



Group News

Minister

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** March * 2008 * March **

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

Dear Friends,

The Climate Change Bill is being scrutinised in the House of Lords, and is expected to reach the Commons in the next few weeks. But why do I write this? What has that got to do with us, the East Cleveland Group and our churches, you may well want to ask? Well everything really!

The environment and the concept of global warming used to be the domain of those who were shunned to the edges of the field of science, but now it needs to be the possession of every member of God's creation. At some point in time, and that point is fast approaching, we are going to have to accept radical changes in our lifestyle in order to begin to slow down our destruction of the ozone layer, and begin to reverse the devastating effects of our outpouring of carbon into the atmosphere.

In his film 'An Inconvenient Truth', Al Gore uses the analogy of a boiling frog to illustrate our ignorance of towards global warming. As in, if you put a frog into boiling water it would jump straight out. But if you put it in cold water and slowly turn up the temperature, little by little, it will never jump out and will eventually be boiled to death. (I have a copy of the film if anyone would like to borrow it!)

We simply have to take note, we cannot be ignorant any longer! But is it down to individuals to make small changes, like the great ideas advocated in Tearfund's Lent Carbon Fast, or is this too little, too late? And how do we get our government and many less co-operative governments around the world to make the huge changes that are surely needed if we are going to

do a U-turn and prevent a bad situation from getting any worse? And do we have a Christian imperative to act?

Well yes, our little changes are important! If a million Christians all switched to renewable energy sources wouldn't that bring a powerful message to electricity suppliers? And yes, we do also need to keep on pestering our government to stand up and be counted, to take a lead in truly beginning to tackle global warming. We are currently being asked to play our part in urging MP's to support the amendments to the Climate Change Bill (check out the URC website for our churches official line on the Bill).

And yes! Our responsibility to care for creation as outlined in Genesis, and as made clear in Jesus' command to love our neighbour, should also stir us to act! According to Tearfund, the world's poorest people have contributed least to our changing climate yet they are being hardest hit by the effects. Can we ignore our poor neighbours as they struggle with flooding on the other side of the world which is due in part to our emissions?

Kiribas, the first place in the world to welcome in the new millennium, the 2000th birthday of Christ, only 8 years ago, will no longer exist in about 7 years time. It will be under water, as a result of the rising seas. Let us realise that now is the time to change our ways, and so let us commit to bring hope this Easter to our neighbours around the world, as we commit to change our lives and change our world! (Log on to climatestewards.net for more information)

Happy Easter! Revd. Catey Morrison

Synod Prayers

Synod Prayers for March are focused on South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area and its constituent churches

SENEA is not known as a Mission Partnership. It is, in fact, a partnership of Methodist and United Reformed churches in the SE Northumberland area. There are quite a few Methodist/United Reformed Church LEPs (Local Ecumenical Partnership) in this area and the congregations and clergy share together in the supporting each other as we are to do within a Mission Partnership.

Please remember in your prayers

Week beginning 2nd March: Trinity, Ashington LEP; Trinity, Bedlington LEP

Week beginning 9th March: Christ Church, North Broomhill LEP; Widdrington URC

Week beginning 16th March: Blyth URC; St. Mark's URC, Newbiggen; Seaton Delaval LEP

Week beginning 23rd March: Ministers: Malcolm Sellars (Methodist), Barry Welch (URC), John Joughin (Methodist), Yvonne Tracey (URC), Catherine Minor (Methodist), Carla Hall (Methodist), John Pugh (Methodist)

Week beginning 30th March: Retired ministers living in the area covered by SENEA and *Ecumenical church leaders: Graham Carter, Methodist Chair of Darlington District*

MANSE PRAYERS

We are at Guisborough (31 Oakley Close) throughout this month because Ken will be recovering from a hip replacement. Please remember Ken in your prayers.

Tue 4 March *Prayers for Guisborough URC*

Tue 11 March *Prayers for Linthorpe URC*

Tue 18 March *Prayers for Redcar URC*

Tue 25 March *Prayers for Lingdale URC*

Tue 1 April *Prayers for St. Andrew's URC*

Manse Prayers are open to all. They begin at 8.45am

Easter Television

A drama production on the life of Jesus is to be a highlight of the 2008 BBC Spring schedule. Recently filmed in Morocco, it will be seen throughout Holy Week, culminating in the resurrection appearances of Jesus on Easter Day. This ambitious project has been warmly welcomed by the Director of the Churches Media Council, Andrew Graystone and various other church leaders. The Passion is produced by Nigel Stafford-Clark (Bleak House), written by Frank Deasy (Prime Suspect 7) and directed by Michael Offer (State Within).

