

Group News



*** 2024 * June * 2024 ***

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

'Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up.'

Proverbs 12:25

I recently came across two wonderful quotations. The first was from Corrie ten Boom: 'Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.' The second was from William R Inge, one-time dean of St. Paul's: 'Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.' What wisdom there is in those words, and yet how hard we find it to act upon them. We know that worry is futile, not only failing to achieve anything, but actually undermining our ability to face life's problems; yet sometimes we can't seem to help ourselves. Up to a point that is natural, however sure our trust in God. When our welfare is threatened, or our loved ones are in any kind of danger we would be less than human not to worry about it; Yet to worry about what *might* happen when there are no grounds to fear it is not wise. There is time enough to deal with these if or when they arrive without facing them several times over beforehand.

Few things have the power to crush the human spirit like worry, and yet the irony is that many of the things we worry about never materialise and those that do are often less awful than we imagined. For the Christian there is the added confidence that, even when our worst fears are realised, our Lord will be there to support us. Nothing can destroy the future He holds for us, so we shouldn't let worry destroy the present. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom.

Jan

Synod Prayers

2nd June

World Environment Day (5th June). Climate Change and our response to it.

9th June

Churches: Horsley; Bellingham LEP; Wark; Minister: Revd Roberta Ritson.

16th June

Disability Awareness Week (17th - 23rd), a more inclusive church.

23rd June

Mission Forum Convenor: Revd Kate Hackett. Revd David Haslam: RAF Chaplain.

30th June

Churches: St Andrew's Kenton; St James' Newcastle; Jesmond; West End;

Minister: Revd Ryan Sirmons.

Guisborough

In last month's edition of Group News it was with great sadness that the deaths of two of our senior members were announced. It is, therefore, with much regret, that our fellowship has suffered a further loss. So in a dark month of April there has departed this life: Mary Sollett, 4th April, aged 89; Dorothy Collins, 11th April, aged 93 and Maureen Houston, 24th April, aged 86. In such circumstances the Synod Moderator the Rev. Kim Plumpton offered her condolences to the church through our Secretary, Jenny Reynolds. As members, each of these women made invaluable contributions to the life of our family church in Guisborough and will be remembered with love and gratitude.

Mary Sollett

Guisborean born and bred. Born April 1934. From the beginning to end it was family first for Mary. She grew up on Union Street, eldest of brothers and sisters; later moving to Bolckow Street. She married Ernie, who lived just down street, and grew up together. Determined from a young age and still young when her mother died, took over the maternal role for brothers and sisters.

She had two boys of her own, Colin and Peter, and became matriarch of a large and thriving family with five grandchildren, Gemma, Jason, Sarah, David and Leila, two step-grandchildren, David and Paul, of whom she was equally proud and ten great grandchildren.

Mary and Ernie made great partnership and her life revolved around her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Eldest grandson played for Guisborough under 13s. Mary, was his biggest supporter and traveled to away matches with the team. Mary would do anything for anybody but family came first. Mary made friends easily throughout life; a loyal friend who would help in any trouble. She loved life, loved people and took an interest in everybody.

She remembered everything and everybody in her life, and became a repository of knowledge about Guisborough History and the town's folk. Mary knew so much about everyone because she cared. Mary never idle was always busy doing something. She found it easy to amuse herself and often creating something. She baked for the church, for her friends and most of all for her family. She even taught Ernie to bake, a sign of a strong partnership.

She was an accomplished seamstress, working in the shirt factory as a teenager. She worked for famous names like Burtons and became manageress at John Colliers. She used her tailoring skills in various ways to help people.

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.

Mary was a person of Christian faith. She attended Sunday School as children did then, where she no doubt learned “the devil makes work for idle hands”. She believed that Sunday School provided a good foundation for children, teaching them Christian values, kindness and industry and a moral code to follow.

For the last 30 years, she belonged Guisborough United Reformed Church where she made many friends, especially Sandra Verrill, an elder. She brought her friends to our church as well as her grandchildren and great grandchildren, Gemma, and then Liam and Amelia and others. Mary’s faith a practical one. Teresa of Avila once said “Jesus has no hands on earth but yours” and Mary always stepped in wherever she was needed. She loved the life God had given her and followed Jesus in how she lived her life.

When her mother died, she did not cry with her siblings as there was too much to do. She kept everything going for them but shed tears later when the work was done. She was firm and took no nonsense, disciplined herself, she valued self-discipline in others, but she loved to laugh and have fun too.

Twelve years ago she developed stomach cancer and had to endure surgery and a long recovery that left her weak. Very brave and as soon as she could she got on with things. She remained very independent as she aged and didn’t like a fuss. One thing really knocked her, the death of her son Colin. Like every mother who has lost a child her cry was “It should have been me!” Her health deteriorated but two heart attacks and two strokes were not enough to stop her. Thanks to Judith, her daughter in law, and her carers, Mary was able to stay in her own home until very close to the end. She collapsed suddenly and was admitted to ward 37 where she and her family were well looked after until she passed.

