

Group News



** July * 2024 * August **

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

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Redcar URC

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Our churches are members of the Cleveland Pastorate

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

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

On the final day at the climax of the feast, Jesus stood and proclaimed for all to hear, "If any of you are thirsty come to me and drink". As the scripture has said "Streams of living water will flow from the heart of whoever believes in me".

John 7: 37-38

Given recent disappointing summers, not to mention this one, it's hard to believe that only a few years ago we were experiencing periods of drought and warnings that our ponds, rivers, streams and reservoirs may dry up, perhaps forever! I can still remember times when I looked out at my poor parched garden and actually longed for it to rain...not daring to get the hosepipe out! Such moments in this usually soggy country of ours are rare, but in Israel, as elsewhere in the Middle East and parts of Africa they are all too common; water a precious and treasured resource. For those living in such places its scarcity is not just an inconvenience, but also a threat to life itself, and hence every spring, oasis or well is accorded almost sacred status.

This is the context in which Jesus promised a stream of living water to anyone who is thirsty. a claim made all the more remarkable by the occasion he chose to make His pronouncement. It was the Feast Of tabernacles, - a day on which the Jews remembered God's provision of water from a rock during Israel's time in the wilderness, and the highlight of events was a ceremonial pouring out of water as symbol of that time when God had turned despair to hope, doubt to faith and almost certain death to a celebration of life. What Jesus promised was all this and more besides, - a quality of life beyond anything they had dreamed possible, - an inner fulfilment and peace coupled with a new sense of purpose that would offer life a new dimension in every sense.

It is a promise that holds a much today as ever; in a world thirsty for meaning Jesus tells us to come and never thirst again.

May your summer be filled with sunshine and warmth all day, and rain for your gardens at night!

And may the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

East Cleveland Group

Group Service

Sunday 21st July

3.00pm

Guisborough URC

Preacher

Rev Ray Anglesea

The service will be followed by tea, coffee and cakes

There will be no morning worship at St Andrew's or at
Guisborough URC.

Synod Prayers

7th July:

General Assembly (12th - 15th), pray for the preparation needed, for open hearts, wise minds and fruitful discussions. Moderator: Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson. Church House staff.

14th July:

Churches: Robert Stewart Memorial; St Cuthbert's, Heaton; St George's, High Heaton; Minister: Revd Dr Grant Wilson. West Denton.

21st July:

Refugee week (17th - 23rd) Pray for all displaced, seeking safety and security.

28th July:

Praying for all those who give selflessly to the church ie. flower-arrangers, coffee makers and so many more.

4th August:

Churches: St Andrew's, Benton LEP: Minister: Revd Gavin Hume. Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill: Revd Julie Mooney.

11th August:

Rural Ministry: Rural Consultant: Revd Ian Ring.

18th August:

Mission Projects: Redcar Missional House overseen by Revd Dr Sue Walker. Grindon Community Church, John and Kati Whiteoak.

25th August:

Safeguarding Officers: Matt Knowles, Helen Berg, Carrie Kaunda, Admin Support Paula Kitson.

Guisborough

Time has passed very quickly since I last wrote my summer article for Group News.

In some ways life has not changed so much, Russia is still at war with Ukraine. In other ways life still holds some surprises, we have a General Election which will take place around the time this article will be in your hands.

I cannot predict the outcome despite the polls but suspect we will have a change of government. We have a new war in Gaza and, although I regularly pray for a better outcome for all parties, I suspect there won't be much peace by the time you read this.

We have suffered a wet and cold spring but this is nothing compared to the famines and natural disasters that have crept out of the daily news bulletins to be replaced by other stories.

There have been 3 deaths at Guisborough URC of beloved members and we are still mourning their loss. It is easy to get bogged down in sadness and depression amid the low level of political argument. That there is no sign of hope for the most vulnerable and least well off in our society does not help.

When I get anxious or down my husband recommends I listen to a Dire Straits song that I pass on to you now.

Baby, I see this world has made you sad.
Some people can be bad,
The things they do, the things they say;
But baby, I'll wipe away those bitter tears.
I'll chase away those restless fears
That turn your blue skies into grey.
Why worry? There should be laughter after pain.
There should be sunshine after rain.
These things have always been the same,
So why worry now?
Why worry now?

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Guisborough Calendar

Weekly

Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30am	Market Day Coffee Morning
	10.30am	Church open for Private Prayer
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time in Church for Prayers and Reflections.

I can also turn to my Bible. St Andrews has a Baptism that will have taken place just before you read this. The sunshine after so much rain and a time of hope. I will include a reading of Psalm 30 and especially warm to verses 11 and 12.