Modern

The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death, but that we are to be new here and now by the power of the resurrection.

Phillips Brooks Preacher and Bishop of Massa

Why Not Consider Undertaking a Course This Year?

There are several on offers in our own part of the synod this year. Think about the Exploring Modern Spirituality Course which has some very good speakers, or look out for the Explorations course to be held in the south of the Synod in May and June.

TLS Taster Days

Many of you are aware that Jean Lamplugh, Church Secretary at St. Andrew's, Marton & Nunthorpe is in her second year of the TLS Foundation Course. TLS stands for Training, Learning & Serving.

There are some taster days for those thinking about signing up for the TLS Foundation Course. These will be held from 10.00am to 1.00pm:

8th March: Cromer Avenue URC, Gateshead
15th March: Wideopen URC

led by current tutors and students.

If you are interested please see Meg or Catey.

Explorations

Fundamental theological questions opened up with David Peel to enable us to confess faith more persuasively.

After its pilot outing in County Durham Mission Partnership the course will run again in Teesside South East Mission Partnership.

Course dates:

Wednesdays May 7th 14th 21st 28th
June 4th & 11th

Time:

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Venue:

Queen's Park URC, Stockton

Trip to Lindisfarne

Saturday 13th September

A trip to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne is being organised for Saturday 13th September this year. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the island and to enjoy fellowship together. Beautiful weather has been booked and, as the tide will be in while we are on the island, hopefully we should have a wonderful peaceful day.

Barry Hutchinson will be around to take those who feel so led on a prayer walk around part of the island, and to help us draw our reflections together in worship before we leave.

Put the date in your diaries now. Signup lists will no doubt go up in due course.

Exploring Modern Spirituality

A five week course organized by Barry Hutchinson (Director of St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island)

Queen's Park URC, Alma Street, Stockton

Wednesday 5th March: 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Introduction *with Sue Henderson*

Wednesday 12th March: 7.00pm – 9.00pm
The Celts for Today *with Kate Tristram*

Wednesday 19th March: 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Ignation Spirituality *with Barry Hutchinson & Sue Henderson*

Wednesday 26th March: 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Reformed Spirituality *with David Cornick*

Wednesday, 2nd April: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Implications (of the above for Social Action, Theology, Ecumenism and links to the Contemplative Tradition).

Guisborough

I'm writing this in mid February, which used to be mid-winter. It's certainly been wet enough to be February Fill-Dyke. But my Fair Maids of February (snowdrops) were in full bloom in January and I've even seen a scattering of Daffodils. The Weather People say winter is becoming a thing of the past; who knows? But I hope we have at least a few days of snow with blue skies and hoar frost twinkling in the sunlight. We used to live in the tropics which didn't have much in the way of seasons. When it's hot and humid with periodic thunderstorms every day for ever; you find yourself longing for the succession of the seasons and especially the great carpets of spring flowers.

Do you remember The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the people who came over from Troisdorf? It's our twin town; it's in Germany near Cologne. Half were Catholic and half Protestant. What fascinating guests they made and they all spoke perfect English (I blush to think how few of us speak even bad German!). We were lucky enough to have Father Wolfram the Catholic Priest and Pastor Uli from the Evangelical (Protestant) church allocated to us. Both were interesting to talk to and both were hearty eaters, not to mention appreciative drinkers!

On their free day we took them a run through the country to Whitby. Cologne is a long way from the sea and of course Whitby boasts the potent mix of Captain Cook, St Hilda and

Dracula. They climbed the 198 steps up to the Abbey and the Museum. But they were particularly taken with the old Parrish Church which is so unlike any in their homeland. Then it was back down the hill to buy some fresh kippers at Fortunes, and on to lunch at the Sheppard's Purse. The aroma of kippers lingered in our house for days. But they were good kippers!

Another day while D took some of our visitors walking in the hills, I took Father Wolfram to see the Priory ruins. Plenty of churches have been destroyed in Germany, but unlike us they rebuilt most of them. Father Wolfram, with a twinkle in his eye asked at the kiosk if they had a postcard of The Black Monk. My children tell me every schoolboy knows someone who's seen him, even if they can't remember exactly who.

I hope Roger Wheeler has been able to include their letter to Ken Harris. And if anyone wants a copy of Father Wolfram's most excellent sermon at the final service I have one. He typed it up on this machine before e-mailing it to himself.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is being held in our Church this year with Donna Moore preaching in the afternoon and Catie in the evening. It would be nice if our little church so overflowed it wasn't practical to hold it here any more.

