theatre. The room was hot and he was thirsty and clearly depressed and he was talking about dis-

Guisborough Calendar

Wed 14 th September	7.00pm	Group Elders meet in the Hall
Tue 20 th September	7.15pm	Church Meeting
Sun 25 th September		Harvest Service

Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Ken, Margaret, Madge, Maureen and others.

charging himself from hospital. His visitor asked why he didn't have a drip as he had been without a drink for a long time. Clearly this had been an oversight as within minutes staff appeared with an intravenous drip to help with his hydration, but still no further information.

Most of us have a duty of care whether it is the natural nurturing care of parents for their children, the shopkeeper to his customers, ensuring quality of goods, the emergency services to the general public, and even the care we give our beloved pets. As we strive to do our best some of us may falter and not cross the winning line. Others may not even make the preliminaries and others will try and try and eventually succeed.

Why do you go to church? When life is good lots of people tend to forget about the church. Then something happens to turn their lives upside down. With all the weight of the world pressing down on their shoulders, people expect the church to provide bible-based answers that no other institution can provide.

The church is more than just entertainment and having large numbers of people attending services or hearing messages from the pul-

pit that makes one feel good. The church is the lifeline of any society.

It is a unique place that should instil changes in people's lives.

More and more children are growing up in broken homes, unemployment increases and people are sinking deeper into debt. Each church should be able to provide small group ministries and outreach services with even smaller churches having specialised small help groups. This should then spill out to the local community that the church serves. To the best of its ability the church can then provide services, counselling and advice to those in need.

Sir Isaac Newton theorised, for each action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Where does the church stand in the fight for the gold medal acquisition on behalf of Christianity. Have we got it right? Are we making the right actions or are we just reacting?

Peter Etwell



Date 2016	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
Sept 4	P Etwell	D Beattie	M Houston	
11	D Moore		J Reynolds	R Tunnicliffe
18	J Reynolds		M Burrows	Helen Burrows
25	J Basham		D Thompson	B Ward
Oct 2	D Beattie		B Ward	S Verrill

Redcar

Congratulations

Brian MacSherry has won a Gold Award at school for 100 hours of mixed sport. He received cinema tickets, WH Smith Voucher and Book Voucher.

He starts a new adventure at Sacred Heart Senior School in September.

Joint Service

Please note also we are having a joint service with Newcommen Methodist Church on Sunday, 2nd October

Harvest Lunch

We are hoping to have soup and pudding after the Harvest service on 25th September more details later.

Redcar Calendar

Diary Dates

Tue 6th Sept 2.00pm Chatter in the Church

Weekly

Wednesday 10.30am Singing Group in the Church

Thursday 10.00-11.30am Pop-in Centre for coffee / tea, cakes and fellowship in the Church Hall – all are welcome.

2.00pm Thursday Prayers at the home of Catherine Milburn

St Andrew's

Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship will meet on Tuesday 13th September 1.30pm - 3.00pm at St. Andrew's.

We will be deciding on the agenda for the new session followed by a shared afternoon tea.

All welcome.

Advance Notice

Our annual bazaar is to be held on Sat. 19th November 11.30a.m - 1.30p.m. We will need helpers and also would be very grateful for donations for raffle, tombola, cake and bric a brac stalls etc. Proceeds are in aid of church funds.

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held on the 3rd August raised £152.00 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone.

Church Contact

Church Secretary
01642 315206

Coffee for Charity

26 June	Coatham House	£20.00
3rd July	Rosemary WM Fund	£23.00
10th July	Embrace	£11.20
17th July	Rosemary Fund	£23.59
24th July	Coatham House	£20.00
31st July	Macmillan Nurses	£11.90
7th August	Teesside Hospice	£8.00

Rosemary Washing Machine Fund

The Rosemary Washing Machine Fund which effectively launched itself after the update in an earlier ECGN has amazingly reached £430.00! HUGE thanks to everyone who contributed, with special mention of a generous £100.00 donation from the ladies of Guisborough Church. Bless you all.

Shirley Moore



St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boys Brigade

Details available from ministers
and church elders

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 9.30am	Redcar 11.00am
4-Sep	K Harris	M Harris Communion	N Johnson Communion
11-Sep	M Harris Parade	W Middlemas	K Harris
18-Sep	J Harper Comm; C Meeting	N Johnson	K & M Harris
25-Sep	D Elliott	D Moore Harvest	R Roseburgh Harvest
2-Oct	M Locke	J Coulthard Communion	Joint Service Newcommen Meth.

Material for the October Magazine to church editors by Sunday
11th September please

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