

WORSHIP AT PENTECOST

Our service on Whit Sunday, Pentecost or the Birthday of the Church, as it's now more popular name, was led by the Rev Norma Johnson of Redcar URC Church and our former minister. The familiar Bible reading describes the beginning of the Christian church in spectacular fashion. "For when the day of Pentecost arrived the disciples were all together in one place and suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty wind followed by tongues as a fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues so that people of other nations could understand what they said about faith in Jesus.

This event is a challenge for any preacher to relate to present day society. The people of ancient Israel and of the early church were great travellers and to travel well it's important to travel light - and that is how they were so successful at spreading the Good News of faith in Christ. With the technology of today we have much baggage which we need to set aside if we are to be good ambassadors for Christ. The face to face relationship is more effective - rather than the mobile phone, texting, email - and all the other facilities and activities easily available to us on demand. They may offer many benefits - but not that of the Holy Spirit of God that others may see in us by the sort of person we are - and something they may wish to emulate. In a largely secular society, the idea of a 'true Christian' still holds respect - an honour we all need to strive for.

STRAWBERRY TEA

A Strawberry Tea will be held in the Church on Saturday, 1st, July, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Come for tea and strawberries as a pleasant diversion or as a break from shopping in town.

A NOTE OF OPTIMISM

A report in the June edition of Reform, the URC national magazine notes:-
Young Pray More: Prayer is becoming more popular among young Westerners than amongst their grandparents according to research by Ipsos Mori.

The poll of 20,000 people in 20 countries confirmed that religion is less popular in western countries and elsewhere. In the UK, 48% said they had no religion compared to 1% in India. In South Africa, 78% they prayed in places like their home, but only 25% in the UK.

In western countries, though, teens and early 20s are more spiritually engaged than the over 60s. In the UK they were 15% points more likely to pray at home and 22 points more likely to pray in church.

BRIDGE NEWSLETTER (*edited*)

Every month so far, I wanted to share a newsletter earlier in the month but I found it somewhat challenging! With the May Fay bank holiday, followed by the coronation this month seems to have flown by. It was lovely the different project marked the occasions in their own ways. We are trying to run as many projects as

possible: it is a juggling act until we appoint a new project worker or two.

Is it really only a few days until Juanita's team of young Americans arrive? A quick promo for this half term Feast and Fun and camp of Champs see the advert on page 21.

Alongside our Bridge volunteers we have been supported by Darlington Building Society's local branch staff, who have helped with Monday Friends, and the Food Bank, Community Shop and stock store: their help has been really beneficial. Last Thursday James Morrison's community champion learnt from Frida and Jenny how the food bank operates and saw firsthand how we organise stock. This was valuable as in his champion role he can help channel donations of meet tins and other priority items that we are running low on. Listening to radio 4 last week many food banks run low on tin meat items which just need warming through, so we will keep this as our top priority for donations. James will put those in as suggested items for the public to buy.

Lorraine Nash, Bridge Manager.

ST PAULINUS

Members of St Paulinus Roman RC Church have been invited to join a CAFOD and Romero Trust pilgrimage to Holy Island on Saturday, 8th, July. CAFOD is a charitable fund that supports projects for people in deprived countries in the same way as Christian Aid.

SERVICES IN JUNE at 10.00am.

4th. Dr Donna Moore - Guisborough.

11th. Brian Stephenson – Redcar

18th. Ian Smith - Thornaby

Mission.

25th. Dave Elliott - Redcar Methodists.

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.

June 2023

**GUISBOROUGH UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH**



Founded 1798

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

News Letter

June 2023

Secretary 01287 637273