

## **HIGH LIGHTS OF EASTER GOOD FRIDAY AT THE CROSS 2023**

Guisborough welcomed Good Friday in the morning with an interdenominational service at 10 am at the historic Market Cross in remembrance of the Passion of Jesus Christ at Easter.

The service was hosted by Salvation Army Major Anthony Mugford accompanied by Rev. Kevin Highfield from Guisborough Methodist Church and father Philip Cunnah from Saint Paulius Roman Catholic Church, Guisborough. Music for the hymns was provided by Guisborough Citadel Salvation Army Band. The service was attended by about 100 people of all faith, in the shadow of the recently restored Guisborough Townhall in the background. At the same time a Children's Service was held in Saint Nicholas's Church with songs, stories and Hot Cross buns.

After prayers, readings and hymns the congregation were invited back to the Guisborough Methodist Church hall where tea, coffee and Hot Cross buns were served,

*Brian Gleeson.*

## **SERVICES IN OUR CHURCH**

The Reverend Norma Johnson of Redcar, and our former minister, led us in worship on Easter Day. A happy occasion for us all as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The message of Easter is best summarised in a reading, for this day, taken from the book, 'The Acts of the Apostles' where St Peter says:

" I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message of God sent to the people of Israel announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all."

On the following Sunday, known as Low Sunday, worship was led by Dr Donna Moore - who presented a theme of worship based on St Thomas, the disciple who doubted the truth of Jesus' being alive. He questioned this claim and so we were encouraged to ask questions about our faith. It was thought that a lack of questioning holds back our learning process, which is how we strengthen ourselves in faith in Christ.

On the following Sunday Maranny Jones, Darlington, asked never to lose our sense of wonder at

God's wonderful world around us. The theme of her sermon; 'Sharing Jesus' what is that we must learn how to see Jesus and his goodness in the people we know, or even strangers. It is by such a positive view of life that we will see the kingdom of God here on Earth as it says in a Lord's Prayer.

## **COMMITMENT FOR LIFE**

### ***IOPT Moving Stories May/June 2023***

Committed to supporting our goal partners- Israel and occupied Palestine.

Commitment for Life is a charity that Guisborough United Reformed Church supports. In Moving Stories we have their latest report.

In its 2021 report 'Where is Palestine' Christian Aid notes that Palestinians and Israeli settlers living in close proximity in areas sea of the West Bank exist under different legal systems. Palestinians are subject to Israeli military law. They are vulnerable to arbitrary rest and house searches by security forces and Israeli settlers. Israeli forces have seized land claiming military necessity and given it to settlers. But under international law private property in an occupied territory cannot be confiscated for any reason including military necessity.

Set an a violence continues unabated. Palestinian activist Noor Awad and others report attacks and stoning up by settlers of Shepherds cars homes and children walking to school.

Commitment for Life has sponsored two young people on a Christian air trip to IOPT And we hope to hear from them in upcoming moving stories - please watch this space.

Bad Samaritan Campaigners worry that the governments new illegal Migrations Bill threatens to tear up the 1951UN Refugee Convention, to which the UK is a signatory. "The U.K.'s Draconian asylum system divides families and ravages the mental and physical health of some of the worlds most vulnerable people," says Global Justice Now. " there is no 'illegal' way to claim asylum."

Asylum is different to economic migration. Asylum seekers are protected under international law, and the UK has strict guidelines for the latter.

The Joint Public Issues Team organised a response to the introduction of the illegal Migrations Bill, that reflected the parable of the Good Samaritan. It's summarised the awfulness of the Bill by stating, " if ever there was a contemporary example of ignoring your neighbour walking by on the other side, this is it."

Prayer

God of love protect all asylum seekers around the world. Soften the hearts of hearts of hardened politicians. Pour compassion onto cynical lawmakers. Open arms in welcome of strangers. Fill us with the understanding generosity that we have found in the heart of Jesus. Amen.

