

The 50th, Anniversary of the United Reformed Church

In 2022, the United Reformed Church celebrate its 50th anniversary. The number 50 has a great significance in the Old Testament. According to Laws God set out for his people in Leviticus 25, every seventh year was to be a sabbath year. The year following the seventh "sabbath year." the 49th year, was to be declared a Jubilee, focusing on freedom, redemption, return of property to rightful owners, rest, wisdom and forgiveness; all values which are core the Gospel which Christ came to bring.

In October 1972 the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church came together as one. This was the first coming together of denominations of Christianity since the Reformation and later we were joined by other churches.

We will celebrate this anniversary in our service on Sunday, the 2nd of October at 10.00am. It is our wish to celebrate this happy occasion with others and so we ask members and friends to come and join in the celebration on this happy day. The invitation is also extended to any member of the public. Please come for we will be pleased to see you.

East Cleveland Group of the URC Joint Service at St Andrew's URC, Marton,

The three churches of the East Cleveland group of United Reformed Church - Guisborough, Redcar and St Andrew's of Marton, gathered together for worship on Sunday, the 24th of July. The service was led by the Reverend Dr Trevor Jamison of St Columba's Church North Shields. Dr Jamison described himself as a Green Apostle, with 25% of his time being devoted to promoting environmental issues to the various fellowships of the Northern Province of United Reformed Church. The theme of the worship was focused on the idea of Christian stewardship of God's created world.

In the reflection, which prepared us for his sermon, he asked a simple question: what is your favourite creature? Naturally there emerged a wide range of answers to which there was further question: which is God's favourite creature? The response was clear and unequivocal: there are none - no favourites - a good start to to the day's message based on Bible readings from Genesis chapter 1 and Paul's letter to the Ephesian church.

In the book of Genesis God is described as giving people dominion over all the creatures of the Earth. A first thought, on this statement, would seem to be that God has given us a favoured position in the world at large. However, if this is indeed the case, then humankind haven't done very well when we consider the present state of the planet. At the

present time there are wars and famines and climate change brought on through the selfish actions of people.

In the letter to the Ephesians, it is made clear to the recipient of the letter that God in Christ came down to be with people and to be a servant. In this role Jesus behaved in a selfless way - a man of humility - a man who supported God's created world. From this is drawn the message to us all, that we two must be servants in the same way as Christ. So being selfless rather than selfish, humble rather than proud and so we will, therefore, be able to contribute effectively in saving the world about us. Given dominion over the other creatures on Earth, as mentioned in Genesis, will that be that of a caring guardian and servant.

After the service there was a social time for coffee when the members of the three churches were able to meet up with members from other fellowships, old friends and acquaintances and so to continue the gathering informally.

BAPTISM



Madison Rose being baptised by Dr Donna Moore on her left and supported by Dianne Kane and Tyla on the right.

On Sunday, 14th, August, Madison Rose Brudenell was baptised into the fellowship of the Christian Church. Madison is the daughter of Tyla and the great granddaughter of Dianne Kane, a friend of Guisborough United Reformed Church.

The baptismal service was conducted by Dr Donna Moore, a member of the Guisborough Church, who presented the theme of the ceremony in the form of a relay race. As an introduction to this idea some children in the congregation were invited to take part in a relay race requiring them to run to give a baton to another child. And from this we had the title of the sermon: Pass it On. A child is baptised into the church and so given the role to take faith in Jesus onto a new generation. For the baptismal ceremony Tyla and Dianne promised to help Madison in coming to learn about faith in Christianity supported by other family members who were to act as God Parents.

After the service Madison, Tyla, Dianne and other family members invited other people in the congregation to join them as they continued the celebration in the Voyager Pub.

The Bridge Association

There will be a prayer breakfast at 8 am on Sat 3rd September, at the home of Nick and Claire Wells, 32, Thames Avenue Guisborough, to the pray for the work of **The Bridge**

Commitment for Life

Through Commitment for Life local congregations can participate in actions for justice around the world. Commitment for Life belongs to every congregation. Many choose to support one or more region through prayer learning advocacy and action for justice. Our partners are Christian Aid and Global Justice.

Moving Stories offers us reports about various events happening in the world in the areas where Commitment for Life offers support. The story following is about recent concerns in Palestine and Israel.

EMERGING DEBT CRISIS IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL

Debt is strangling the poorest people in Palestine and Israel, and in any sane world would immediately be cancelled. ISRAEL'S national debt is around US\$208 billion. That equates to 66% of GDP or US\$24 000 per citizen. Each year \$US9 billion is added to the bill.

Palestine's debt to GDP ratio has exceeded 63% - well over the 40% limit set in law. The Palestinian

Authority's ability to service that debt is hampered by the illegal occupation and oppression of its people. For both Israel and Palestine, there is an emerging debt crisis that will affect the poorest citizens enormously, brought about by a deeply problematic global financial and economic architecture.

In fact, the global financial system beggars belief. Take the British foreign aid budget. The majority goes not to poor people but to a colonial-era investment firm called CDC that invests in luxury hotels, malls, and restaurant chains. In the end, only 3% of this aid goes to suppliers in the global south, with over 90% being paid to British firms. "This is the real scandal," says economist Jason Hickel. "Aid money is taken from the pockets of British taxpayers and sent straight into the already-gilded coffers of the British business elite. It's a shameful abuse of our most compassionate impulse," he concludes.

Together with Global Justice Now, Commitment for Life works to cancel the debt of the highly exploited nations. Thank you for all you do to bring about justice in our world through effective debt cancellation.

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Ben MacGregor of Thurso, Caithness makes the following observations about ministry in a letter to Reform, our church's national magazine:

Your praise of ministers was certainly fulsome in your recent editorial. My experience has been a little different.... There are some wonderful ones out there but many are not. I think on the whole the church will be better off without them and should rely on laity (as do the Brethren and the Quakers).

The Bridge Association

Food and Fun 4 All.

This event was organised as a summer activity and entertainment event to occupy local children during the school holiday. Organised by the Bridge workers and other volunteers it was run for four sessions in St Nick's parish hall in Bow Street during August. A good effort fulfilling a need in the local community.

The Bridge wish to offer their thanks to organisations and people who have given support recently. So thanks go to:-

County Durham foundation for support an funding from the John T Shuttleworth Memorial Trust. The fund helped the Bridge expand the Time 2 Move project at Hinton Court.

Juliet, staff, and customers of the HSBC bank for running various fund-raising activities at Guisborough branch. They

now move onto support other worthy causes but will continue to collect items for the Food Bank.

In August the Darlington Building Society supported the Bridge with a "Guess the Number of Elastic Bands" fund raiser - and a special shout for Charlotte who made the ball of bands.

St Paulinus

In the August Parish Newsletter a meeting entitled Evangelism: "*The Gospel for Everybody*" was reported as having taken place on Saturday, 23rd, July. People attending were thanked for their contributions to the discussion. Further meetings are to be arranged with an appeal to encourage anyone to attend. From this meeting emerged the observation that: "The most important ongoing message is that we are all carrying out our mission by the way we live our lives, which should be both open and welcoming to all we meet."

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.00am

Sept 4 Rev Norma Johnson - Redcar

Sept 11 Guisfolk & Church Meeting

Sept 18 R Taylor & B Stephenson - Redcar

Sept 25 Maranny Jones - Darlington

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 9:30 am to 11:30 am, followed by a prayer meeting at 11:30 am until noon.

Please pop in, when you can, on market day and you will find a cheerful welcome.

September 2022

**GUISBOROUGH UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH**
Part of the Cleveland Joint Pastorate
URC



Founded 1798

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

News Letter

September 2022

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