

Group News



** July * 2023 * August **

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough 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

Summer suns are glowing over land and sea; happy light is flowing bountiful and free. Everything rejoices in its mellow rays; all earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise'

Hymn 120 'Rejoice And Sing'

Summer means sunshine, sandy beaches, holidays and hay fever! What summer means to you probably depends on your age. To a child it means school holidays and nothing to do; to a parent it means school holidays and 'what shall we do?' To an older person it means school holidays and crowded town centres! And to an even older person it can mean school holidays, and no-one to meet and nowhere to go because everything stops for the summer.

Summer in church can be a 'nothing' time as all the regular meetings, social and administrative cease for a couple of months. A time when we meet together even more rarely with folk away or out on Sundays. In the summer we relax and prepare for starting again in September.. It is also a time when individuals can invite friends round for coffee or a meal because time is less pressured than usual. But if we let the time slip away we miss out on a number of opportunities to be spiritually enriched.

Originally holidays were holy-days, the single days in the year when the church would hold a celebration such as Easter or Whitsun and workers would have time off to attend. Today holidays can be the least holy-days because people view it as time off from God, or at least worship! Could we use our holidays, holy-days, more wisely? Could we do something different; visit another church for worship, find time to make new friends, use the space from the common round of life to think and plan for the future? Could we read the Bible, or weed the garden and pray? The possibilities are endless!

May you you enjoy the summer, and feel refreshed and renewed and spiritually fit for anything that God might call you to do.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom.

Jan

Synod Prayers

- 4 June:* Stamfordham; the Revd Jona Sewell
- 11 June:* Ministerial students Roberta Ritson and Louise Sanders
- 18 June:* Bellingham; Falstone with Kielder; Wark; Deacon Anne Taylor
- 25 June:* Refugee Week; North East Churches Acting Together
- 2 July:* General Assembly (30 June-3 July); Moderator the Revd Fiona Bennett; Moderator-Elect the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson; Church House staff
- 9 July:* St Andrew's, Monkseaton
- 16 July:* Synod Field Team: Ecumenical & Inter-faith Officer Andy Lie; Youth Work Advisor John Stephenson; Children's Work Advisor Hannah Middleton; Safeguarding Officer Matt Knowles; Safeguarding Support Officer Paula Kitson
- 23 July:* St Columba's, North Shields; the Revd Dr Trevor Jamison
- 30 July:* St Cuthbert's, Heaton; St George's, High Heaton; the Revd Dr Grant Wilson

Guisborough

Having a dog again has made me even more aware of the changing of the Seasons as I am out in nature every day. Liljana and I have been observing the change of the birds we see on our walks, from Lapwing and Oystercatchers to Swifts and Sandmartins. The gardens have changed too, from spring bulbs and bluebells to roses with pink and white valerian everywhere.

Summer is here, even if the temperatures here on the East Coast are not as warm as elsewhere. For many this is a joyful time with Summer Holidays and days out. We have booked a trip to Northern Ireland and my colleagues and I are spending a day at Redcar Races. We should all really count our blessings as we can choose between the delights of moorland and beach.

Of course Summer isn't great for everyone. Young people will be sitting exams and waiting for those all important results. It doesn't matter whether they are A-Levels, Btechs or University exams, it is still an anxious wait. Some are suffering with hay fever or prickly heat and we are to receive alerts for the elderly and vulnerable when the heat becomes too much for them.

We need to rejoice with those who love summer and commiserate with those who don't. Summer is usually a time to take a break and ease back on the throttle a bit. Instead I will be working an extra morning at the Health Centre and those responsible for mowing lawns will not get much of a break until Autumn

How does Summer relate to the liturgical year? Well Summer is a large part of what is called Ordinary Time. It begins after the excitement of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth day of the Church. This period of Ordinary Time will not come to an end until Advent.

As the Catholic Telegraph tells us, this time is anything but ordinary. It is a time when we can examine the ministry of Jesus and the life of the early church. In this lectionary year we will be looking at the Gospel of Matthew, the Parables and teachings of Jesus. We will also be following Paul's letter to the Romans where he lays out a lot of his doctrinal principles. In the Old Testament we have a choice between Genesis leading into Exodus or a mixture of Prophets and OT history.

We are very lucky to be living at a latitude where we have four seasons and we can read the signs as they change. We are blessed by the Liturgical year and the Lectionary worked out by our Christian forebears so we know what is coming up Sunday by Sunday. If only it was that easy to predict what is coming up in our own lives, in the life of the nation and in the life of the world, where we are all bound up more closely together than ever.

Guisborough Calendar

Sunday 2 July

Church Meeting after worship

Weekly

Thursday

from 9.30am Coffee in Church Hall

from 10.30am Church open for private prayer

11.30am Thursday Prayers led by Maureen and Ray.

We are living in interesting times, as the old Chinese curse has it, but when were we not? I recently watched a TV programme about the blackouts in the early 1970s. It hardly seems credible now that people were working a 3 day week and TV was limited to a few hours a night. I am sure everyone who lived through it remembers doing things by candles' light.

