

## THE DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II



The United Reformed Church shares in the grief of the nations, following the death of her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II.

Following the death of her father King George her Majesty so she did it run on the 6th of February 1952 but with officially crowned in 1953 Queen Elizabeth was the world's longest reigning leading monarch and was a much loved and popular royal figure.

Many United from churches will be open for times of prayer and reflection over the coming days.

The General Assembly of the URC, the church's governing body, sends a loyal address to the Queen each time it meets. At the 2022 General Assembly the Assembly wrote to the Queen noting that in this year both her Majesty and URC are marking a Jubilee.

The Assembly thanked her Majesty for her steadfast and faithful service over the seven decades of her reign.

Praising her example of duty, integrity and public service, the Assembly placed on record its appreciation of her Majesty's public witness to her Christian faith and the way in which she sought to live her life as a servant of Christ.

The Reverend Dr John Bradbury, the URC General Secretary, said, "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II lived the most remarkable life of dedicated Christian service."

"As a devout Anglican and Presbyterian her faith shone from her words and deeds. Her contribution to

the life of our nations, the Commonwealth, and beyond will be remembered with gratitude for generations to come. She inspired respect from across the political spectrum and from monarchists and republicans alike.

"The United Reformed Church has always been aware that as each General Assembly presents a loyal address, to the throne, we have been addressing a fellow baptised sister in Christ. We give thanks for her life and uphold in prayer all who mourn for her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory."

### HIGH LIGHTS OF THE CHURCH MEETING

Our secretary, Jenny Reynolds, attended a meeting on the formation of a Joint Pastorate with the four United Reformed churches north of the River Tees. The prime purpose of this is to attract a minister into the Cleveland area, seeing as we've been in vacancy, at Guisborough and the East Cleveland Group of churches for over six years - and with the churches north of the river being without a minister for around three years.

The meeting was briefed on various matters The most significant being the appointment of a pastoral friend who would be the Reverend Sue Walker. She was obtained in 2003, after which she served in a number of different capacities detailed on an impressive CV. Her role would be to work as being an acting minister until a permanent appointment could be made.

*Looking to the future. a preaching plan* for the Joint Pastorate may require some changes to worship times. After a discussion the meeting saw the need to be adaptable. Occasional changes, such as afternoon meetings or worship on a different day, but not in the evening, were accepted as necessary given the present situation of a long vacancy.

*The Bridge Association* made a request to host the prayer breakfast in December. After some discussion it was agreed that volunteers are willing to host on our original dates of April and October. However, a 'prayers only' meeting was offered for December.

Our preaching plan secretary, Madge Baird, was pleased to report only three gaps to be filled in on the plan for the next quarter - with with communion services continuing to be fitted in when worship leaders are available. The December 18th service will be of readings, music and carols - and it is hoped that some new, different 'elements' will be included in the worship. Donna Moore sent a message to the meeting suggesting that we consider a regular "all age" service. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea - and asking that Donna liaise with Madge, our organist, to discuss her vision.

### THE ORGAN REPAIR



Recently Madge Baird, our organist, had noticed that the organ was not playing as well as usual. In September an inspection, by by C & N Holford Pipe Organ Builders of Ossett, West Yorkshire, revealed serious cracks in the

wooden sound boxes, which allowed air to drift into more one note key, when the organ was played. These boxes needed extensive repair at an estimated cost of £14,000. The elders held an emergency meeting and agreed to this work being done. Fortunately, the church will be able to claim a grant, covering half of the cost, from our Synod Office in Newcastle.

The organ has an interesting history. It was installed in the church in 1905. Before his time a harmonium accompanied the singing - that is until the Rev. Wardel Ridley accepted a call to the pastorate in 1901. He was a man of great drive and energy and came to Guisborough on the condition that the previously proposed building plans were pushed through. On arrival he visited towns throughout Yorkshire on behalf of the project and in six months raised sufficient money to build a Sunday School Hall, vestry, new frontage to the church, pews, central heating and other improvements.

Central to these alterations was the installation of a pipe organ. Originally built for another church, the date of construction is not known - possibly in the 1880's by Peter Conacher & Co of Huddersfield. It was dismantled and brought to Guisborough where it was rebuilt. The lady accompanist, on seeing this huge instrument, during the course of its construction, became rather alarmed at the prospect of being expected to play it and so declined. Another accompanist needed to be employed for its first performance on Sunday, 16th, July 1905,

### **GUISBOROUGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

The Association invites all members to the 2022 Bridge AGM at 7.00pm on Monday, the 7th of November at St Paulinus' Church.

Part of the business of the AGM is to elect the board of trustees for next year. This includes those who are standing again as well as new ones. Nominations must be received in advance of the AGM. Please make every effort to attend.

The Bridge have appealed for some further support for their activities. The Friday night youth club is short of volunteers and needs help. In addition, the *Food and Fun* sessions, to be run on Monday and Wednesday the 24th and 26th October require

additional volunteers to maintain the level of four people, so the activities can work well and safely.

### **GUISBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH**

The church run a "Good Neighbour Scheme", which provides services to the public for transport, hospital visiting - and home visiting. An excellent provision, which needs to be more widely known to the people of the town and local area.

Requests for help can be made by calling in to see the receptionist in the church office between 10 am and 12 noon on any Monday, Wednesday and some Fridays, or telephone and leave a message at any time on (01287) 610349.

### **SERVICES FOR OCTOBER at 10.00am.**

2nd. Ray Tunnicliffe URC Anniversary.

9th Chris Eddowes of Hartlepool.

16th. Bill Reynolds.

23rd. Dr Donna Moore of Guisborough URC

30th. Rev Norma Johnson of Redcar URC.

Everyone will be welcome to our services. Come for worship. or to learn about faith in Jesus, or simply to find some good friends.

### **COFFEE MORNING AND PRAYER MEETING**

Every Thursday there is a coffee morning the church hall from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Followed by a prayer meeting at 11:30 am until noon.

Please pop in, when you can, on this market day and you will find a cheerful welcome.

## **October 2022**

**GUISBOROUGH UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH**  
Part of the Cleveland Joint Pastorate  
**URC**



*Founded 1798*

56, Westgate, Guisborough.

**News Letter**

**October 2022**

**Secretary 01287 637273**