

THE EDITOR.

No 37

In last month's edition of the Newsletter 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 an Invaluable contribution to the life of our family church in Guisborough. Eulogies are published in the June Group News but following are brief character sketches,,

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 moved to Bolckow Street. Married Ernie, who lived just down street, and grew up together, Determined from a young age. Still young when her mother died, took over maternal role for brothers and sisters. Had two boys of her own Colin and Peter and became Matriarch of 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 - a great partnership and her life revolved around her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Eldest grandson played for Guisborough under 13s, Mary biggest supporter and travelled to away matches with the team. Mary would do anything for anybody, but family came first.

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 grandchildren and great grandchildren - and fully enjoyed 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.....

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. So Maureen came to loved 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.

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'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.

In 1975 David's work required the family to move to Malaysia where they lived for two years. 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 and David were heavily involved in this church, first becoming a member in 1969. Maureen and David were church secretaries for a number of years, between 1996 to 2002.....

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

ST PAULINUS. CONFIRMATION 2024.

It's a joy to let you know that we will once again celebrate the sacrament of confirmation on Wednesday 12th June.

On Thursday 11th April 10 students and confirmation candidates from Sacred Heart Roman Catholic school Redcar came to morning Mass at Saint Paulinus, celebrated by Father Philip Cunnah. The purpose of the visit was to expand the candidate's knowledge of the parish and meet some of St Paulinus parishioners. After Mass the candidates served coffee and tea in the church hall where the Kraft Club and other parishioners were present and assisted in the weekly drawer/raffle. The candidates were accompanied by their teachers Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Corcoran.

NATIONAL NEWS

Christian Aid Week 12 – 18 May.

URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

SUPPORTING ISRAEL & THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY.

After Hamas attacked killed and captured Israeli citizens on seventh October 2023 the Israeli military response has shocked the world. Using US German and UK

manufactured weapons the Israeli defence force has indiscriminately bombed and fired neighbourhoods, churches, mosques, universities and homes. It has targeted men women children and entire families desperately fleeing with nowhere to go.

Some IDF soldiers have even targeted people desperately seeking food from aid trucks. The Israeli government has authorised the use of AI and starvation as tools of war. Time will tell whether the actions of the Israeli amount of ethnic cleansing and genocide, but this seems practically indisputable.

The United Reformed Church has, with ecumenical partners, constantly called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. What we have heard, and come to see, is the UK government providing arms to a potentially genocidal regime. Indeed, failed in such a way that ministers and staff are at risk of prosecution for aiding and abetting a genocide.

We see the horror in news reports and are adamant that the terrible violence witnessed in Gaza and the West Bank should not be imported into the UK. The spike in antisemitism and Islamophobia is simply unacceptable. We are asking our members to reach out in peace to local Jewish neighbours and Muslim neighbourhoods. They are not responsible for the violence perpetrated by Hamas or the IDF

Commitment for Life has worked closely with Julie Mehigan and William Down from Christian Aid to support our local partners in Gaza sending through monetary aid to help stabilise starvation. But most importantly we urge people to pray and to speak up against violence in all its forms.

CHURCH LIFE REVIEW GROUP

In recent years it has been noted by the church that society is becoming increasingly secular in its outlook and that it was crucial we took this into account, when planning for the future. In response to this the Church Life Group was set up and its initial ideas are set out in the following report.

The Church Life Review Group was set up in 2020 to review the life structures resources and work of the URC to enable a further response to the challenges presented in Paper A1 Towards the Future

of the URC. This paper reflected that the pandemic has become a moment that has revealed strengths weaknesses and possibilities in the life of the church we may not be aware of.

The CLR Group is now moving into its second design phase with the formation of three task groups that will help design future arrangements for support services best able to cope with the problems arising from Christian faith work in an increasingly secular society.

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY at 10.00am.

5th Rosemary Taylor of Redcar

12th. Jan Harper of Marton URC

19th, Donna Moe of Guisborough

26th, Ian Smith of Thornaby Mission

COFFEE MORNING AND PRAYER MEETING

Everyone will be welcome at our services. Come to worship, or to learn more about faith in Jesus, or **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.

May 2024

GUISBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Founded 1798

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

Newsletter

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Secretary 01287 637273