



# Group News

## Minister

Rev Meg Robb, 10 Farington Drive, Marton (326343)

Rev Catey Morrison, 31 Torcross Way, Redcar (471778)

*\* April \* 2007 \* April \**

Part of the URC Northern Synod – [www.urch-northernsynod.org.uk](http://www.urch-northernsynod.org.uk)

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Dear Friends,

And so we are only days away from the pinnacle of the Christian calendar, the highlight of the Christian year... Easter day! He is risen! He is risen indeed! For at Easter we can praise God our Father for his goodness to us in giving us his Son, Jesus, to show the way for us to get to know him. We can thank Jesus for going through with it all, carrying out his master's plan, for in rising from death to new life we can have new life in Christ too! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

But wait a minute, we are not there yet! In our Lenten reflections Jesus hasn't yet ridden humbly and joyously into Jerusalem on the back of a borrowed donkey, with Palm branches waving and with garments of clothing strewn on the road. And he has not yet turned over the tables in the temple or been anointed with perfume, with the sweet smell foretelling his death! Nor has he finished teaching us about God, and about how we should live our lives as his followers. Nor has he finally, wearily, reluctantly, in sorrow, and yet in celebration, gathered with his disciples in an upper room to share a love feast, to eat the Passover lamb as one final meal with his friends. Nor has he yet, once the Passover feast was drawing to a close, taken bread and given it a whole new meaning, taken wine and turned into the most expensive drink of all! Nor have we heard his final plea to His Father in the garden of Gethsemane, to alter the events that were ahead of him, to find an easier path for him to tread rather than the streets of Jerusalem with a heavy cross on his back. Nor have we heard the silence that followed the questions that were fired at him after his arrest, as he stood before Caiaphas and then Pontius Pilot. Nor have we heard the silence of his friends, the disciples, as they stripped and they whipped him, until the skin of his back was shredded...

Nor have we felt the bleakness, the helplessness that enveloped his disciples, as they could only watch the slow march up the hill, watching him stumble and trip, watching him in agony as nails tore through flesh and bone and he was hauled up to die...

We thank God that we do know that Easter is coming, or how else would we get through these events of Holy Week? How would we have trusted that something good was going to rise from the despair that coursed through the disciples as they left His body in a borrowed grave...?

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Let us praise God! Hallelujah! Let us praise him for the new life we have in him, but never forgetting the price he paid for us at Easter!

With Easter blessings!

Catey.

## Visit of Assembly Moderator – 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Rev Elizabeth Caswell, this year's Assembly Moderator is to visit our Mission Partnership in March. She will discover about Tees valley Ministry, the work of our Industrial Chaplains, visit the Labyrinth at our Billingham Church, join Redcar folk for morning worship on the Thursday and discover what happens at the 'Pop-In' and sample Market Day Prayer at Guisborough followed by lunch at the Methodist Church where she can see some of the work that the Bridge Project is engaged in.

Elizabeth has asked for an opportunity to lead worship. Since this is a midweek visit, we will be holding a

### *Mission Partnership Service*

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm**

**Linthorpe URC, Middlesbrough**

If you need transport, please ask. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Elizabeth.

## Synod Pastoral Committee – February 2007

### Deployment – a Lenten Discipline

We all know we would be healthier if we cut down our food intake, especially the very things we find hardest to give up. But we don't! So how useful Lent can be to give us the discipline and motivation 'to give it up for Lent'. If any of you have tried substantially doing without the richer foods and drink, you will know how much your spiritual life is also improved.

I am not comparing our ministers to the luxury of a fine claret or box of Belgian chocolates, but we all know we need to make cut backs in the numbers of stipendiary ministers, and like the claret and chocs, we resist giving them up too. We are so used to having our own minister, even one minister per church. We certainly can't see that we may even be healthier for it! Now I am not putting myself out of a job – we need stipendiary ministers, and we need them strategically placed to help in the Mission of the Church, using their theological and pastoral training, and exercising enabling, teaching and leadership gifts. But, certainly, in the past we have "left it the minister" – so much that it would be better for members to do. Throughout the developing world Christians are strengthening their spiritual muscles by getting on with the task of building God's Kingdom – with stipendiary ministers few and far between. So any cutbacks of ministers in Synod will have to go hand in hand with equipping

the saints – training us all to have greater confidence in Faith and in our God-given abilities to share in the ministries of the Church. These are going to be exciting times in our Church history.

