

Group News



*** 2024 * *May* * 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

'Sing psalms hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Ephesians 5: 19-20

There are few areas within the life of the Church which can be more divisive than music! Whereas in the past Christians were divided over issues of doctrine, today it is often music that keeps us apart. For some, traditional hymnody is like a distant planet, unexplored and assumed to be barren. For others modern choruses are anathema, representing froth rather than substance, superficial emotion rather than faith rooted in history. The polarisation that can develop around this surprises me, because, of course, we each have our own preferences, just as we each have our own taste in music, but is one inherently better than another? One song may be more polished, linguistically speaking, than another, or one melody more catchy, but as far as God is concerned, those differences don't count! What matters is the sincerity with which we sing, and whether our lives match up to our words. As David reminds us, our songs are sung, not for our own benefit, but as an offering of worship to God. Whether it's a chorus or a hymn, a chant or an anthem, what matters is that we sing to the Lord. Without that our songs are meaningless.

As more of a traditionalist myself, I also find joy in some of the more modern hymns and spiritual songs, - the love of one doesn't mean we can't find enjoyment in the other. And both mean we can give glory to God.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

Synod Prayers

5th May

Presbyterian Church of Mozambique

12th May

Christian Aid 14th - 20th. Pray for all working on our behalf across the world. Commitment For Life.

19th May

Synod Executive: Synod Treasurer: Gordon Wanless. Convenors of Sub-committees; Willie Duncan. Property Consultant: Graham Hatt.

26th May

Churches: St Aidan's Hexham; St John's Wideopen.

Guisborough

Remember in our Prayers

In April two of Guisborough Church's senior members: Mary Sollett and Dorothy Collins, sadly died. Prayers for them both and their families have been included in Sunday worship.

Mary Sollett passed away at home on April 3rd aged 89 years. Our church was very important to her and although not able recently to attend worship, she enjoyed visiting Sandra at Thursday Coffee morning supported by her daughter in law Judith.

Dorothy Collins came to Guisborough with her husband Ray in 1980. She was a regular attender at Sunday worship until very recently. Dorothy was being cared for in Tocketts Ward of Brotton hospital. She died on April 11th with family around her, aged 93 years.

'Coming Home'

It has been nearly 3 years now since I left Guisborough United Reformed Church. It was a huge change for me after about 30 years of membership. Growing up, I had attended the Church of England and was used to the style of service and the words. These were set for each service and chanted by rote. As a teenager I found it unsatisfying repeating the same words every week. I was ready for change and welcomed it in the form of the URC style of service after my marriage and move to Guisborough. Since then I have attended many different types of worship and found most of them very interesting. So it came as a shock to find myself back in the Church of England after my move to Great Ayton.

I didn't know anyone there and at first it was a bit strange, but people in the church welcomed me and I'm making new friends. I usually go to the main morning service at the very early hour, (for me), of 9.15. That was a shock to the system! Also it was odd to find that the words hadn't changed since I was young and that I could still remember them. This was strangely comforting and after a few weeks it felt like coming home. It was very comforting in a way. Then I returned to the URC for a special service. This also felt like a home-coming!

What was happening? I couldn't make sense of it. Should I return to Guisborough URC or stay in my new church? It was lovely to see all my dear friends who felt like family. They gave me a wonderful welcome. I realised how much I had missed them. However, I really liked my new church and new friends, and the fact that it was only a two minute walk from my cottage! What a dilemma.

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. Prayers and reflections with Maureen and Ray. |

Reflecting on this situation and praying about it, I have decided to stay in my new church but keep in touch with my old one. I feel as if I have moved on. This got me to thinking about our journey through life with Jesus. Things do change, and we do move on, but always with Him. He never leaves us. We are led to make changes by God, and for a reason. Our task on earth is to go where we are taken and trust Him to know what He is doing. If we are willing to listen He will give us our new instructions for the next stage of our lives. We only have to trust and be willing to serve. I have still not discovered what I am to do here, but it doesn't appear to involve children. I have a feeling it may be along the lines of prayer groups and possibly counselling, or at least providing a safe space for those who need rest. Who knows? God does but He takes things calmly and slowly. I am normally an impulsive and impatient person, but I think I am being taught to be less so. I am finding God so exciting and can't wait to find out what new things He has in store. He is exhilarating indeed.

