

Group News



*** 2023 * October * 2023 ***

The monthly magazine for:

Guisborough URC

56 Westgate, Guisborough, TS14 6AY: Church Secretary 01287 637273

Redcar URC

Station Road, Redcar, TS10 1RQ: Contact 07742 720090

St Andrew's URC, Nunthorpe and Marton

Cypress Road, Marton, TS7 8PD: Church Secretary 01642 550854

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

'The kingdom of God is comparable to having scattered seed on the ground. Those who sow it sleep and wake, night and day and the seed sprouts and grows, though they have no idea how. The earth brings forth a crop by itself, first a shoot, then the head then the full ear of grain. When, though, the grain is ripe, they set to work at once with their sickles because the time for harvest has come.' Mark ch. 4 26-29

In 1516 Sir Thomas More wrote 'Utopia' in which he set out his vision of a society marked by peace, justice and harmony. Here was a picture of the way life could and ought to be. In 1949 George Orwell wrote '1984', a novel about the nightmare scenario of a totalitarian state in which every thought and action is regulated, brought home by the stark warning 'Big Brother is watching you' Here was a picture of the way life could be but mustn't be!

What vision, I wonder, do we have of the future? Do we look forward with hope, or fear, - with anticipation or dread? Do we believe there is meaning to our existence, even beyond death, or do we regard the grave as the end of all our striving?

Most of us would like to think the world can be a better place and we probably all want to believe in an afterlife, but as the years pass our confidence can take a battering. The harsh realities of life seem to contradict the idealistic dreams of our youth. The first flush of faith fades to a mere shadow of what it used to be. Yet, as so many of the parables of Jesus remind us, if we only have eyes to see, that the signs of the kingdom are all around us. Not only is it coming, but in a real sense it is here already, the miracle of changed lives taking place every day and every moment.

To know Christ is to be given a foretaste of all that is yet to come; not simply a vision of what might be but a promise of what will be. If we can't see signs of His coming, is it possible that we are looking in the wrong places for the wrong things.?

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Shalom

Jan

Synod Prayers

1st October

St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park; the Revd Adele Moorhouse; the Revd Annie Gray

8th October Homeless Sunday;

Synod Meeting (14 Oct); our new Moderator Revd Kim Plumpton; Synod Admin Team: Synod Operations Coordinator Lisa McAvoy; Office Manager & Moderator's PA Wendy Watson; Trust Officer Andrew Atkinson; Finance Officer Helen Hogg

15th October

Trinity, Gosforth; the Revd Alex Mabbs

22nd October

St Margaret's, South Shields; Roker; Stockton Road, Sunderland; Grindon Church Community Project; the Revd Jane Rowell; Church-Related Community Work Minister Alison Dalton

29th October One World Week;

Methodist Newcastle District; District Chair the Revd Stephen Lindridge

Cleveland Pastorate

Joint Service

Sunday 15th October 11.00am

St Andrew's URC, Nunthorpe and Marton

Preacher - Revd Kim Plumpton

Moderator to URC Northern Synod

Service to be followed by a faith lunch

Postcode for Sat-Nav TS7 8PZ

Guisborough

Anniversary Coffee Morning And Historical Exhibition

Guisborough United Reformed Church

Saturday 28th October 2023

from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

*Celebrating 225 years of Christian witness in Guisborough -
1798 - 2023. - Please come.*

To belong and to be

We have recently returned home from a Holiday in Sorrento. Our holiday consisted of a visit to Pompeii, Naples, Positano and Capri The weather was amazing, and I was hugely impressed with my hard-earned tan, well you must suffer at times.

On several occasions shopping I greeted the shopkeeper in my tourist Italian and on several occasions, I was asked if I was Italian. The first time I was asked I said no, disappointment clouded their face, the second time I said I thought I had Italian blood a smile emanated from the vendors face. The third time I said my grandparents were Italian and was greeted like a lost relative with mother and daughter concurring how Italian I looked and how I should come back home. I lied not out of badness but because I wanted them to feel a connection.

We all want to belong whether it is at a club, in a chat room at work or where we sit and pray. Being connected is not as easy as we think. For if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. **[Romans 14: 8.]** Is this the belonging we seek?

