

Group News



*** 2023 * *May* * 2023 ***

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

Nothing is hidden that will not be revealed; nor is there any secret that will not come out into the open and be known by all. '

Luke 8: v 17

Have you ever heard of the term 'Greenwash'? I hadn't until I came across it recently. Apparently, it's a term used to describe the efforts of large industries and corporations to present their products as environmentally sensitive, even when they may be anything but! Have you noticed, for example, how virtually every detergent you buy today is labelled 'eco-friendly'? How every foodstuff is 'farm fresh'? How every packaging is 'recycled and recyclable'? Such claims are not necessarily groundless, - many firms have done much to clean up their act, - but green labels and marketing have become useful promotional tools in the hands of some who are less than scrupulous!

However, it's not just faceless corporations who dress things up, - we all do it! We each have a public face we wear for the world and we each seek to present ourselves in the most flattering light, putting the best gloss possible on those less-than-desirable aspects of our character. It's understandable that we should, and up to a point, we can get away with it when dealing with people. But not with God! It's useless being anything other than honest with Him for He can see and know the thoughts of our hearts, - the attitudes and motives that lie behind our actions.

We may think we're being straight with Him, but are we really? The image we have of ourselves is one thing, - what God sees may be quite another!

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world.

Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis.

Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. And hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather. Secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record (lasting 34 days), has hit Malawi and Mozambique. This cyclone is the equivalent of a full North Atlantic hurricane season.

Malawi experienced a year's worth of rain during the 4-week cyclone. The number of people affected by the Tropical Cyclone in Malawi continues to rise. Over 508,000 people are displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. There's also an increased risk of malaria and cholera in the immediate aftermath.

"It's not just here and there, we are at the receiving end of the worst of climate change... It's not a matter of saying be charitable to your neighbour, this has to do with loss and damage, this has to do with responses that are not tokenism."

Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi.

Our response

Our partners and team in Malawi have been responding to the immediate recovery needs of communities. This includes:

- Corn soya blend for porridge for breastfeeding mothers and children under 5 years
- Mosquito nets for families to provide protection against malaria
- Providing temporary toilets and bathrooms, water containers and water treatment to help prevent the risk of cholera
- Mobile clinics to help people process the emotional trauma of the cyclone
- Distribution of cash to 1,000 households so that families can purchase their immediate needs

Synod Prayers

7 May:

Robert Stewart Memorial, Newcastle

14 May:

Christian Aid Week; Commitment for Life; CfL Advocate Chris Eddowes

21 May:

St John's (Uniting Churches of Ponteland and Wideopen); Horsley: St Aidan's, Hexham

28 May:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle; Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle the Rt Revd Robert Byrne

Guisborough

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.

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.

Guisborough Calendar

Weekly

Thursday

from 9.30 Coffee in Church Hall

from 10.30 Church open for private prayer

11.30am Thursday Prayers led by Maureen and Ray.
Details on church notice board

	Welcome	Vestry	Communion
7th May	Martin	Jenny	Joyce
14th May	Sandra	Martin	
21st May	Joyce	Peter	
28th May	Peter	Maureen	
4th June	Darren	Joyce	Jenny

St Andrew's

Coffee Morning

24th April 2024

Many thanks to all those who helped with our Coffee Morning.

£140 was raised in aid of the Turkey/Syria Appeal.

Toilet Refurbishment

Over the last four weeks we have had fitters in the church working to refurbish the toilets. They have now completed the work and left us with some much improved facilities.

Many thanks to Chris and his team from Designer Bathroom Studio (a small local firm from Welburn Grove, Ormesby) for completing the works to an excellent

standard and on schedule whilst allowing us to continue to use the building.

Apologies to users for any inconvenience caused during the works.

Roger Wheeler

Coffee for Charity 2023

19th March	Turkey/Syria Appeal	£20.00
26th March	Turkey/Syria Appeal	£31.20
2nd April	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£26.50
9th April	Boys' Brigade	£12.00
16th April	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£22.00

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Preachers

Marion 10.00am

7-May K & M Harris

14-May Marion WT
Parade

21-May Jan Harper
Communion

28-May tba

4-Jun K & M Harris

Guisborough 10.00am

Donna Moore
Communion

Jan Harper

Donna Moore

tba

Donna Moore
Communion

Redcar 10.30am

Redcar Baptist
in URC Church

Redcar Baptist
in URC Church

Redcar Baptist
in URC Church

Redcar Baptist
in URC Church

Redcar Baptist
in URC Church

Material for the June Magazine to church editors by Sunday 14th May please

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