She is with God, in the company of Jesus, her Lord and Saviour who will say, “Well done.”

	Vestry Elder	Welcome/door	Communion
2nd June	Ray	Joyce	Ray
9th June	Martin	Peter	
16th June	Peter	Ray	
23rd June	TBA	Jenny	
30th June	Joyce	Darren	

Dorothy Collins

Dorothy joined Guisborough church with her husband Ray in April 1980, being a loyal and devoted member for 44 years. Ray served in the important role of church treasurer until around the time when he sadly passed away over 30 years ago.

She had two sons, Barry and Terry, and a large extended family. Terry lived far away in Australia and in her later years, she was able to visit there, on around five occasions, to meet up with grand children and great grand children - and fully enjoy the great Australian outdoor life style.

Dorothy was the eternal optimist, always looking on 'the bright side of life', and always smiling. This essential characteristic came out so well in the tributes paid to her, in the funeral service held in St Bede's Middlesbrough crematorium, by her son, Terry, and lay preacher, Maranny Jones, of Darlington URC.

In the service, Terry spoke movingly of how his mother was regarded in the extended family as grandma or auntie Dot or just plain Dorothy. He recalled how over 30 years ago, when her husband Ray died suddenly she was both heartbroken and devastated, but with the help of friends and the church, she recovered, and her life came back to normal. Terry spoke of some amusing events that took place during her visits to his home in Australia. His presence in England was for a special celebration with Dorothy, which sadly changed into the time of her passing away.

Maranny, in her address, spoke of how entering the building and seeing Dorothy smiling in her portrait on the wall, she thought that she heard her voice. But the portrait she painted was that of a fun lady who was always interested in others; a woman who was respected. She had a simple faith, believing that Jesus was her saviour, and that as she passed on from this world she would be greeted by him. For her, John chapter 14 verse 27 says it all: Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, Neither let them be afraid.

She died in the presence of family with her son Terry breaking the sad news to members of the Prayer Group - then meeting at the Thursday Coffee Morning, on the 11th. April. With this sad news so fresh in the Group's mind we prayed for Dorothy and gave thanks to God for her loyal committed service to Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

Maureen Houston

Maureen was born and grew up in Cheshire. As a girl she was bitten by a dog on her lip, which required surgery. Following on from this her parents got a dog to help her get over her fears of such an animal and it seemed to work. As Maureen came to love dogs, with her children also having pets.

She was schooled at Altringham Grammar School for Girls where she played hockey and lacrosse. She was intelligent and sporty and eventually went to Queen's College, London to study nutrition. This stood her in good stead as she suffered from Type 1 Diabetes for most of her life. The testing involved to control boiling your wee with a reagent over a flame, time consuming and smelly. Advice then to avoid vigorous exercise; Maureen ignored this which is probably why she had such a long life. Her parents did not approve.

David Houston, her future husband, was also studying and living in London, at ICL, but they met in Cheshire. Their mothers lived only a few streets apart and both were members of local WI. So they met through their mothers. A whirlwind romance then followed - engaged in three weeks and married in three months. David had also had a difficult upbringing, at a brutal boarding school with his parents abroad. They seemed to recognise a need in each other and formed a strong bond which never varied over the years even when they bickered as couples so often do. David's job decided where they lived. He worked as a Chemical Engineer firstly in Petrochemicals in Cheshire then moving north to Guisborough with ICI. There was also a spell in Southampton and when they came back to Guisborough they had two children Fiona and Andrew.

As parents, David was focussed on them getting a good education and a variety of experiences in life.; Maureen was a loving mother and very protective. In 1975 David's work required the family to move to Malaysia where they lived for two years. Maureen was already very involved in the Girl Guides and continued as a leader there. They joined the local Presbyterian Church. They were a very hospitable couple and spent time with people of all nationalities rather than just sticking to other ex-pats. They were accused by other English couples of going native but they saw no shame in that, respecting people of all nations and backgrounds.

In 1977 they moved back to Guisborough where they remained. As the children grew Maureen worked for her beloved NHS who cared for her and her diabetes. She worked in hospital administration, including at North Tees

Hospital and became personal assistant to Brendan Devlin, a consultant surgeon, who pioneered audit with a view to improving surgical outcomes.

Maureen continued to volunteer as a guide leader and Fiona was encouraged to attend. She adopted the traditions of David's homeland, Scotland, and they were enthusiastic members for the Cleveland Scots and other local societies. They loved Scottish Country Dancing, Burns songs and poems and going to hear the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra.

Maureen and David were heavily involved in this church, first becoming a members in 1969. Maureen and David were church secretaries for a number of years, between 1996 to 2002. Maureen would be in charge and David would do the IT and the paperwork. She was a regular host of the Bible Study lunches where a good mix of people enjoyed coming together to widen their knowledge and understanding of the biblical texts. She also led the Quiet Time on a Thursday morning when it resumed after lockdown.