Guisborough Calendar

Weekly

Thursday

from 9.30am Coffee in Church Hall
from 10.30am Church open for private prayer
11.30am Thursday Prayers led by Maureen and Ray.
Details on church notice board

I am a person who welcomes solitude occasionally a result of moving from home young for work and not living with anyone until getting married at the age of 25 so almost eight years of relative solitude as work took life and I belonged to my colleagues.

But lately my thinking has matured in respect of the impact being a Christian has on my community and globally. It feels I no longer belong. I am invisible. Yet what do I want; Do I want to put on a sign saying I am a Christian for all to see, are we not Christians by our actions. We must remember as Christians we are of Christ, and Christ is of God. and you **belong** to Christ, and Christ **belongs** to God. [**Corinthians 1 verses 3-23**]. Do we need a marching band with banners proclaiming our Faith, or do we need a uniform to be branded like others? Yet how did Jesus send out the Apostles? “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. {**Mathew Chapter 10 Verse 16**}. Yes, we may be the sheep, but we have a shepherd who cares for us. Christianity is not lost its just veiled. Occasionally you see a glimpse you remember as a child. Easter bonnets, easter eggs, Shrove Tuesday, Christmas, Fish on Friday. We may as Christians need to embrace these and make more with them in the community to remind people what the value is of these innocent salutations by having a pancake race Easter bonnet competition, I have been writing this piece and feel rejuvenated as we are seen we just need to be heard now.

I am and I belong!

Angela Etwell

	Door	Vestry
1st October	Joyce	Maureen
8th October	Peter	Joyce
15th October	Pastorate service at Marton	
22nd October	Darren	Ray
29th October	Martin	Jenny

St Andrew's

Soup Lunch

A Soup Lunch is to be held at St. Andrew's on
Saturday 14th October at 12.00.

Admission £3.00.

There will be a raffle

Proceeds are for the Middlesbrough Food Bank.



Commitment For Life: 2017

It's that time of year again when we give thanks for the harvest and celebrate God's continuing goodness to us.

With that in mind, I'd like to remind us all that not all people are as fortunate as we are. Commitment For Life started out as the URC response to the government's failure to live up to its promise of 1% of GDP given to overseas aid. Originally called 'The 1% Appeal', the church asked its members to commit to giving 1% of their take home pay to one of 4 projects around the world

.We are supporting the project in Bangladesh, where harvests are frequently ruined and homes lost through horrendous flooding. This year is particularly hard for the people of Bangladesh as they struggle to help those refugees fleeing from Myanmar, (Burma, as was).

The name may have changed but the basic idea has not and folk are asked to commit to giving 1% of their take-home earnings/pension(or indeed what they can afford) towards this project. Each church can choose which of the 4 projects they wish to support, and regular info and updates are sent to the contact person. Posters and letters are available, so please check the notice boards.

Thank you for your continuing generosity, and please remember that Gift Aiding a donation makes it so much more useful, with no cost to ourselves.

Jan Harper

Coffee for Charity

20th August	Water Aid	£22.00
27th August	Water Aid	£30.00
3rd Sept.	Teesside Hospice	£11.01

St Andrew's Calendar

Weekly/Monthly

Boy's Brigade

Details available from church elders.

Preachers

Marion	Guisborough	Redcar
10.00am	10.00am	11.00am
1-Oct Brian Stephenson	Rosemary Taylor	Redcar Baptist Joint Service
8-Oct Dave Elliott Battalion Parade	Norma Johnson Harvest * * *	Redcar Baptist Joint Service
15-Oct	Kim Plumpton Joint Pastorate Service, 11.00am at Marion * * *	
22-Oct Jan Harper Communion	tba	Redcar Baptist Joint Service
29-Oct Donna Moore	Rosemary Taylor	Redcar Baptist Joint Service

Material for the November Magazine to church editors by Sunday 15th
October please

Group Editor – R Wheeler, 2C Gypsy Lane, Nunthorpe,
Middlesbrough, TS7 0DX.

Telephone: 01642 300546.

Email: roger.wheeler5@virginmedia.com