We are presently revisiting the Principles of Deployment for Mission that we agreed a year or so ago. Principles are good on paper – but how can we put them into practice? A Deployment for Mission Policy is never going to work as long as we have more ministers than our quota allows. We will always simply be reacting to the next minister's move or retirement. We have 3 stipendiary ministers more than quota and a lot more than we are actually paying for! If we can reduce the number by 4 then we can start being positive and pro-active, able to place ministers where they can be most effective for Mission. Here's where Mission Partnerships come into their own. We set them up to aid and resource Mission. The Elders of a Mission Partnership know their communities and churches. They know how the ministers, lay preachers and elders work together, what gifts and experience is needed in the team and what Ministry is needed for their situation. Collaborative teamwork is going to be crucial within Mission Partnerships, and with growing openness to try new ways of working together and new ways of being Church. This will require a new depth of trust of each other and a new willingness to support one another.

## **Independent Complaints Procedure**

This originated from discussions in Hexham Churches Together. Question - What happens if a complaint is made about one of our churches? Should there be an independent “arbiter” for the person to seek help? And if that is a good idea – who could it be? NECCT perhaps? Can you please feed any thoughts you have about this to Andrew Atkinson as part of our process of ensuring all legal requirements are covered.

## **Setting up procedure for better identification of nominees for National posts**

How best do we recognise the gifts and experience of people to suggest names for Nomination to national Committees? And how well do we know whether people have the time and would be willing to be considered. At present to relies on pastoral Committee Secretary suggesting a name and Nominations Sec. following it up. In future we shall circulate all vacancies to mission partnerships and ask you for names of people who would be interested.

## **Have you had a visit yet?**

Mrs Carol Dixon has done a mammoth task of filing and correlating all the Quinquennial Visits and workbook exercises of all our churches in Synod. This is not absolutely definitive as it excludes reviews of Ministry, preparation for Ministry in a vacancy or special Pastoral Committee visits but has highlighted those churches who are due, or in some cases overdue a Pastoral visit. For some churches there is no record they have ever had a visit!! It is hoped that in 2008 we can roll out the new system of Appraisal for ministers and churches. Meanwhile, Synod needs to continue its pastoral responsibility.

It is 5 years since six churches were chosen to “trial” the new workbooks and we are hoping to return to these to see how Mission has developed in that time. Janet Turner will be looking for folk to do the accompanying as the workbooks are revisited.

## **Prayer Concerns**

- Revd Joe Hislop died peacefully at home in St. Albans, where he and Joan had recently moved to be near family. Before retirement, Joe’s last ministry was at Alnwick, and they then lived at Gunnerton and more recently Hexham, though Joe had not been in good health for some time. We send our love and

prayers to Joan and the family.

- Revd Bob West who retired with his wife Val to Bellingham died recently. The funeral service gave an opportunity for North Tyne Minister, Janet Flawn to give thanks for Bob’s friendship and support, and the service also included a tribute from Southern Synod Moderator, Nigel Uden who had been a student at Bob’s church in Manchester – the address was a wonderful tribute to Bob, and encouragement to us all. Our love and prayers also to his wife Val and family.
- Liz Blair following a fall, Pamela Ward following an operation, and Janet Turner returning to work with a busy schedule.
- Widdrington Church as it seeks the will of God for its future ministry, helped by Ron Forster, acting as Interim Minister.
- 9 Churches is the new name of the Castle Morpeth mission partnership now it embraces Hexham and Haltwhistle. The Mission partnership is aware of our Deployment Challenge, but hopes that reductions in Stipendiary Ministry will be done with Mission as its focus, and recognising the pastoral need of our ministers. It has prepared a list of principles for discussion in our churches to enable the challenge to be tackled.
- Those churches preparing for ministerial retirement – Roker and East Boldon – Norma Leveridge; Monkseaton – Gordon Connagher; Northallerton – John Parker; and Waddington Street, Durham and Crook – Ruth Crofton.
- The North Northumberland Mission Partnership – Soon to lose a second minister in a year with Jason Askew’s move south –and the challenge of reduced deployment.
- Churches seeking ministry - RSM; Kenton and West End, and Gosforth seeking a CRCW
- Barry Hutchinson – as Barry extends his ministry to be “Synod Spiritual Director, who is on Holy Island”. This cements further his relationship with the whole of Synod. It is hoped this will help him better promote the work of St. Cuthbert’s and also train and develop us in Spirituality. Obviously any Elders/Church/Synod work will have to avoid the Summer months when he is most busy on the island.
- Our new Moderator, Rowena Francis as she prepares for our first Synod together.

