

## Editor

no. 39

The General Election campaign has been hard-fought, with the new government needing our prayers and best wishes as ministers face the hard task of governing the country. From the issues raised during the election we know that the real challenges still lie ahead.

The new government inherit a situation where poverty in the UK has been increasing and deepening at an alarming rate. Conflict and persecution in different parts of the world are forcing managed to flee their homes to seek safety in other countries including the UK. The existential threat of climate change is causing enormous suffering to both humankind and the wider natural world. There is an urgent need for politicians to restore trust and rebuild integrity in public life. There are also huge pressures on the NHS and social care, on the criminal justice system, education and other public services, as well as on the public finances.

It is clear that there is an appetite for change in the country, but also a need to restore faith in the ability of politics to meet these challenges.

The new government must prioritise the needs of those who are most vulnerable and marginalised at the forefront as it wrestles to respond to these problems. It is also important that government agencies work in partnership with local communities in order to tackle these problems - acknowledging the valuable contribution that 'us' members of the public can make.  
*Ray Tunnicliffe.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CHURCH MEETING

The quarterly church meeting was held after worship on Sunday 23rd, June.

News of People: it was with sadness that we recorded the deaths, in April, of three of our members: Mary Sollett, Dorothy Collins and Maureen Houston. Don Beattie, another member, has returned to his care home after spending some time in hospital.

The meeting shared news about people who are Friends of the Church - that is anyone, who is not a member, but attends Sunday worship or other church related activities. It was noted that whilst most 'friends'

were actively involved with our fellowship in various ways, we seemed to have lost contact with others. It was agreed that we engage with those people who we haven't seen for some time to encourage their return or establish whether they wished to continue as 'Friends.'

In the Property Report it was noted that a stonemason would be making a site visit this week to assess how to remedy the damp patch on the south gable wall. In addition we await a further quotation for a new sound system, before going ahead with its installation.

Recent Updated from Group Elders and Joint Pastorate Meetings

Redcar URC church is now flourishing in use for Baptist worship. A URC form of service has begun on Thursdays and is planned to continue on a regular basis. The Mission House, located near the church, is occupied by two people who are doing Baptist local community work.

Church secretaries from the seven fellowships of the Joint Pastorate will be meeting on the 29th, July, with the Moderator to address the apparent lack of interest of ministers in wishing to accept a call for our vacancy.

East Cleveland Group of Churches will meet together for a service at 3.00pm on Sunday, 21st, July. There will be no morning service on that day.

Guisborough Giants Trail. From 1st to 27th, August there will be free activities and a walking trail through the town. Our church will be available on Tuesday evenings for community sculpture making.

## REV NORMA JOHNSON

Sad news: the Rev. Norma Johnson, a member of Redcar United Reformed Church and former minister Guisborough URC, died on Wednesday, 17th, July. Our prayers and condolences go to her husband George and family.

## GUISBOROUGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Welcome to July's newsletter. We made progress recruiting new volunteers!

We still welcome more individuals or pairs especially for the following projects: Community Luncheon, Soup & Roll and Time2Move ( Wed. Thursday, Friday respectively.)

Thank you to Prior Pursglove students who has stepped up for the summer!

Thank you to our other recent volunteers. If there is a volunteer who would like to share their volunteering story in August's newsletter, please email:

manager@guisboroughbridge.org.uk

Music and Memories

On Sunday, July 7th, Trish McLean. 2.30pm Performing at Challoner Street Market. This wonderful musician leads our Music & Memories session, Second Wednesday of each month from Kemplah Lounge. It's a perfect chance to sing together, make requests and take a trip down memory lane.

Catherine our project lead for the Wednesday Community Luncheon will be handing out flyers. Please come and say hello and get details or contact: staff@guisboroughbridge.org.uk for more details.

Community Lunch Club - Wednesdays at Kemplah 11.30am - 1pm

Encourage your friends and relatives to look at our website and consider attending some of our projects. We currently have spares for new members on the Wednesday lunch on 11.15am - 1pm.

So what does this involve? If you know a grandparent or neighbour, who lives in Guisborough, and would like to be collected 10.30am to 11 in our mini-bus, they would arrive at the Kemplah Lounge shortly after and they would be offered complimentary tea or coffee. Or they are welcome to make their own way there. We usually serve freshly made soup, followed by a main or quiche alternative, followed by a delicious dessert.  
Lorraine, manager.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### SEA SUNDAY

Sunday, 14th, July is Sea Sunday. At this time we think and pray for the welfare of all seafarers and give thanks for the great service they provide for us all in our daily lives.

### COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

A summer message from Commitment for Life the charity of the United Reformed Church, which the Guisborough church supports.

Dear CFL Friends

#### Hope

Towards the end of Matthew's Gospel we hear Jesus's words spoken to the disciples: 'I will be with you every day, even to the end of this age.'

I am sure that like me many of you are thinking that 2024 feels like it is ushering in the 'end of times' or at least the end of this age.' We observe the breakdown of the norms of international law in Ukraine, Darfur, Congo and in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. We read terrifying stories of the slowdown of AMOC the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation. We are alarmed at the refusal of governments and corporations to stop polluting the atmosphere with suffocating CO2 even as the intensity of storms increase dangerously. We worry that the poorest people we support in Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and then Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories seem in most cases to be worse off instead of better off.

What is going on? What are we to do? What use is it to declare 'Jesus is with us' if these issues are not resolved? Why does evil so often seem to prevail? How are we to respond to the cries of God's people that rise evermore loudly through the loud storms and the deadly wars of this desperate age? Surely a sign of God's kingdom and Christ's present must include justice for the oppressed and the poor? Like those early disciples who had no answers and had lost all faith after empire had crucified Jesus, we are also tempted to fall into despondency.

But as Paul was so fond of reminding the churches, we absolutely dare not lose hope. Jesus is risen! A new world (and so new worldview) is breaking through.

We choose therefore to hold fast to when hopelessness is advised. Hope is part of the trinity of hope, love, and faith. In this trinity we gather about us God's courage. We stand firm. We refuse to concede an inch to despair, or darkness or devilry. We trust that even though the arc of the universe is long, it bends inexorably toward justice, love and peace,

### JULY/AUG SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.00am.

7th Brian Stephenson - Redcar Methodists  
14th. Donna Moore - Guisborough  
21st East Cleveland Gp Joint Service (3pm)  
28th. Donna Moore - Guisborough  
4th. Ian Smith - Thornaby Mission  
11th. Rev Kieth Martin - Lingdale  
18th. Donna Moore - Guisborough  
25th. Jan Harper - Marton URC

Everyone is welcome at our services. Come to worship, 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.

## July/August 2024

## GUISBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



*Founded 1798*

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

### News Letter

## July/August 2024

Secretary 01287 637273