



# Group News

## Minister

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

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

*\* April \* 2008 \* April \**

[www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk)

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

Dear Friends,

I have some news! It's good news really except the good part hasn't really happened yet. And in order to get to the good part I've got to experience some upheaval for a while!! Yes, the Marton manse is soon to have a new kitchen and bathroom and I'm looking forward to the completion – but I'm not relishing the time of transformation.

And all of this reminds of the Church and of how we so often shy away from change – even though we want to see transformation. By the time you read this we will have celebrated the joy of Easter. But Good Friday had to come first. There could be no resurrection without the events of that Friday. And from his agonising in prayer in Gethsemane, we know that Jesus struggled to enter into that which would transform this world. My own discomfort whilst waiting for a new kitchen and bathroom pales into insignificance in comparison to what Jesus endured in order to arrive at resurrection.

And we, none of us, need to endure as he did, but, if we want to see change in the kingdom of God, if we want to see the kingdom growing, we will need to change and come out of our comfort zones. There is always the hope that new life will come and that the Church will once more flourish in our land.

Some of our churches are beginning to engage more with the communities in which they are set whilst others are looking at how to do so. And all of that takes time and effort and commitment on our part. It may even take us out of our comfort zones. But think of the transformation that could result. The manse kitchen and bathroom will, no doubt, be well worth the effort. But of greater worth will be our working to bring about the change that we so need to see in order for the kingdom of God to grow.

Once the kitchen and bathroom are finished I hope to hold an open day so that you can come and see. I also hope that we will all see the fruits of our labour as congregations engaged in mission within our communities.

Blessings,

Meg

## Manse Prayers

Tuesday, 1 April	Prayers for St. Andrew's URC
Tuesday, 8 April	Prayers for Guisborough URC
Tuesday, 15 April	Prayers for Linthorpe URC
Tuesday, 22 April	Prayers for Redcar URC
Tuesday, 29 April	Prayers for Lingdale URC

Manse Prayers are open to all. They begin at **8.45am** and will be held at **31 Oakley Close, Guisborough**, throughout April as Ken continues to recover from a hip replacement. Please remember Ken in your prayers.

## East Cleveland Group

### *Day at Lindisfarne*

**Saturday, 13 September**

This is a day for anyone from within the East Cleveland Group.

Watch out for lists which will go up in our churches just after Easter so that you can sign up and book your place.

## Warm And Welcoming Churches?

We like our churches to be warm and welcoming places, don't we?

But that costs. To be welcoming there need to be friendly people on the door; people who give their time in this way to ensure that regular worshippers feel at home and that new people are greeted warmly and shown the ropes. And to be warm in these cold, wintry days, means that we need to ensure that the heating is turned on in good time. Warm churches are like warm hearts; they are welcoming.

But how warm are our hearts where our pockets are concerned? Are we keen to dig deeper into our pockets to pay, not only for heating, but also for the upkeep of the church buildings and for ministry?

Many churches are struggling to balance the accounts and that is the responsibility of all of us. It is not honouring to God to have an expenditure column that is greater than the column for our income.

If you want your church to be warm and welcoming it may mean you digging deeper into your pocket. Perhaps at this time, just after Easter, when we have considered the depth of God's love for us in Jesus, it is appropriate to consider before God our own giving to him in financial terms. We all want our churches to continue to be warm and welcoming.

## Abseil for Zoe's Place

On 15<sup>th</sup> June Catey will be abseiling off the Transporter Bridge in order to raise money for Zoe's Place.

She will be heading round with a sponsorship form so be ready to support her!

Thank you.

## East Cleveland Group Website

There is now an all new East Cleveland Group website which you can browse to at [www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk) The website features pages on each church along with up to date events happening across the Group, as well as present and past copies of Group News. Links to other parts of the URC and the wider church will soon be available. Antony Coulthard and John Morrison would be pleased to receive any comments and ideas for the website (email them to [morrisonfamily@talktalk.net](mailto:morrisonfamily@talktalk.net)), as well as photographs of recent church events, post event write-ups and other articles to go on the website. The website is designed to be of use to us in the Group, as another way of keeping everyone in the Group informed, but primarily this site is a mission tool, in other words a way for people to get to know about who we are and what we do, and for new people coming into the area to access our information.

## Prom Praise Northeast

Prom Praise Northeast will be taking place on Saturday November 8th at 3pm and 7.30pm at The Sage, Gateshead, featuring the All Souls Orchestra & Prom Praise North East Choir. The evening is to be conducted by Noël Tredinnick with guest soloist Joanne Lunn (soprano) and hosted by Rico Tice.