*Jan Harper*

# For our prayers

- 1 Horsley and Newcastle West Denton United Reformed Churches
- 2 Morpeth and Great Bavington United Reformed Churches
- 3 Ponteland United Reformed Church
- 4 *Church on the Green*, Stamfordham Local Ecumenical Partnership
- 5 St John's United Reformed Church, Wideopen
- 6 For all we know passing through their Good Friday lows
- 7 *9 Churches* (SW Northumberland) lay preachers –  
Mrs C Dixon, Mrs G Freeman, Mrs MR Tate, Mr R Tipping
- 8 Christ the Lord is risen today, alleluia!
- 9 People who lead prayers in Sunday worship
- 10 Readers Sunday by Sunday
- 11 Hospital chaplains
- 12 Organists and musicians who bring so much to our regular worship
- 13 Northumbria Industrial Mission team
- 14 Worship Groups
- 15 A deepening prayer life within our congregations
- 16 Students away from home and our local churches
- 17 The widows and widowers of past ministers
- 18 Rev Tjarda Murray's birthday
- 19 Those living in Retired Ministers Housing in our area
- 20 Leaders of mid-week Bible study groups
- 21 Synod Quiet Day at St Antony's Priory, Durham
- 22 Tees Valley Mission team
- 23 Rev Norma Leveridge's birthday and retirement
- 24 Rev Joan Grindrod-Helmn's birthday.
- 25 Pray for the Ministries and Training Committee. Rev John Durell's birthday
- 26 For those churches engaging in new ways of community outreach and service
- 27 Chaplains in our local prisons
- 28 Military chaplains in our area
- 29 Remember those who regularly lead school assemblies
- 30 *9 Churches* (SW Northumberland) Mission Partnership

*Synod Prayer Cycle for April*

## Manse Prayers

Tuesday, 3 April	Marton
Tuesday, 10 April	Guisborough
Tuesday, 17 April	Marton
Tuesday, 24 April	Guisborough
Tuesday, 1 May	Marton

*Manse Prayers are open to all. They begin at 8.00am and are held at the following venues:*

Marton	10 Farington Drive
Guisborough	31 Oakley Close



**Water Aid Jars of Change**

## Dreams come at a Price

Dreams come at a price, price of Faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and not seen. Trials and tribulations are your journey to success and happiness. It's only now that I realise that God is with me all the time.

Late last year I re-enrolled to repeat my third year at the University of Teesside after I had failed my third year for the same degree course, but I still had hope that I could still achieve, or maybe I had no other choice but to keep trying, but now I know that the devil kept telling me that maybe I should try something else. It was a difficult decision to make because I felt I had been failing my course not because I wasn't good enough, I knew my potential but my financial constraints wouldn't allow me to measure up to what I knew I could achieve. My personal problems demanded much more of my attention than my studies. For the whole duration of my course I had never managed to devote myself fully to my studies, but somehow subconsciously the Lord was on my side to pull me through my first and second year successfully, but not to my fullest potential.

I looked into friends and family but there was no hope, no one could understand the depths of my problems, at times I would even ask myself why I had so much zeal to be an architect when the situation didn't seem to be willing, but my testimony today, I stand to proclaim that the devil is a liar, there was never even at one time that the Lord left my side. I just wasn't ready to realise that there was a calling for me. I was so stubborn that God decided to put me in a corner so dark that the only light I began to see was His glowing grace, amazingly it looked very familiar. I was born and raised in a Christian family and most of my childhood I was in the church, but the church was never in me. I was baptised when I was 15 years old, but I have always known that I did it to please my father. I believed in God but I had my doubts. But as I was growing and learning to understand life on my own, I began to develop a relationship with Christ without the influence of my parents this time, maybe it was because of the hardships that I was experiencing as a young man with big dreams.