Maureen's link with the NHS continued in retirement as she worked for the WRVS. She helped to provide tea and coffee and a listening ear to patients with cancer undergoing radiotherapy and chatted to their relatives while they waited supporting them too.

Maureen and David had a summer ritual as long as I knew them; they would hitch up the caravan and drive across Europe to their favourite campsite in Austria. They made friends with a Dutch couple and met up year after year. After 25 years they were granted an award from the local Tourist Information. Here she acquired a taste for Kaffee und Kuchen. She always said she could walk better in the mountains. There was always something to look at, a view, the alpine flowers in the meadow Auf der Alm, She especially loved blue gentians. She enjoyed the gentle sounds of cowbells and humming of bees going from flower to flower. There were alpine huts for refreshments and a drink of Schiwasser.

They invited the grandchildren too, Alastair, Naomi, Alex and Sam. They were always welcome at their grandparents and Maureen was always generous with her time. She was an excellent hostess but not a great cook. She would entertain in the Continental way with a table to cold meats, cheese, good bread and salad. Soup if it was cold.

In retirement Maureen and David were well traveled. They visited places as varied as the heights of trekking in Nepal to the low of visiting the killing

fields of Cambodia. Maureen was always adventurous, ready to try anything and like David, a keen walker. She was slowed down a bit by a fracture of the ankle in Italy which was not set well and had to be operated on when she came home. She then fractured her femur while messing about on the outdoor gym at Pinchinthorpe. They had fun getting her to the ambulance but she was operated on and made excellent progress as she was so determined to get walking again although not as far as before.

Latterly Maureen and David loved to visit Thorpe Perrow Arboretum. They sponsored a cherry tree in the avenue and there is now a crab apple dedicated to David's memory. Maureen was devastated when David died at Belmont View Care Home during lockdown. She was living with Fiona in the far north of Scotland at the time, her family protecting her as she had protected them. She would use a tablet to communicate with him electronically every day. Once he died, despite a wide friendship group and her family, who did their best to visit as often as they could, she was lonely. There was no one to come home to. She enjoyed sitting in her conservatory watching the birds and making friends with the wildlife in her garden.

Maureen was always blunt and she had no fear of asking for help when she needed it, which was just as well as she was needing more help. She was always a technophobe but was struggling more with modern devices including her blood glucose monitoring device. She was becoming more forgetful and, with her family living in the north of Scotland or in Rotherham, she was more dependent on her friends and neighbours. Her neighbours, Nick, Lesley and June were especially helpful in enabling her to remain in her own home for so long.

She did not want to hand over her diabetes care to the District Nurses, nor go into a Care Home however comfortable, nor be resuscitated when her time came. So it was that her wishes were granted. She was taken from us suddenly but peacefully, safe in her own home and was found later that same day.

A peaceful end to a busy life. Rest in peace, Maureen and know the love you shared lives on in us as you live on in our memories.

Ray Tunnicliffe. (Acknowledgements to Dr Donna Moore for her assistance)

St Andrew's

Condolences

Please remember Sheila Dodds and her family in your prayers after the recent death of her husband George.

Sheila and George were long respected members of our Linthorpe church before transferring to St Andrew's.

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

21st April	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£21.40
28th April	Zoe's Place	£26.00

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Redcar

We are back in our Church!

The Redcar church has now had a complete electrical re-wire and new safety doors fitted. This work has taken from the end of January until literally days before Easter.

We celebrated the re-opening of the building with a service on Easter Sunday - a very last minute but absolutely wonderful service, it was so good to be back in our building and so symbolic .

There is still, the old, old, problem of a leaking roof, witnessed a few weeks ago during very heavy rain, the faithful buckets were out in force!

A few days after that we met with members from Synod who suggested that we may be able to have emergency repairs done to the worst affected parts.

Discussion is also taking place around the longer term future of the building and our relationship with Redcar Baptist Church.

Some parts of the building are also being re-painted.

We are now back worshipping with Redcar Baptist Church in our building every Sunday at 10:30am. The service is followed by tea and coffee.

Norma

Rev Norma has had a bad fall and is in James Cook Hospital. Our love and prayers are with her for a good recovery.

Mid-week Worship

Recently during a meeting between Sue (Walker), Catherine and myself we have decided to begin 'Second Thursday Prayer / reflective service', something we had always hoped to do. This will be more of a URC type of service but of course everyone is welcome. It will take place in the **Sanctuary on the second Thursday of the month at 11am, the first service will be on 13th June.**

Elaine

Preachers

	Marthon	Guisborough	Redcar
	10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
2-Jun	Jan Harper Meeting	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptist
9-Jun	Dot Thomson	Jan Harper	Redcar Baptist
16-Jun	Jan Harper Communion	Keith Martin	Redcar Baptist
23-Jun	Chris Eddowes	Guis Folk Meeting	Redcar Baptist
30-Jun	Donna Moore	Bill Reynolds	Redcar Baptist

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by Sunday 16th
June please

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