

Group News



*** 2024 * November * 2024 ***

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

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Our churches are members of the Cleveland Pastorate

Part of the URC Northern Synod – www.urch-northernsynod.org.uk

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

'If God is at work on our behalf who can prevail against us?'

Romans 8: v.31

There's an old Arabian proverb that makes sense to me; 'All things are less dreadful than they seem'.

The story of Elijah's battle with Ahab and Jezebel shows the truth that he learned about this statement. Elijah had just experienced one of the high spots of his ministry when the prophets of Baal were humiliated on Mount Carmel (1Kings): but as is so often the case a high quickly gave way to a low.

Presumably, Elijah had imagined that, following his earlier triumph, his troubles were over; that Jezebel and her prophets would have to admit defeat. Instead he discovered that she had renewed her campaign against him with an even greater ferocity. As far as Elijah was concerned, it was him and God against the world, and he was fed up with fighting what he considered a one-man battle!

God, though, has a surprise up His sleeve, for Elijah was shortly to discover that he was anything but alone, - that, in fact, there were seven thousand people in Israel who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

There is a continuing message for us today. In the church we can feel up against it, struggling to keep the doors of our buildings open, demoralised by the lack of members, disheartened by the limited impact of our efforts. As individuals we can feel that we are ploughing a lonely furrow, or simply find that life is getting on top of us.

Through the experience of Elijah, God is saying 'Don't be dismayed, all things are less dreadful than they seem.' However isolated we may feel, He hasn't left us to carry the load alone. Seen or unseen there are others playing their part and working for His kingdom. Seen or unseen, He is always there to strengthen, to support and to see us through.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

Synod Prayers

3rd November

International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians.

10th November

Remembrance Sunday.

17th November

Churches: Waddington Street, Durham; Bethel, Chester-Le-Street; Christ Church, Stanley; Cromer Avenue; Denewell Avenue; Minister: Revd Marcus Hargis.

24th November

Those retiring from ministry and those considering ministry. Candidating Secretary: Revd Dr David Whiting. EM2 Revd Stuart Brock. Leading your church into growth LYCIG.

Guisborough

Five years ago I started to learn Scottish Gaelic for no particular reason other than interest. Many people react saying (politely) what's the point. Wouldn't it be more sensible or more useful to learn a living language? When I happened to say to someone that I was particularly busy with a group who is reading the New Testament in Gaelic and translating it into English the reaction was: -we already have perfectly good translations in English!

Alongside my main studies as a distance undergraduate at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College on Skye, I take part in a weekly Zoom meeting reading the New Testament in Gaelic with about a dozen other people: several from Scotland, two or three from England, one from Brazil, two from Canada, and one from the US.

	Vestry	Door
3rd Nov	Jenny	Joyce
10th Nov	Martin	Peter
17th Nov	Peter	Ray
24th Nov	Joyce	Jenny

The Group has been meeting weekly for four years. In turn we each read a verse in Gaelic and then translate. Sometimes we go off on tangents sometimes the meanings of words, occasionally looking up the original Greek text, and sometimes discovering that the ‘official’ translation in English can be misleading! In the strange way that can happen in on-line meetings, we have become good friends though few of us have ever met face to face (and probably won’t ever). We started with Acts and now we’re getting close to the end of the final fourth gospel, John.

For me this has been an unintended and unexpected benefit alongside my main studies. The effort of studying the Bible in a fresh language has helped me to think much harder than previously about its real meaning, its implications, and its shortcomings. We always start with a prayer by one of the Group asking for God’s help in both understanding and translating, and it seems to work!

Chris and I spent a week on the Island of Lismore recently. At one time Lismore was on a par with Iona as a Christian centre, but now it is a quiet place not yet discovered by Trip Advisor. A monastery was founded there in the 5th century by St Moluag and by the 13th century when the Lordship of the Isles was at its peak, there was a very substantial Cathedral. This fell into disrepair and in 1749 the choir of the original cathedral was converted into the current parish church. On Sunday there were about 20 people in the congregation, a declining number (an issue we know about!) but still significant for an island with a population of 146 at the last census. (Upkeep of the ancient historic building is another issue!) We were given a friendly welcome and a bonus was that the New Testament reading was given in both English and Gaelic. the service there was an opportunity to practise some Gaelic with a few native speakers. Gaelic is still alive.

James Robertson

Guisborough Calendar

Weekly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am Market Day Coffee Morning
10.30am Church open for Private Prayer
11.30am Quiet Time in Church for Prayers and Reflections.

St Andrew's

Coffee for Charity

15th September	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£16.50
22nd September	British Heart Foundation	£24.55
29th September	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£21.00
6th October	Middlesbrough Food Bank	£41.45



St Andrew's URC
Nunthorpe and Marton

Soup Lunch

Saturday 9th November

12 noon

Admission - £3.00

Raffle - in aid of Rosemary

Answers to Doreen's - How well do you know your hymns?

1. He who would valiant be?
2. And did those feet
3. Immortal, invisible
4. Teach me, my God and King
5. All things bright and beautiful
6. Will your Anchor hold
7. Brother, sister let me serve you
8. The day thou gavest, Lord is ended
9. Morning has broken
10. Awake, awake to the love of work
11. At the name of Jesus
12. The church's one foundation
13. Will you come and follow me
14. Take my life
15. Dear Lord and Father of mankind
16. Father, hear the prayer we offer
17. We plough the fields and scatter
18. I lift my eyes
19. Ye holy angels bright
20. God is working his purpose out

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Redcar

News of the Church

Discussions are still taking place between Synod, RURC and Redcar Baptist regarding a proposed LEP, which will put our partnership on a more formal arrangements.

Thanks to two recent legacies, heaters have been purchased in an effort to heat the Church as the boiler has eventually given up.

We have also been able to provide for sound proof cladding to be purchased for the lower hall. This will make Sunday tea after worship more comfortable.

Second Thursday Service

This will be a short quiet reflective service in the URC Sanctuary for anyone to join, you would be most welcome.

The next service will be on 14th November at 11am followed by tea or coffee and a chat.

We hope to see you!!

Psalm 119 v 114

You are my place of quiet retreat

By popular demand!!

Here is a reminder of Jack's Diary

I believe that Jack (our rescue dog from S.O.S.) was placed in our family at a crucial time.

Here is a reminder of Jack's diary

I have noticed how easily Jack is distracted and yes, his behaviour has improved since he became part of our family.

While out walking, Jack can be so easily distracted by a blade of grass with an interesting fragrance or a piece of rotting pizza in the under-growth. I have pretty much the same problem when I try to spend some time with God and I don't mean I am distracted by rotting pizza and strange smells. I get comfortable, close my eyes and it's fine for a while, I am aware of the clock ticking and Jack's gentle breathing but then thoughts pop into my head, did I put eggs on the shopping list? Have forgotten Sally's birthday? Must make that appointment, have I? I check myself , a couple of minutes later it starts again.

I thought up Jack's diary while supposedly being still with God. Maybe, just maybe a distraction is God liaising, how wonderful! Ah well whatever, I will keep on trying.

Preachers

	Marthon 10.00am	Guisborough 10.00am	Redcar 10.30am
3-Nov	Maranny Jones	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptist
10-Nov	Brian Stephenson Parade	Rosemary Taylor	Redcar Baptist
17-Nov	Jan Harper Communion	Keith Martin	Redcar Baptist
24-Nov	Dot Thomson	Donna Moore Meeting	Redcar Baptist
1-Dec	Jan Harper Meeting	Donna Moore Communion	Redcar Baptist

Material for the December/January Magazine to church editors by Sunday
10th November please

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