I thought I had it all figured out, what I wanted to be in life. I stayed away from trouble and I would pray once in a blue moon because I had been raised to be always thankful for life, but that wasn't good enough for my heavenly Father. The university had decided to give me one last chance to re-study my third year and hopes had been lifted again, my faith was strengthening, and I was ready to devote my life to God because I felt He had shown me another side of Him that I wondered about. At that moment I felt obliged to praise and worship Him for uplifting me despite the fact that I had forsaken Him countless times.

So, everything was getting better and now I was attending church regularly, little did I know there was a surprise waiting for me. Towards Christmas time my course work was overwhelmingly above my usual standard, and I was keeping up with my rent and some of my bills but not my tuition fees. To my surprise my new life experiences began to crumble into pieces. I wasn't earning a regular income anymore because I was now spending most of my time on my studies which had gained momentum. I knew I had to prioritise, and by faith I lived each day with hope that God will balance the equation if I trusted in Him. It was amazing how my new found faith sustained my spirit while on the outside I was weathering away with the problems that kept escalating. For the first time in my life I learnt to smile through my problems, in the midst of a hopeless situation, my hope was at Calvary where my Lord Jesus Christ paid with His life that I maybe set free.

While I kept hoping, my prayers were answered, but to my astonishment, it was nothing close to

what I could have ever imagined. I received a letter from the University threatening to exclude me due to the continuous defaulting of my tuition fee payments. My high spirits were crushed down and I felt betrayed by God, with all the promises and hopes that he had raised for me, but I couldn't give into what seemed to be the end of my journey, my faith wouldn't let me fall while my common sense was wilting me down. I broke down emotionally but my faith kept on pushing, pushing even harder than I was willing. I wrote a letter to the University Fees and Charges Panel requesting to be allowed to at least finish the semester and then pay off my fees during the summer vacation, but I wasn't certain I would be able to raise £2000 within a period of 2 months, but I had to believe. To my amazement, and to God's unconditional grace, the Vice Chancellor decided to waive off a substantial amount of £1500, and then proposed that I pay off the remaining £500 in instalments between February and June.

While I was in awe at how my situation was unfolding to glory the University Chaplain Andrew Howard rang me to introduce me John and Shirley Morse from the United Reformed Church, the most caring, lovely, God fearing souls I could have never imagined had decided they would accommodate me in their lovely home rent free. Isn't Our God an awesome God who reigns from above? See, I told you, THE DEVIL IS A LIAR, God had never left my side at all, but I couldn't have been sure about that when things were falling apart. My testimony today is that My God is your God too, and I proclaim that the Will of the Lord will never take you where the Grace of God cannot keep you, for the battle is not yours but the Lord's.

What ever it is you are going through in your life, God is right there with you, all He wants is you to reach out to Him, only one prayer would build faith that would overwhelm you, and I am a living witness. I have also learnt that God would still expect more from you even if you feel your life is devoted to Him. Are you willing to call on His name even when there's absolutely no hope for your future? There will be a time that God will test your faith, and always remember that the painful experiences we go through are our paths to everlasting happiness.

I take this opportunity to thank God as you read my testimony for allowing me to see myself the way He sees me. And for all the gifts that I have received from the congregations of the United Reformed Churches in Marton, Guisborough, Redcar and St Johns Church in Middlesbrough, words can never express my gratitude, may God bless each and every one of you abundantly. I am looking forward to graduating in November and if God is willing I would like to study a post-graduate course in Architecture in America next year. I hope that my experience and wealth of knowledge will be of great benefit to the African nation someday.

*Themhani. Sidney .Mnguni*

## *Lingdale*

### **Lingdale Calendar**

#### **Weekly**

Wednesday      10.00 – 11.30am  
    Coffee; Bring and Buy

#### **Ancient**

The Lord's Day is called this, because on that day the joy of our Lord's resurrection is celebrated.

Isidore of Seville (7th century)

# Linthorpe

## Coffee After Morning Worship:

Mar 4<sup>th</sup> – Guide Dogs For The Blind  
*£11.50 – John & Peggy Horbury*

Many thanks to those who stay for fellowship after each service and give so generously to these and other worthy causes.

## Scout Report

The Scouts & Explorer Scouts attended the Annual Activity Weekend at the Raven Gill Camp Site in Comondale. A total of 20 (7 scouts and 13 Explorer's) plus 3 leaders attended a rather damp weekend the aim of the weekend is to improve and develop scouting skills and team building. The scouts had to light a fire using no more than 2 matches and then cook sausages and marshmallows. Only natural materials could be used in starting the fire! They also took part in pioneering and orienteering activities.