How we deal with uncertainty and the trials of life whether personal, national or on the World-wide stage should be influenced by our faith. We cannot know what will happen so "we shouldn't worry about tomorrow, as tomorrow has enough worries of its own". (Matthew 6:34) We can trust in God's promises, first made to Abraham and Moses and repeated by Paul in Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him,". We have the comfort of John 3:16 " For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son that whoso believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." Finally I want to leave you with Jesus' final words in Matthews Gospel "I am with you always, even to the end of the age"

So let's take heart, enjoy your Summer in whatever way we choose, out and about or safe indoors. We can study the Lectionary and are urged to pray constantly. We can all do whatever good comes our way. One thing I am sure of, the daylight will grow shorter, the leaves will turn and Autumn will come. Let's live the life of faith and arrive there feeling our Summertime has been spent well.

Donna Moore

Guisborough Rota

	Welcome	Vestry
2 July	Sandra	Martin
9 July	Jenny	Maureen
16 July	Peter	Joyce
23 July	Darren	Ray
30 July	Martin	Jenny
6 August	Sandra	Martin
13 August	Joyce	Peter
20 August	Peter	Maureen
27 August	Ray	Joyce

Guisborough United Reformed Church

Saturday 1st July 2023
10.00am – 1.00pm

Summer Coffee Morning

All welcome

St Andrew's

“Coffee & Catch-up”

It was felt our experimental once-a-month mid-week get together is serving a useful purpose so it will be continuing. However, the suggestion is we have a venue on a bus route so initially this will be Cafe Nero in Linthorpe Road precinct in Middlesbrough town centre, still on first Wednesday each month at 10.30am. It was decided our conversation ‘starter’ should be the current Pastoral Letter from Group News, and we’ll see where that leads us!

Hope to see a few of you on 5th July.

Shirley Moore

Churches Together Walk

Saturday 1st July

Meet 10.00am at St Mary’s Church and join Christians from our neighbouring churches in a walk of witness to Marton Methodist Church, calling in to pray the other churches en route.

St Mary’s CofE - 10.00am

Nunthorpe Methodist

St Bernadette’s RC

St Andrew’s URC

St Cuthbert’s CofE

Marton Methodist - Refreshments

Further details from Eleanor.

Coffee for Charity 2023

21st May	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£25.50
28th May	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£29.60
4th June	Leprosy Mission	£32.50
11th June	Water Aid	£28.00

St Andrew’s Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy’s Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Church Meeting

The June Church Meeting was special! We welcomed two new members,

Rev. Margaret and Rev. Ken Harris have joined us by transfer from Stockton URC. They willingly made the promises expected of Church Members and everyone present, members and friends, gathered round to shake hands in welcome.

Living in Guisborough they still have further to travel than most of our members, with the exception of Jan, but are happy to do that as it is closer than Stockton. We can also offer easy access to our building.

Thank you Margaret and Ken for everything you are already doing at St. Andrews!.

Jane Tomlin

Scattering the ashes

I was not at all sure how I would feel about doing this but it felt right - as if a proper length of time had elapsed since Mike died last August, when everyone was so wonderfully supportive. With some misgivings about driving so far, I did the 84 miles to Keswick without incident on a beautiful afternoon in May.

Nine members of the family walked two miles up the Mickleden Valley, below the Langdale Pikes, in the sunshine under a brilliant blue sky, surrounded by the fells, to a grassy clearing, littered with rocks, daisies and surrounded by interested sheep. We made a circle and read lines from a meditation by Rev. Cliff Reed called 'Why Remember?'. As we read each of us scattered a handful of the precious ashes on to the grass. 'The pain of remembering is worth it.....they live again in our hearts..... something remains, all is not lost. Remember'.

The following day we scattered some more on the completely renovated Railway path from Keswick to Threlkeld. The path and many bridges had been destroyed in the storm in 2015.

We had hoped to take Mike there last year but he was not well enough. A little of him is now there too, with the words from Longfellow

*'Life is real and life is earnest and the grave is not its goal.
Dust thou art to dust returnest was not written of the Soul'*

We know that Mike is truly at peace now in a place he loved so well.

Jane Tomlin

Preachers

	Marton 10.00am	Guisborough 10.00am	Redcar 10.30am
2-Jul	Chris Eddowes	Guis Folk	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
9-Jul	MartonWT	Bill Middlemiss	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
16-Jul	Jan Harper Communion	Bill Reynolds	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
23-Jul	Ray Angelsea	Ian Smith	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
30-Jul	Jan Harper	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
6-Aug	Brian Stephenson	Bill Reynolds	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
13-Aug	Ian Smith	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
20-Aug	Jan Harper Communion	Keith Martin	Redcar Baptist in URC Church
27-Aug	Jan Harper	Donna Moore	Redcar Baptist in URC Church

Material for the September Magazine to church editors by Sunday 13th
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