

THE EDITOR.

no. 36

Easter is a time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. He is the Risen Lord and our Saviour - yet in the world around us with so much conflict, war and injustice there is much that is lost and many people who clearly are not saved .

what can be done about this? Is there anything we can do?

Recently I came across a glimmer of hope in an online petition asking for people to support a campaign against "nasty politics." A very good idea if it can be done. Parliamentary debate is built into the design of the House of Commons debating chamber with two blocks of seats facing each other like armies on the battlefield. This system of discussion of government versus opposition encourages the language of confrontation, insults and point-scoring, rather than thoughtful, rational, exchange of views on the crucial, practical issues facing the nation.

This approach and attitude is infectious, with MPs themselves receiving lots of abusive messages through social media where the perpetrators can easily remain anonymous - and so act with total impunity. This has created a general concept in the press and some of the media of people or institution representing political views opposite to their own as being the enemy. Where as we know from experience that many of our friends may have different political opinions to ours - but they are still our friends.

It is when such attitudes are written large on the national and international scale that we create conditions of hostility, conflict and misunderstanding that can and does lead onto war.

An answer to this may be found in the book by Daniel Kahneman: "Thinking Fast and Slow," which shows how intuition and slow thinking affect our judgement and how we can effectively tap into both. Today's fast moving and communicating world tends to encourage the use of intuition - the fast thinking that offers simple solutions to complex, difficult problems, rather than slow thinking, which carefully analyses the range of consequences that may arise from a certain course of action.

All around us we see the consequences of this fast thinking where ill thought out projects fail, disappointment, resentment and a lack of trust follows - all leading on to the emergence of fixed, entrenched, hostile, opposing views - rather than cooperation, conciliation and a fundamental respect for other people's views.

Our church, founded in 1798 as the Protestant Dissenters Meeting House, began its life of witness in the 18 century, also known as the Age of Reason. This age effectively began with the Toleration Act of 1689 when people were allowed to worship as they wished and not be forced to conform to the practices of the established Church

of England - brought into being by Henry VIII's break from Rome.

Our forbear's belief was that that all people could have direct access to God without the need for the intercession of a priest. This was a significant democratic step forward for ordinary people, reinforced by the Reform Act of 1832 equalising the population of MP's constituency's for fairer voting - and followed much later by all women having the vote in 1928.

The ambition of all free thinkers. in the 18th century, was that 'the primacy of reason' would be the way forward for the benefit of all peoples. Sadly, this basic concept of 'reason' seems to have been widely forgotten in many areas of politics. So for those good people who swim against this tide to promote truth in the world of politics, I

wish a happy Easter - and to you all.

Ray Tunnicliffe.

SAD NEWS

In April two of our senior members: Mary Sollett and Dorothy Collins, died. Dorothy, aged 93, served as a member of our church from April, 1980 - a total of 44 years. Mary, aged 89, was also a member for many years. They will be sorely missed - and full tributes to them, as people of faith, will be published in the next edition.

AGM HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual General meeting was held after a short service of worship on Sunday, 19th, March.

Under the heading of reports it was noted that there had been no Meeting of Churches Together this year, which is disappointing and has meant that there has been no Week of Prayers for Christian Unity etc.

Information about the Bridge has been published in the monthly newsletter.

Property Report: The south Gable wall has been re-plastered to remedy the dampness that appeared earlier. However it is not yet ready for redecoration. It was suggested that the electrical work and safety checks carried out in the Bridge office maybe suitable projects to apply for a Synod grant.

Treasurers Report: This was approved with thanks the treasurer for maintaining the accounts in difficult times.

Election and Confirmation of Officers

The secretary whose term of Office as a narrator I come to an end was re-elected. All other officials were re-elected for another year, except the rap for the Bridge (Association) who wish to stand down, with a replacement elected. Officers were thanked for their service over the past year.

News of People: Dorothy Collins is receiving care in Brotten hospital. Don Beattie is now resident in Gracelands Care Home. Mary Sollett continues to require regular hospital treatment and we welcome back Madge Baird, our organist, after a period of poor health. They are all in our prayers

Worship: The Church sanctuary was inspected for the purpose of fitting a sound system. This would cost about £2000 and will be fitted at later date if we are able to receive a 50% grant towards the cost \$ from the

GUISBOROUGH CHURCHES CELEBRATE GOOD FRIDAY

A congregation of around 150 to 200 people, from various churches in Guisborough, gathered around the market Cross In remembrance of the sacrifice our Lord Jesus made on Good Friday. The events of that fateful day were recalled in various Bible readings supported by hymns enabling all present to sing their praises to our Lord Jesus.