Prom Praise is a delightful mix of sacred and concert music; blending hymns and worship music with an orchestral backing, alongside selections of secular music. It combines the spirit of “*Songs of Praise*” with the world-famous “*Last Night of the Proms*”. Prom Praise is described as a feast of orchestral, solo and choral items. There is an element of celebration too when Noël and the Orchestra invite the audience to stand and join in to sing some favourite hymns and worship songs.

Proceeds from the performances will be given to the North East Charity Tiny Lives, and The Langham Arts School project Prom Praise for Schools (PP4S). If we would like to take our place at the 3pm performance of Prom Praise we need to pre-order tickets now. Numbers from each church need to be with Catey or Meg by Sunday April 13th in order for us to attempt to book tickets. Tickets will cost in the range of £7 to £15.

## Cycling for Christian Aid Sponsorship Needed!

John Morrison has decided to take part in Christian Aid’s London to Paris cycle ride in July this year – roughly 300 miles in four days, ending by cycling into Paris up the Avenue des Champs Élysées. Apparently all 60 riders taking part are allowed to take the ferry across the channel which I think is taking the challenge out of it slightly! Anyway, since the main aim of all this craziness is to raise money - the bottom line is that John needs to raise at least £600 by mid-May to qualify and then as much money as possible on top of that, with a minimum overall amount to be raised of £1,100! In order to begin raising the money John will be hosting a coffee morning at Redcar church on Saturday 19th April from 10 am until 12 noon, along with a tombola, Bring and Buy stall, and a raffle. Donations of cakes, bric a brac and prizes would be gratefully received! On June 14th there will also be a lunch time BBQ at Redcar church to raise money. If you would like to sponsor John then sponsor forms will be available shortly or you can apparently also give on-line at [www.justgiving.com/jmorrisonbikeride](http://www.justgiving.com/jmorrisonbikeride) where you can also gift aid your sponsorship.

## Explorations

Queen’s Park URC, Stockton

Wednesdays 7.30pm – 9.00pm

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>; June 4<sup>th</sup>, & 11<sup>th</sup>

Fundamental theological questions opened up with Rev 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.

Look out for more information.

## Next General Secretary

The new URC General Secretary is to be the Rev Roberta Romminger, well known to many within our Synod as a former minister at Wideopen and Kingston Park.

Currently Moderator of Thames North Synod, Roberta grew up in California and served as a minister of the United Church of Christ before moving to this country in 1985.

Following the announcement of her appointment, Roberta said “I am passionate about the vision of a Church that is enthusiastically engaged with the world. I believe God speaks and acts in the world today. The Church’s life should reflect this God, who is committed to hope, justice and human flourishing. Among the members of the United Reformed Church, are many creative, inspiring and intellectually and spiritually alive people. It is a privilege to be called to lead them”.

She will take up the post in July, and be inducted at General Assembly which will meet at Edinburgh.

# *Synod Prayers*

The Synod Prayers this year focus on a different Mission Partnership each month, with weekly prayers for churches within that Partnership.

During April prayers are for the **Nine Churches Mission Partnership** from Northumberland.

## **Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> April**

St Aidan's, Hexham; Haltwhistle; St George's, Morpeth; Great Bavington

## **Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Horsley LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership); John Knox, West Denton

## **Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April**

Ponteland; Stamfordham LEP; St John's, Wideopen

## **Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Ministers: Ron Forster, John Paul, Philip Gray

Ecumenical church leaders: Martin Wharton, (Anglican Bishop of Newcastle)

# *From the wider church*

## **Sixty Year's On**

The World Council of Churches' 60th birthday was recently celebrated with prayer and praise in the Cathedral of St Pierre in the centre of Geneva, and described by URC minister Donald Norwood, currently Research Consultant at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey.

"It is here that John Calvin and other 16th century Reformers preached but it is wrong to describe this as a 'Protestant' cathedral. Christians had prayed there for a thousand years before and this 'space', like all of Europe's great cathedrals, belongs to us all.

The 150 members of the Central Committee, coming from every continent, Observers from the Roman Catholic Church, Consultants and Advisors from the Evangelical Alliance and Mission Agencies and other Bodies truly represented the 'one holy, catholic/universal, and apostolic Church' professed in the Ecumenical Creed of 381.

Sixty years after the First WCC Assembly at Amsterdam 1948, we have much to celebrate and a cheerful choir from Madagascar compensated for European stiffness on a cold Sunday near the Alps."