## **THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER (edited)**

We hope you have had a wonderful Easter break so far. This week we run our Food and Fun, which promoted with schools and on Facebook. We have tried to tweak one aspect - and ask the 40 children and parents ahead of coming to pre-order their food as we want to provide good quality, healthy food and cater efficiently. There is a strong team of volunteers around our lead Juanita and we are looking forward to seeing the lass full of activity. One of the great things about this family session is that it gives the parents a chance to allow children to do lots of craft activities and everyone goes away with their tummies full. The feedback received in February was very positive. And of course we are not far off having our American guests who arrive on the 27th of May and I will help to run the holiday club and the Camp of Champions. If you would like to be a host Home please get in touch ASAP!

Special thanks this month goes to everybody who volunteers from the Bridge. So many of you put a smile on others faces. And to anyone who helps with the rotas - Trevor, Karen, Juanita and they also step in when things change. On the 1st of April we were sad to learn of the passing of Sandra James. She

will be greatly missed by the Monday Friends team in particular, and we know she volunteered for us and Oxfam on a regular basis. Her Life celebration service was held on Thursday the 20th April at CMC.

Goodbye to one of our project workers  
Many of you will know that Joanna is off sick at the moment and we are very sad to announce that she decided to resign from the Bridge at the end of April. Joanna had a passion and commitment to caring for the elderly in our community. She took over the running of the Kemplah Wednesday Lunch renaming it Guisborough Community Lunch Club and established Time 2Move our exercise class for the elderly on a Friday. Amongst other projects she was the driving force behind the bridge establishing its community shop and Shane Campbell have worked tirelessly behind-the-scenes to support both the shop and Foodstop. We will miss Joanna's version and drive I was in courage and develop new activities and give thanks for her work.

#### Projects Update

Monday friends is currently volunteer lead and well attended.

Soup and Roll - we are serving soup from 10:30 am, as the weather is improves, until 1 pm running alongside food bank. Thanks to volunteers.

Community shop Tuesday 8 and Wednesday p.m. - we could do with a few more volunteers and ways to have still client places to fill some initial clients dropping out. We have contacted the primary schools and Hampton Court from our clients and it may be that you know of someone who could do with that post in with just a few months. It is a £3 a week commitment.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the stockroom and have a sticker system in place to help ensure nothing goes out of date.

Kemplah Luncheon, Wednesdays - Continues to be quite full. We may need to adjust our prices a little. We would love to have another escort 10-12/ 1-2 on Wednesdays.

*Lorraine Nash, Bridge Manager.*

#### **URC (finally) celebrates its Jubilee**

Members, ministers and friends of the URC gathered in London on the 15th of April to mark the denomination's 50th anniversary. Around 1200 people attended the rail strike postponed celebrations at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, the same place that the English Congregationalist's and the Presbyterians gathered on the 5th of October 1972 to vote the URC into being. Led by the Rev. John Bradbury General Secretary of the URC and the Moderator and Moderator elect of the URC General assembly, the Reverend Fiona Bennett and the Reverend Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, the service reflected on the denominations past, present and future as well as its place in the world Church.

Former general secretary the Reverend David Connick URC and Council for world mission Scarlett Victoria Turner and the Reverend professor Joodio Keum, CEM's General Secretary, each delivered a sermon, and the especially formed Jubilee choir sang 'Always trust the star that guides us in the way'. - Neil Thorogood's winning poem in the 50th Anniversary Worship Resources Competition, in a setting by Scott Stroman.....

#### **SERVICES IN MAY at 10.00am.**

7<sup>th</sup>, Dr Donna Moore – Guisborough  
14<sup>th</sup>, Jan Harper – Marton & Nunthorpe  
21<sup>st</sup>, Rev Norma Johnson – Redcar  
28<sup>th</sup>, Dr Donna Moore – Guisborough.

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.

**May 2023**

## **GUISBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



*Founded 1798*

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

**News Letter**

**May 2023**

**Secretary 01287 637273**