*You turned my wailing into dancing;
You removed my sackcloth (grieving) and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.*

It is poignant to think this is a Psalm of David who suffered many trials throughout his life and often had cause to grieve at his own offences and those of others. He kept faith with God and believed his promise to turn wailing into dancing.

This promise is echoed at the very end of the New Testament in Revelations 21: 3-4. As the writer describes the New Jerusalem he writes.

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.
They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

A wonderful promise to hold onto when our lives seem a bit drier.

Summer is a time for joy, for sunshine and holidays. For some the exams are over and fun can begin. Old bones ache a bit less in the warmer weather and we can all boost our vitamin D levels to the benefit of mood and health.

I will finish with some quotes by my favourite comedian, Milton Jones, from his 10 Second Sermons books.

“Joy is to be so sure that the facts of a situation don’t fit the reality that you can’t help sniggering.” Remember evil will never have the last word and keep the faith.

Milton also tells us to “Hang on!”

“Sometimes I stop and wonder if I’m making this all up this climb up the mountain.

But usually it just takes a quick look into the cold, unforgiving, hopeless abyss of the alternative to put me back on track.” Amen to that.

“Yes, and if I stay still long enough I can feel the peaceful power of it pushing me on up the path.”

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May you too feel the peaceful power of the Spirit of God whatever this summer holds for you or our government. May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13. Amen.

Donna Moore.

Date	Vestry	Elder
7 th July	Ray	Martin
14 th July	Jenny	Sandra
21 st July	Martin	Joyce
28 th July	Peter	Ray

Date	Vestry	Elder
4 th Aug	Joyce	Peter
11 th Aug	Ray	Jenny
18 th Aug	Jenny	Darren
25 th Aug	Martin	Sandra
1 st Sept	Peter	Martin

St Andrew's

Sunday 21st July

There will be no morning service at St. Andrew's on Sunday 21st July. Instead we will be a service at Guisborough Church at 3.00pm followed by coffee/tea and cake.

Sunday 25th August

There will be no morning service at St. Andrew's on Sunday 21st July. We are invited to Guisborough Church for morning worship at 10.00am.

Coffee Morning

to be held at St Andrew's

Saturday 6th July

10.30am

There will also be a raffle.

Admission £3.00.

Proceeds for the Middlesbrough Food Bank.

Coffee for Charity

19th May	Leprosy Mission	£39.00
26th May	British Heart Foundation	£28.55
2nd June	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£24.60
9th June	Rosemary Fund	£18.00
16th June	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£31.00

Festival Teesside

Weekend 8th, 9th June Teesside Christian churches launched a Music Festival in Stewart Park, a massive undertaking which I believe attracted over 27,000 people on the first day and set out to spread the good news of God's love for all. All ages were catered for with big queues for face-painting for little ones, bouncy castles and slides, then up to climbing walls and BMX attractions for teens group. A variety of food and drink stands were on hand to keep up the energy levels, a bandstand, two large stages for the music acts and witness, and ample provision of portable loos and emergency services. A huge marquee for Information and Resources included advisors and support on homelessness, cost of living, abuse and addictions. Arriving way before opening time I was sadly unable to stay to hear the live bands and witness due to constraints of the Sunday bus service, but the loud speaker test ensured the Christian message would come across loud and clear. Unfortunately I'm not aware of any input from the United Reformed Church but with no clergy contact I'm unsure how we could have been included.

Shirley Moore

Redcar

Redcar update

Following completion of the electrical and other works in the church we have been able to move back in.

We have enjoyed a number of services back in Station Road, all are extremely well attended and welcoming.

Second Thursday Service

We held our first URC led 'Second Thursday Service' on the 13th June. It was a very peaceful reflective time in the corner of the Sanctuary led by Rev Sue Walker. The next service will be held on **Thursday, 11th July** please join us and enjoy a cup of tea and chat.

Texan Visitors

Earlier in June a group of young people from Texas visited for a week. Amongst the experiences they enjoyed was helping to paint parts of the church! Although not quite complete the toilets in particular are looking a little brighter also the two halls. They led Sunday worship on the 9th June which demonstrated their commitment and belief. One of the young people, Jude, is returning later in the year to spend twelve months supporting RBC.

Preachers

	Marton	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	10.300am
7-Jul	MartonWT	Brian Stephenson	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
14-Jul	Ian Smith	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
21-Jul	Group Service led by Ray Anglesea Guisborough URC at 3.00pm		Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
28-Jul	Jan Harper Communion	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
4-Aug	Brian Stephenson	Ian Smith Communion	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
4-Aug	Brian Stephenson	Ian Smith Communion	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
11-Aug	Donna Moore	Keith Martin	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
18-Aug	Dot Thomson Communion	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
25-Aug	Joint Service Guisborough URC	Jan Harper	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC
1-Sep	Jan Harper Meeting	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptists at Redcar URC

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

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