## **Science and Religion**

'Science gives us knowledge, and religion gives us meaning,' says Revd Dr Michael Heller. The Polish priest, cosmologist and long-time acquaintance of the late John Paul II will receive this year's Templeton Prize from the Duke of Edinburgh in May for his life work that has 'pushed at the metaphysical horizons of science'.

Heller, who is also philosophy professor at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, rejects the idea that design and chance exclude each other, as proposed by the Intelligent Design movement. 'Within the all-comprising Mind of God, what we call chance and random events is well composed into the symphony of creation,' concludes Heller, whose writings include 'The New Physics and a New Theology', an exploration of the interaction of science and faith.

## Synod

February 23<sup>rd</sup> saw the first of the twice-yearly meetings of Synod, at Kingston Park URC....no far from the Falcon's rugby ground for all you aficionados out there! Having been a part of the wider church for a few years now, I find it a great opportunity to meet old friends again, and put names to voices I hear over the phone.

Some Synods are more interesting than others, and this was a good one. There was news of various members of the Synod, among them rev., Kevin Watson who has moved to be Moderator of the Yorkshire Synod. Rev. Watson was the Convenor of the Pastoral Committee and the Designated Group, and we shall miss his humour and his wisdom.

There were 2 presentations from Mission Partnerships about how they saw themselves, and Colin, Catey and Meg, did a superb job with ours.....using humour and a Powerpoint presentation.

We also heard from the '1Church 100 Uses' group with some very interesting plans for ways in which churches could develop. There is a booklet and a CD which churches will be able to look at and discuss in the near future. The Synod has made a commitment to continue working with this group.

The good news on the Mozambique front was that the necessary vehicle has been purchased and is working well.....however money will still be needed to help with the upkeep. A youth exchange is in the process of being planned.

In the afternoon we did some work on 'Reclaiming The Eldership', - or which we broke into small groups!! This was a very interesting exercise and whilst it made me realize that eldership is a far more important and spiritual ministry than I think we currently see it....it was somewhat comforting to see that most other people also felt that they hadn't got the idea quite right either. We are a work in progress, as they say!

An important resolution is being sent to Assembly concerning the plight of our British farmers and Synod hopes to encourage everyone to support Fairtrade for them, and to buy locally produced goods wherever possible. The idea is to stop supermarkets using their buying power to give a poor deal to British farmers.

Finally we were introduced to 'Godly Play' by Hannah Middleton the Children's Officer, before the Moderator led us in closing worship.

I found the whole day interesting and informative....and I might even be looking forward to the next one in October! Well....almost.....

*Jan Harper*

### United Reformed Church Northern Synod

## QUIET DAY

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at St Antony's Priory,  
Claypath, Durham.

10 for 10:30am – 3:30pm

Led by Rev Paul Golightly,  
Methodist Minister & Director of the Priory

## 'OPEN TO GOD'

A day with something for all – for those new to quiet days, as well as regular attendees. The day will be split into time of input from the leader, followed by times of quiet reflection, and there will be opportunity, for those who wish, to meet individually with Paul or another Spiritual Director. A simple lunch of soup, etc. is provided; a donation in the region of £15 for the Priory is requested.

If you wish to come, please contact Ruth Crofton 01388 763093 or [revcrofton@aol.com](mailto:revcrofton@aol.com) as soon as possible.

# Linthorpe

## Scout Report

All sections were involved in collecting for this year's Samaritans Purse Shoe box appeal as part of their Christmas good turn. The Scouts also delivered around 800 Christmas cards (giving details of Christmas services at the three local churches) to local homes.

Many thanks to all those that used the Explorer Scout Christmas post which raised almost £50. This was used to pay for the Senior citizens party, held on the 4th January 2008. 22 people attended this year's party which started with a buffet tea and was followed by nearly 2 hours of entertainment by the seven of the Explorer Scouts. The entertainment included songs from musicals, sketches and Blockbusters Quiz.

Many thanks to all that helped in collecting the Wish Tokens we received a cheque for £83.30

Six Scouts and ten Explorers spent the weekend 15th to 17th February improving their Scouting skills. Cooking, fire lighting and night hike where just a few of the activities covered. The weather was very sunny but did not get above freezing and went down to -10°C.

The Middlesbrough Gang show will take place on 1st to 5th April at the Middlesbrough Theatre. Three cub scouts, one scout and twelve explorer scouts from our group are taking part.

With Easter being so early and schools off at different times at the beginning of April we

will not be holding a parade service in April. Middlesbrough St Georges day parade is on Sunday 27th April starting at Middlesbrough District HQ.

Our 2008 Group open night (AGM included) is on Thursday 1st May.