Maureen

Women's World Day Of Prayer

Friday 7th March

Guisborough U R C

Speaker at 2 pm

Dr Donna Moore

7 pm

Rev Catey Morrison

Holy Week Meditations

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

12 noon – 12.30pm

Everyone is welcome.

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	1 Mar	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – at the United Reformed Church.
Sat	8 Mar	10 – 12 noon	Farmers’ Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Wed	5 Mar	7.30pm	Guisborough Churches Together – Lent Bible Study Course – at St Nicholas’ Church
Tue	11 Mar	7.15pm	Annual General Meeting
Wed	12 Mar	7.30pm	Guisborough Churches Together – Lent Bible Study Course – at St Nicholas’ Church
Sun	16 Mar	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro’ Churches JC’s joining together at Prior Purseglove Sports Centre.
Sun	16 Mar	9.30am	Palm Sunday Gift Day Service
Thu	20 Mar	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Agape Meal in Guis’ URC. Members from other Churches are invited
Fri	21 Mar	10.00am	Procession of Witness from the Salvation Citadel.

Weekly

Tuesdays	12.30pm	Bible Study
Thursdays	9.30am – 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and some of us

Building bridges between Troisdorf and our twin city Redcar and Cleveland Christian Prayer for Unity in January 2008

When in June 2007 three representatives of the Redcar and Cleveland Church Conferences accepted our invitation to come to Troisdorf and to visit the Protestant “Kirchentag” (a German Church Congress every second year) they didn’t depart without leaving an invitation for a return visit in the beginning of the following year.

So on 25th January an ecumenical delegation of ten men and women involved in different activities of our Catholic and Protestant congregations set off to take part of this years Guisborough “Prayer for Christian Unity”, including as officials Pastor Wolfram Knitter, parish priest for St. Hippolyte and St. Maria Konigin, and Pastor Uli Kramer, Minister of Johanneskirche and one the four ministers of Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Troisdorf. After a three hours sightseeing tour in Edinburgh our group had a safe but (because of heavy gales) a little bit too slow journey to Darlington. For this reason we missed the train to Middlesbrough and Ken Harris

solved resolutely our problem changing the direction of the hired coach and coming for us to Darlington station. So only about half an hour later our hosts could welcome us in Guisborough.

The following day the beautiful landscape in which Redcar and Cleveland is situated as soon as some of the monuments and listed buildings with an interesting history were presented to us — some of us went to Whitby. Others saw the Roman Catholic cathedral in Middlesbrough and everybody had a look at the ruin of the famous Guisborough priory destroyed by Henry VIII in the 16th century. Around 6 p.m. we met again for an “evening of encounter” with our hosts and members and representatives of the different congregations in the hail of the Methodist Church where additionally not only our spoken words but as well music played an important part: Anne Kordes-Pistorius, flautist and wife of our Protestant minister Dietmar Pisto-

rius, played harmonically (and without any rehearsal) together with Ernest Dale, organist of the Guisborough United Reformed Church.

On Sunday morning we divided again into smaller groups; we went to different services and took part of the worship of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Reformed congregations. The coffee and tea meetings afterwards again gave us the opportunity to get in touch with people we had not yet met before. After a previous concert of the Methodist youth band at 6pm in the evening the so called joint service”, the common Prayer for Christian Unity, began in the Methodist Church Hall which was filled well by a great number of people. This time the greetings from Troisdorf took more up than one year ago because Pastor Knitter had been asked to hold the sermon within this service. Telling about the ecumenical importance of St. Hippolyt, patron saint of our St. Hippolyt church in the centre of Troisdorf he found listeners who followed him closely and were as well interested to have a talk with someone coming from Troisdorf after the service.

Monday morning led us into a different world: Rev. Ken Harris, one of our hosts, had been in the service as an “Industrial Chaplain” for Corus-Steelworks in Redcar until a few days ago and so we got the opportunity to visit the Corus steel production plants. Everybody had to wear protective clothes and shoes, goggles and earmuffs and the weight of these things let us feel under pressure after two hours and strengthened our respect for the men doing a dangerous job for twelve hours at a time working in big heat and with a high noise level with really huge machines. Invited for a delicious lunch in the “Steel house” (the Corus administration centre) afterwards we learned more about the ecumenical “industrial chaplaincy”, its co-operation with

Guisborough Choral Society

“The Prince of Peace” and Six Motets

by William Lloyd Webber (father of Andrew and Julian)

with Organist to accompany.

Guest artist a young Guisborough Flautist

Jenny Thornton.