Chris Robertson, former member of Guisborough URC.

And From Madge

Some of you will know that I recently spent some time in James Cook Hospital, followed by a convalescent period in Brotton Hospital. Although the period in the latter helped to make me much stronger, I realised I would need a lot more help around the house. I already had an angel Cleaning Lady, but was contacted by Redcar & Cleveland Social Services, who arranged for me to have four 'carers' per day, and boy, are they worth their weight in gold.

The first comes around 8.45, and gets me washed and dressed (I get my own breakfast), does any other odd jobs such as washing and then goes on to another client.

My time is now my own, and after a nice cup of coffee, I begin to prepare the music and hymns for next Sunday (if I am playing). My next lady comes

| | Welcome | Vestry | Communion |
|--------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 5 May | Peter | Jenny | |
| 12 May | Joyce | Darren | Joyce |
| 19 May | Maureen | Martin | |
| 26 May | Jenny | Sandra | |

around mid-day, and gets my lunch ready, - usually a bun or a sandwich, then I am left alone till around 5pm. The next bit is rather unusual, I get what the carers call meds and then the carer gets me ready for bed. This seems a bit early, but I find it too early for dinner, which I prefer about six or seven. At least it seems to be working out, though maybe I won't be so keen to be ready for bed at 5 o'clock in the summer time! Finally, the day ends by having dinner about 6.30, the final carer comes about 8 washes up and departs, often to a final client while I may watch TV for a little, then go to bed.

The routine changes a little on Sunday I get myself washed and dressed, it just takes a little longer. Then I am picked up at 9.15 for church, which I enjoy very much. I am not yet playing every hymn, but am helped out by Dorothy Brown.

In addition, once a month, one of the carers, takes me out in her car, we have been shopping in Morrisons, and had a trip out to Strikes Garden Centre where we had tea and cake.

As you can see, my life has been completely changed by these carers They are all very pleasant and interesting people, mostly with young families, and living locally in Skelton, Brotton and Boosbeck. As my family don't live locally, it has enabled them to have peace of mind about me, and enables me to stay in my own home.

Madge Baird

St Andrew's

Middlesbrough Food Bank

Many thanks to the anonymous person who left an envelope in the Middlesbrough Food Bank box with a very generous donation.

This will be taken to the Food Bank with other donations within the next two weeks. Thank you.

Advance Notice

A Coffee Morning is to be held here at St. Andrew's on Saturday 6th July at 10.30a.m. There will be a raffle and admission is £3.00. Proceeds are for Middlesbrough Food Bank. Please put this date in your diary and come and support.

Easter Witness

Now that we have a void at St Andrews from Palm Sunday to Easter Day - effectively ignoring Holy Week - it seemed important to me personally to fill that void, and not simply by re-reading the gospels. I resolved therefore to join others in our neighbouring churches. On Maundy Thursday I was welcomed at a Last Supper commemoration with communion by Nunthorpe Methodists. On Good Friday morning the Walk of Witness carrying the cross from Nunthorpe to Marton via busy main roads felt we were witnessing to our faith in quite a public way. Saturday evening I joined St Bernadettes congregation for their Easter Vigil. A very different and satisfying lead-up to such a special weekend, and a way of together witnessing to our shared Christian faith.

(Apologies to the Anglicans but I had no means of reaching you!)

Shirley Moore

Coffee for Charity

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|--------|
| 24th March | Middlesbrough Food Bank | £22.50 |
| 31st March | Christian Aid | £23.00 |
| 7th April | Middlesbrough Food Bank | £24.00 |
| 14th April | Boys' Brigade | £31.51 |

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Preachers

| Marion | Guisborough | Redcar |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 10.00am | 10.00am | 10.30am |
| 5-May Brian Stephenson | Rosemary Taylor | Redcar Baptist |
| 12-May Boy's Brigade Parade | Jan Harper Communion | Redcar Baptist |
| 19-May Jan Harper Communion | Donna Moore | Redcar Baptist |
| 26-May Jan Harper | Ian Smith | Redcar Baptist |
| 2-Jun Jan Harper Meeting | tba | Redcar Baptist |

Material for the June Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th May please

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