The Rev. Kevin Highfield, of the Methodist Church, delivered the address. In his homily he pointed out that such a familiar story tends to be somewhat sanitised - but the brutal cruelty of this must always be remembered - as it can be a reminder to us all of the brutality and cruelty that still exists today.

A further reminder of the existence of this present day abuse and cruelty was related in two in two stark anecdotes. In an African church the crucifixion of Christ is depicted with a black Christ dragged along to execution like dog with a collar and lead, as slaves were in times past. The other was of a South American torture chamber converted into a church.

So what can we do about this now at this present time? First we must accept the reality - and then if we are face with people who have had such experiences - believe them and offer such comfort and support as we can.

The Service concluded with the singing of the hymn: "In Christ alone my hope is founded."

THE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION.

Easter

Greetings

Once again, we have been able to run Food & Fun for All - this project happens during the holidays and allows families a change of scene, quality time for parents and children to play. craft and then eat together. We tend towards offering this event on Tuesdays and by following our FB page we share details nearer the time.

Juanita, Catherine and volunteer team create a healthy meal choice and of course as it was Easter, chocolate also have been involved. We promise healthy fruit in the May half term instead!

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LUNCHEON AT KEMPLAH NEW ROAD

This friendly and sociable project is held in a beautiful dining room. Once you're a member you are asked to attend weekly, and order two courses or three courses. Starter/ dessert are £2.50, main is £4. Therefore two courses are £6.5 three. courses are £7.50. Sample menu can be viewed on our website www.guisboroughbridge.org.uk/

Food is cooked on site by our fantastic volunteer Cooks, Mary. Margaret. Rosie and Project worker Catherine, who all have level 3 food hygiene and we are currently five star rated. We are looking for one more Cook to join the team, who would be supported by our volunteers, prepping and washing up.

Free tea and coffee is served at 11:30 - 11.45am. Food is served 12 till 1 pm so we need members seated by 11:45 am. We can pick up from Guisborough for £2 if members cannot drive themselves and can catch up with us with some mobility issues. Please contact Bridge manager@ Guisboroughbridge.org.uk for more information.

Donations can be made at drop-off points in Lidl, Sainsbury's, Sainsbury's local Avenue and Morrisons. Pasta sauces. tea, coffee sandwich paste, tinned sweetcorn. carrots and potatoes, jams, cat-food, corn beef, tinNed curries, stews, meatballs, and washing up liquid.

DIARY DATES

Monday Friends - Every Monday at 9 to 11:45 am. teas, coffees, scones, cakes, book and puzzle swaps.

Music and Memories - Second weds of the month April 10 with 1.45 to 3.15pm at Kemplah House. Tea, coffee, singing. Free and dementia friendly.

Bridge 2Youth - 5-8pm - Guisborough Evangelical Church
Fridays in term time. Contact:- staff at Guisboroughbridge.org.uk

NATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

Welby's Decision Welcomed

The URC welcomed the Archbishop of Canterbury decision to meet with the Reverend Dr Munther Isaac, pastor of the Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bethlehem. The URC has strong links with Munther who most recently spoke at a Palestine Solidarity campaign in central London in February and at Bloomsbury Central Baptist church the following day, where he was supported by URC members and friends of the denomination. Munther Attracted widespread attention after his Christmas settlement went viral which questioned that if Jesus was born today, it would've been under the rubble. (In Gaza)

SERVICES FOR APRIL at 10.00am.

7th. Dr Donna Moore Guisborough URC

14th Maranny Jones Darlington

21st Rev Keith Martin Lingdale

28th Chris Eddowes Hartlepool

Everyone will be welcome at our services. Come to worship, or to learn more about faith in Jesus, or simply to find some good friends.

COFFEE MORNING AND PRAYER MEETING every Thursday there is a coffee morning in the church hall from 9.30am to 11:30 am, Followed by a prayer meeting at 11:30 am until noon Please pop in whenever you can, on market day, and you will find a cheerful welcome.

April 2024

GUISBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Founded 1798

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

Newsletter

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Secretary 01287 637273