Brahms “Liebeslieder Walzes”

sung in German with piano duet ,

Pianists Margaret Heaton & Olwen Cameron.

Saturday 26th April 2008 at 7.30pm

St Nicholas Parish Church, Guisborough

Tickets £8, £7 cons. £1 (under 19yrs)

available early April from Guisborough Bookshop,

Greensleeves Music Shop Chaloner St. Guisborough.

Further info. Tel 01642 724270

the Corus management and about the problems the staff in the factories suffers from and their pastors care about. Being back in Guisborough we met the two ladies who work as employees for “The Bridge” creating and co-ordinating its activities and looking after people who are involved in this registered ecumenical charity.

After such a very intense day everybody felt a little bit exhausted and only after a break we were able to enjoy the farewell dinners with our hosts in the evening — three and a half days had passed in no time and in the next morning we found us again in a train going to London Gatwick where our plane left in the evening and brought us back home without any turbulence.

What we took with us and will pass on in Troisdorf is one matter above all: the wonderful experience that for some days our hosts shared their lives and their faith with us in a very warm and hearty way, the experience that we were able to pray together without any impediment by barriers of languages or national borders and last but not least the experience that things are progressing better and easier if they are based on good ecumenical relationships and solidarity. We are looking forward to our next meeting with friends from Redcar and Cleveland!

By Andrea Schlüter

Guisborough URC Rotas

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
2nd Mar	J Reynolds	D Houston	J Bulmer	M Ward
9th Mar	D Beattie		J Basham	M Sollett
16th Mar	M Robson		M Baird	D Moore
23rd Mar	M Houston		D Houston	D Harris
30th Mar	R Tunnicliffe	M Burrows	B Ward	F Thompson

Lingdale

Vision4Life – What will it mean for us?

Despite the previous day's snow and bad weather Susan and I made an early start on Saturday 2nd February to journey up to Monkseaton to hear about the next stage of "Catch the Vision", which is very well named as the "Vision4Life" - it's about moving beyond our structures to the nitty-gritty of renewing the spiritual life of the United Reformed Church, at all levels.

We opened with worship led by our Moderator, Rowena Francis and then went on to hear from the Rev Dr John Campbell about just what the Vision4Life has in store for us as churches and individuals. He was an excellent speaker and his enthusiasm was most infectious. He let us know how the Vision 4Life would be rolled out to us, briefly that year one, from Advent 2008 would focus on the Bible, year two – Prayer and year three Evangelism.

Each congregation is being invited to set up three conversations in the Spring and Summer of 2008 to explore 'the big picture' and their own local story about the effectiveness of the Bible in our church, the role of prayer in the life of our church and lastly, how comfortable we are talking about our faith to each other and to outsiders.

Following his outlining of the plans ahead we broke for lunch – provided by the host church, St Andrew's, which was excellent – there was even dessert!

Fully fed and watered we moved to explore looking at the bible afresh, putting aside our own preconceptions about how little or much we thought we knew about the Bible. What he was saying made a lot of sense; one of the things that he suggested was that whilst we probably have the most educated congregations ever, we are probably the least familiar with our Bibles.

We split into groups of 6 to look afresh at a particular bible passage, to try and see the passage through the eyes of one of the people involved. It was a real eye opener, it made it so much more personal and real, to try and feel what they may have felt – it was very moving. He made you so excited about what was waiting for you in your Bible that I just wanted to get home and to continue reading more and more with that bright new fresh approach. It wasn't just words to be read – "Oh yes, I know this passage, I know what's coming" – but a chance to look at it again with new eyes, to find something that perhaps you hadn't seen before. I shall never look at my Bible in the same way again and I hope that this first year will get everyone feeling the same, from our Ministers, to the Elders, to the members, to those who get the Group News or even just someone who happens to get to read someone else's Group News!

Jacque Coulthard and Susan Griffiths – starting Year 1 already, why wait when the Good News is this good?

Lingdale Calendar

Fri 7 March 2.15pm Woman's World Day of Prayer at St. Chad's in Lingdale

Weekly

Wednesdays 10.00am – 11.00am Coffee
11.00am – 12.30pm Soup and a Roll

4th Wednesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Flower Rota

2nd March Mrs J Coulthard
9th March Mr B Dove
16th March Mr A Thompson
23rd March Mrs M Saunders
30th March Miss J Scarth
6th April Mr T Waller

Redcar

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday – 20th March – 7.00pm

Guisborough URC.

'Agape' service, including communion.

Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm

Zetland Park, Methodist Church.