The Explorer Scouts had various team building challenges to help prepare them for the night hike which they completed on the Saturday evening.

On the Raven Gill site the old training centre due to wear and tear over nearly 40 years service is now been replaced with a new building. All the work is being done by Cleveland Scout volunteers to help keep the cost down. The foundations and walls and roof were all in place by early 2007 with work on the inside now been able to be done even if the weather is not to good.

On the Saturday afternoon of our weekend we all did a couple of hours work in the Training Centre the work included sorting out the indoor cladding and preparing the floor panels to be fitted in the main hall and side rooms.

## Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	R Harris	A Piercy
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	A Piercy	S Mapplebeck G Kettlewell
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	J Harper	J Haverson
Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	H Kettlewell	G Kettlewell
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup>	M Gilmour	M Tilley

## Flowers

Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jan Harper <i>in memory of Stan Burnicle</i>
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Rutherford.
Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Florence Rix.
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Callaway.

## Scripture Readers

Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	R. Harris.
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	TBA (Easter Day Communion)
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	J. Harper
Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	M. Warren.
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup>	TBA

Please note there will be no Parade service in April.

Brownies, Beavers and Cub Scouts took part in Archery after the 11th March Church Parade.

The Cleveland Scout County are holding a song review of the past Scout Gang Shows at the Middlesbrough Theatre during Easter week. This years St Georges Day Parade will be held as a County event on the 22nd of April at Preston Park Stockton.

The 21st Middlesbrough Scout Group AGM and entertainment will be on Friday 20th April 18.45 for 19.00 start all are welcome.

*Ivor Huskinson (Group Scout Leader)*

# Guisborough

In the run-up to Easter, Churches Together organized a weekly series of inter-church meetings to reflect on different people's journey through faith. I hear good reports of interesting and worthwhile evenings. I always liked the Lent study groups, but alas not enough people wanted to join in for that format to be viable.

Do you like Prince Charles? You should. His Prince's Trust, or at any rate half a dozen of them have rescued one of the main flower beds in front of the church. Clearing out the undergrowth, and planting a line of colourful polyanthus, plus some shrubs, which will in time grow and fill the spaces in-between. D has added a few more plants. Now like any good parent we must be patient while they grow up. Unlike my garden, the soil is deep and rich and plants grow almost too quickly (and too large). So like other parents some effort will be needed to keep things under control and develop an attractive entrance to our small community.

Someone else I must mention is Sandra Verrill, Queen of the Jumble Sale and much else beside. Every year she raises a lot of money for the church; this last year over £700! A very big Thank You from all of us. Sandra in turn asks me to mention John and Joan Bulmer and thank them for all the help they have given her.

No Church can allow a year to pass without celebrating Easter, Christmas and the AGM. Ours was just last week. The Book of Reports was thicker than usual reflecting a year of hard work and solid achievement by a lot of people. Our Finances have gone from near terminal to hopefully viable and there is a feeling of optimism about. Joyce and Donna were re-elected as Elders and Madge Baird was elected for the first time. Otherwise it was the old gang much as before. Madge has only been with us for 18 months. She moved here from Scotland via Blythe to be near her friends Ken and

Dorothy Harris. She's an organist, but don't tell anyone. If it gets about, come Sunday morning she'll always be somewhere else!

You may have noticed the Church has been without central heating for the last three weeks and will probably be so another month. So we have had to learn to do everything in the Hall. It hasn't actually caused any problems and it really is very cozy in there. There is an (expensive) problem with the gas heaters which seems to recur every ten years or so. And just as we were in danger of thinking things were in quite good order!

Over in the upstairs flat we have a new tenant – good! It's not just the money (which we certainly need) it helps to keep the place warm and dry. The downstairs space is going to be completely refurbished to make it suitable for offices for the Guisborough Bridge project. Synod has agreed to pay up to £8000 towards the cost and the Bridge (which is a Churches Together project) will pay some rent. So in addition to being a valuable resource for the community the building will perhaps start making money for once rather than just costing it.

As I write it is Mothering Sunday. During the service all the ladies were given a daffodil. And then Ken gave all of the men one. D said it was the first time he has been given flowers by another man!

If you get this before Easter our usual Agape meal will be on Maundy Thursday evening. Everyone is welcome. It is a simple service and meal to prepare for Good Friday.

