

Our 50th Anniversary Year

We are still here after 50 years. Four Churches coming together as one. What does that say to us? And what is God saying to us? What opportunities does it give us to reflect on our story, on who we are, on what we stand for, on who we follow _ and to share that with others.

As local churches and as the URC, marking our 50th year can help us to plan for the future – not only to keep pursuing our ecumenical vision, but also to plan for how we will continue to be an active, engaged and faithful Christian presence in our communities and in new ones. Not least, marking our Jubilee will be an opportunity to give thanks.

JOINT PASTORATE

At a church meeting on Sunday, the 12th of December it was agreed that the East Cleveland Group of United Reformed Churches, of Guisborough. Marton and Redcar, should join with churches in Hartlepool. Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby Mission, to become a Joint

Pastorate. It is hoped that such an organisational change will make it more likely that we will be able to call a new minister.

Since Guisborough Church has been without a minister for about five years this would seem to be a good move forward. However, before this proposal was agreed a number of issues were raised by members.

The most significant question asked was: since we have managed to minister for ourselves, over a number of years, is there any great advantage in having a minister to share between seven fellowships? In answer to this it was thought that we needed someone to promote new initiatives. A new person bringing 'fresh eyes' to our particular situation and problems.

A new fresh approach is always helpful and so we look forward in the hope that someone may come forward to accept a call and the challenges we face in this area Cleveland.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Unfortunately, no special events celebrating the week of prayer for Christian unity were organised in Guisborough last month. Churches in the town had obviously taken a precautionary position on such arrangements seeing as some covid restrictions were still in place.

However, the message about Christian Unity was central to the theme of the service led by our lay preacher, Donna Moore, on Sunday, the 23rd of January. Whilst The worldwide Christian church is varied in members and denominations. We are

essentially one body in Christ from whom all blessings flow. The pandemic has illustrated very clearly how important it is for people to stand together and support one another. In other words, until we are all safe then no one is safe.

In Saint Paul's 1st letter, to the new Corinthian church, he describes a good fellowship of Christians as like the human body, all different parts doing different things, but working in unity. And so this is how it must be for the church in the world.

THE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Shona Joselin the leading worker for the Bridge Association Shona Joselin retired in December.

Her service to the Association goes back to its founding 20 years ago and so this is a great loss of dedicated experience and commitment. We are thankful for her work for the Bridge in the various community projects and offer our best wishes for her in the future.

In the meantime, the regular administration of the Association is being covered by Jackie Kielty supported by Bridge workers Joanna O'Neil and Juanita Osborne until the new manager is appointed.

Celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary together.

The United from church has created a special all age book to help celebrate the

URC's 50th anniversary. *Celebrate | Together* is a lively colourful picture book design for family used to share together and has been made available free of charge for all members and those other people connected with URC. The book tells the story of the URC and church life through a big party with things to find out and question to ponder. Each page has a flap review any more about the URC which came into being on the 5th of October nine 1972 with insight into the light life I work at the church today. And it's free only a small postage and packaging fee applies. Local churches can give copies to members and those associated with the life of the church. Copies can be ordered through that you are see bookshop. Contact: publishing@urc.org.uk or phone on (020) 7916 8629.

Community Walk Against Hunger

St Paulinus RC Church have organised a Community Walk Against for Saturday, 26th, March. This is a sponsored walking challenge for individuals. There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk because of malnutrition. During Lent the challenge is to walk a total of 200km to help give hunger its marching orders. Hunger is a dreadful scourge in many parts of the world and so it is good that our friends at St Paulinus are taking this positive action.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY at 10.00am.

6th. Ian SmithThornaby Mission

13th. Bill Reynolds.....

20th, Dr Donna Moore....Lay Preacher, Guis URC member

28th. Angie & Peter Etwell Guis' URC members

Everyone will be welcome at our services. Come for worship, or to learn about faith in Jesus, or simply to find some good friends.

COFFEE MORNING AND PRAYER MEETING

Every Thursday there is a Coffee Morning in the church hall from 9.30am to 11.30am followed by a prayer meeting at 11.30am until noon. Please pop in, when you can on this market day, and you will find a cheerful welcome.

GUISBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Founded 1798

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

News Letter

February 2022

Secretary 01287 637273