'Zenebrae' service, including communion and readings from the Passion Narrative.

* * *

Good Friday Service – 9.30am

Zetland Park, Methodist Church.

The service will include

'The nailing of the nails'

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Thursday	9.30am	Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre

Friday 7th March

Women's World Day of Prayer

Afternoon service at 2:30pm at St. Hilda's Church – the speaker will be Mrs Ruth Honeywell.

Evening service at 7pm at the Baptist Church - the speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Betty Bell.

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year is prepared by the women of Guyana. Each year a different country prepares it, so each year is different, but it is rather wonderful, to think all over the world women are using the same service to worship our Lord.

Concert by the

Renaissance Choir

in our Church
in aid of the Bible Society

Saturday 1st March
7.30pm

Tickets are only £3.50 including refreshments.

Tickets from Norma Creek.

Please come and support this worthy cause.

St Andrew's

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St Bernadette's RC Church

Friday 7th March 2008

2.00pm

All welcome.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday 23rd March, 2008 at 8.30am

We are once again having our Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday. Could anyone interested in attending please add their names to the list on the notice board in the church.

Pie and Pea Supper

Quiz and entertainment
plus raffle

Saturday 8th March, 2008

7.30pm

Tickets £3.50
from Una, Margaret and Joan.

Ladies Fellowship

Meg gave us a delightful talk and slide show of her recent holiday in Canada at our last meeting. Many thanks Meg for giving us some of your valuable time.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th March 2008 at 7.30pm when we will be hearing a talk on "The Transporter Bridge".

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 3 Mar	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting
Mon 17 Mar	3.00pm	Informal Worship at Elmridge (where Grant Sutherland works)
Wed 19 Mar	2.30pm	Informal Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge
Thu 20 March	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service at St. Andrew's URC
Fri 21 March	3.00pm	Good Friday Service at Kirkley Lodge

Weekly

Wednesday	9.30am	Prayers
Friday	6.15pm	Boys Brigade
Sunday	After Worship	Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)

Linthorpe

Linthorpe Coffee Morning

Saturday 15th March

10am - 12 noon

Cake Stall ~ Chocolate ~ Tombola,
bric a brac ~ Fancy Goods

Tea & Coffee

Admission: 50p, children 20p
to include tea/coffee

Coffee After Morning Worship

20th Jan – Guide Dogs For The Blind
£ 13.30 – Peggy & John Horbury

3rd Feb – Macmillan Nurses
£12.00 – Helen Kettlewell

Many thanks to everyone who gives so generously to these and all the other worthy causes.

Ancient

Great is the mystery O Lord, of your resurrection. (Ed. and also today)
A liturgical fragment from early Christian times

Rotas

Scripture Readers

2 nd Mar	Stuart Mapplebeck
9 th Mar	Parade
16 th Mar	Richard Harris
23 rd Mar	Moyra Gilmour
30 th Mar	June Haverson

Vestry

2 nd Mar	R Harris
9 th Mar	A Piercy
16 th Mar	J Harper
23 rd Mar	M Gilmour
30 th Mar	R. Harris

Porch

G Dodds
S Mapplebeck
G Kettlewell
J Haverson
M Tilley
G Kettlewell

Coffee & Tea

2 nd Mar	Helen Kettlewell <i>Macmillan Nurses</i>
9 th Mar	Val Walker <i>Brownies</i>
16 th Mar	John & Peggy Horbury <i>Guide Dogs For The Blind</i>
23 rd Mar	Stuart & Dorothy Knox <i>Children With Liver Disease Foundation</i>
30 th Mar	Helen Kettlewell <i>Macmillan Nurses</i>

Linthorpe Calendar

Fri	7 March	2.15pm	Woman's World Day of Prayer at Linthorpe URC
Tue	11 Mar		Church Meeting

Preachers

		2-Mar	9-Mar	16-Mar	Easter S'day	30-Mar
Marton	9.30am	C Morrison	M Robb Parade	C Morrison	M Robb Communion	P Hebron
	6.30pm					
Lintho	11.00am	J Harper	M Robb Parade	C Morrison	M Robb Communion	D Whiting
	6.30pm					
Guisbo	9.30am	M Robb Communion	D Harris	M Robb	K Harris Communion	Guis Folk
Redcar	11.00am	M Robb Communion	C Morrison	M Robb	C Morrison Communion	C Morrison AGM
Lingdale	6.00pm	M Robb	C Morrison Comm. AGM	C Price	C Morrison Communion	C Morrison

Material for the April Magazine to church editors by Sunday 16th March please

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