*Maureen Houston*

## Guisborough Rotas

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	R Tunncliffe	M Burrows	J Basham	F Thompson
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	M Baird	M Robson	D Beattie	M Robson
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	D Moore		J Bulmer	B Ward
Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	J Reynolds		M Burrows	S Verrill
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup>	G Jordan		B Ward	D Harris

## **Guisborough Bridge Association**

*In February an article was published in Group News about the youth work being done in Guisborough by the Bridge Association. The young peoples' project is only part of the work that the Association does, and in an update letter by Cathy Crabb, Project Development Worker, tells us about the current situation.*

*Ray Tunnicliffe Guisborough URC.*

After a whirl wind of activity over the past few months, I have been asked to give a 'brief' (very funny, I know), regular, monthly update of the happenings of The Bridge Project.

For those who may not know what the Bridge Project is, I will try and be brief. The Guisborough Bridge Association (locally known as The Bridge) is a charity set up by The Churches Together in Guisborough to be the hands and feet of the churches within our community. Our brief is simply to offer 'Life and support in the heart of the Community'. The Bridge logo itself is one of stepping stones, offering links between the church and the community. Some people find it hard to set foot into a church, for many reasons, so this is our opportunity of taking the church to the people in meaningful way, whilst also allowing the community to get involved with the church and exploring it from a distance.

The Christmas Day Meal, 2006, was attended by 78 people including volunteers. Everyone ate a hearty 4 course meal and was entertained by the family of the Rev Catey Morrison of the United Reformed Church and also by Sara Kabell (Guisborough Christian Fellowship) who organised the entertainment for us and indeed sang for us herself. The meal was headed up in the kitchen by Stuart and Mary Burns, our friends from the North Guisborough Community Forum. The event was made even more worthwhile by the comments that were received from those who attended. One 87 year old 'skipped to the shops' because she was so delighted to have been invited. Another, who in

the end was invited elsewhere, wanted to say: 'Thank you very, very much for being there when I thought that I needed you.' Mrs Mullins said: "I am amazed and thankful that, your people will sacrifice their Christmas day, for the likes of me." These messages are for all of our volunteers (almost 200 now) who selflessly work, week in and week out to bring joy into the lives of others. This is what the Bridge is all about, being there for people when they feel alone and rejected. It is not about empire building or self-glorification. It is about being the hands and feet of Jesus within the community; about working together as Christians in Guisborough to bring the good news of Jesus into the hearts of those who feel rejected and misjudged. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus tells us: "Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.'

Sadly, Stuart Burns, who cooked our Christmas meal, died suddenly of a heart attack on 8<sup>th</sup> January. His family are consoled by the fact that his last Christmas on earth was spent doing something he loved, helping others, and that right up to the day last day, he was daily telling everyone what a fantastic time he'd had and how much he had enjoyed it and how much he was looking forward to taking part again this year. Our thoughts and prayers are especially with Mary and her family at this time as they look to filling the big hole in their lives that Stuart left behind.

On the youth outreach front we now have Monday night Bridge at Spotlight, Wednesday Chatroom at Laurence Jackson and Friday night Bridge2Youth at the Guisborough Youth Centre, in addition to the monthly Guiz Kidz, which continues to be blessed with both talented, prayerful leaders and young people eager to actively explore what is on offer. Over 150 young people have been blessed by these activities that are on offer. Some have come along regularly and enabled leaders to get to know them; others have had brief encounters with us. The 'God slots' or 'getting to know you' slots have been a great opportunity to

share little and often about what a difference Jesus can make in our lives. We have seen some tough cookies come along, walk away and return and even remain once they have got used to the boundaries that have been put in place for their safety. The tough environment where they are not allowed to swear, abuse or talk down to people or risk being invited to leave, was hard for some to take, but over the past three months a common ground and a bond of trust has begun to grow between leaders and young people.

A grant of £14520 from Connexions, has enabled us to extend our youth work to offering an adventure weekend away at Peat Rigg and also two multimedia sessions at Middlesbrough study support unit at the Riverside football ground. Here, the young people were taught how to do radio and television broadcasting. Results of this will shortly be available on the Bridge website (which you can now Google as 'Guisborough Bridge') [www.guisborough-bridge.org.uk](http://www.guisborough-bridge.org.uk). This funding is also earmarked for a notice-board, publicity and some IT equipment which will enhance the provision that we offer now.

Although it seems that Jenny Tyrie and I

(Cathy Crabb) are the face of The Bridge, it is really important to remember that we are there mainly as a contact point to deal with requests for help from the community as they arise. Behind us there are now almost 200 volunteers and supporters who are willing to offer some of their valuable time to answering these pleas for help. If you have a few spare hours, once a month, I would love to hear from you. Whether you are good at cake making, soup making, washing pots, making sandwiches, listening, serving, smiling, youth work, driving - there is a place for you. Each and every one of us regardless of age, gender or ability has something which God can use to bless others as he has blessed us. If you want to know more, please do not hesitate to call me on 07890 228851.

*Cathy Crabb  
Bridge Project Development Worker*

'But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.'

*1 Corinthians 12: 24-25*

## Guisborough Calendar

Mon 2-Apr – Thu 5-Apr	Holy Week Services at noon in Guisborough URC - led by Rev Catey Morrison.
Thu 5-Apr	Maundy Thursday Agape Meal in Guisborough URC. Members from other Churches are invited
Fri 6-Apr 10.00am	Procession of Witness from the Salvation Citadel.
Sat 7-Apr 8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – at the Salvation Army.
Sat 14-Apr 10-12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Sun 15-Apr 10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.
Thu 19-Apr 7.00pm	Elders Meeting

### Weekly

Tuesdays	12noon	Bible Study
Thursdays	9.30am – 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and some of us

# *St Andrew's*

## **Easter Breakfast**

Will anyone interested in attending the Easter Breakfast on Sun. 8th April at 8.30am. please add their name to the list attached to the church notice board.

## **Ladies Fellowship**

We had a great talk from the Rev Colin Worwick on the Teesside Mission to Seafarers at our last meeting. We enjoyed it so much we are going to organise a visit to the mission in the near future. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th April at 7.30pm when the Rev Meg Robb will be speaking to us.

## **Christian Aid**

A Christian Aid Event to be held on **Sunday, 29 April** in the afternoon followed by an evening service at Nunthorpe Methodist Church. This will be instead of our usual evening communion service. Please look out for more details nearer the time.

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

Many thanks to all those who helped, participated and enjoyed the Annual Service held here at St Andrews on 2nd March.

## **St Andrew's Calendar**

Fri 6-Apr 7.30pm First Friday Prayers at Nunthorpe Methodist  
Fri 4-May 7.30pm First Friday Prayers at St Mary's C of E

### **Weekly**

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

# *Redcar*

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 3rd April**

**At 7.00pm**

Please try to attend this very important meeting.

## **Good Friday Service**

With Zetland Park Methodist Church

6th April 2007

10.00am at Redcar URC

Led by Rev C Morrison

## **Fund Raising**

The March Coffee Morning raised £166 for church funds.

Thank you to everyone who helped.

# Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th April 2007

10am to 12noon

Cake Stall ~ Bric a Brac

Tickets 50p

*Everyone Welcome*

## Thank You

£432 was raised fro Church Funds from the **Middleton Festival Choir** concert on 24th February. Many thanks to Rita and her team for organising everything.

### Modern

There is no Easter without a Good Friday

Matthew Fox North American Theologian (Late 20th century)

## Redcar Calendar

Wed 3-Apr 7.00pm Annual General Meeting  
 Thu 26-Apr 7.00pm Elder's Meeting  
 Sat 28-Apr 10-12noon Coffee Morning

### Weekly

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

## *Preachers*

	1-Apr	Easter	15-Apr	22-Apr	29-Apr
<b>Marton</b>	9.30am M Robb	M Robb Communion	MartonWT	J Harper	M Robb
	6.30pm				Christian Aid Nunthorpe Meth
<b>Lintho</b>	11.00am C Price	M Robb Communion	J Lamplugh	M Robb	M Robb
<b>Guisbo</b>	9.30am D Harris Communion	K Harris Communion	M Robb	C Morrison	C Morrison
<b>Redcar</b>	11.00am C Morrison	K Harris Communion	M Robb	K Harris	C Morrison
<b>Lingdale</b>	6.00pm C Morrison	C Morrison Communion	M Robb	C Morrison	K Harris

Material for the May Magazine to church editors by Sunday 15th April please

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