We will be holding a jumble sale on Saturday 10th May. Anyone with jumble or brick a brace and in need of help getting it to the church contact myself (827114) or Peter Bradley (828707) or it can be dropped off at the church hall Tuesday's 6.30 – 8.30pm or Thursday's 6.00 – 7.30pm at section meetings.

*Ivor Huskinson (Group Scout Leader)*

## Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
6 <sup>th</sup> April	H Kettlewell	A Piercy
13 <sup>th</sup> April	J Haverson	S Mapplebeck & C Tovey
20 <sup>th</sup> April	J Harper	G Dodds
27 <sup>th</sup> April	A Piercy	M Tilley

## Tea/Coffee After Worship

6 <sup>th</sup> April	P & J Horbury	Guide Dogs For The Blind
13 <sup>th</sup> April	J Nunn	MENCAP
20 <sup>th</sup> April	D & S Knox	Children With Liver Disease Foundation
27 <sup>th</sup> April	H Kettlewell	Macmillan Nurses

## Scripture Readers

6 <sup>th</sup> April	F Rowe
13 <sup>th</sup> April	TBA
20 <sup>th</sup> April	J Harper
27 <sup>th</sup> April	M Warren

## Linthorpe Calendar

Tue 8 Apr 7.30pm Elders' Meeting at Mrs. Gilmour's house.  
Thu 10 Apr 7.00pm Mission Partnership Leadership Meeting: Walker Hall;  
Sat 12 Apr 10 – 10.30am Monthly prayer morning in the lounge.

There will be no Parade Service in April due to school holidays.

## Credit Union

Every Tuesday:  
12.30pm – 1.30pm  
& 5.15pm – 6.15pm  
Tea and coffee available.

## Coffee After Morning Worship:

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Macmillan Nurses:  
£11.50 Helen Kettlewell.

Many thanks to those who give so generously  
for this and other worthy causes.

# Guisborough

I am writing this a week before Easter – the Great festival that unites Christians around the whole world and across the centuries. Whatever we may disagree on - sexuality, church organisation, styles of worship; all pale into insignificance in the face of that great fact. We are an Easter people. God through Jesus has forgiven our sins and in the gift of the Holy Spirit a guide through the perilous world we live in. We are part of a long tradition which will support us through the bad times as well as good. And I hope where we will support each other in return.

This week we will remind ourselves of all of this as we progress through the Agape Meal on Thursday, when we join with the other Churches in the Procession of Witness on Good Friday, and finally the joyful celebration of Ester Day itself. We are lucky in this part of the World that Easter coincides with the return of spring. The world is loosing its drab winter colours. The grass is a brighter shade of green and the garden is dotted with the early flowers. Nature is coming back to life. In the church we said goodbye to the old year at the AGM and now we launch into the challenges of the new.

I said *support each other*. We seem to have had rather a lot of casualties needing help this winter. The latest to join the list is Ernest Dale who fell downstairs, broke his hip and is now in James Cook. He's had a lot of problems this year. But fortunately lots of friends who have joined in visiting him and keeping an eye on his house. Hopefully he will soon move to Guisborough General Hospital for a spell of rehab. Meantime his absence has stretched The East Cleveland Group's already slender supply of Organists. We here had to sing unaccompanied last Sunday. But with a strong lead from Donna, I have to say it went very well (ask Meg). However we will be very glad to get him back!

You must have noticed that the need for change keeps coming up; new ways of organising; new ways of worshipping. A few days ago I found a report from 1988 on the same theme. A few quotes

- Change implemented gradually and with the consent of the congregation.
- Congregation (and occasionally children) invited to take a larger role in worship
- Elders to help the Minister in worship and lead it sometimes.
- Piano to replace organ for modern hymns, songs and choruses.

Most of these things have come to pass; and it's hard to remember that they were thought revolutionary just twenty years ago

Maureen

Date	Vestry	Communion Door	Flowers
6th Apr	M Baird	M Robson	D Beattie J McGregor
13th Apr	D Moore		J Bulmer H Burrows
20th Apr	J Reynolds		M Burrows B Ward
27th Apr	G Jordan		J Basham S Verrill

## Guisborough Calendar

Sat	5 Apr	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – at the Salvation Army, Westgate.
Thu	10 Apr	7.00pm	Mission Partnership – Leadership Team meeting at Linthorpe URC.
Sat	12 Apr	10 – 12 noon	Farmers’ Market – Church Open Day - volunteers welcome.
Tue	15 Apr	7.15pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	19 Apr	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro’ Churches JC’s joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.

### Weekly

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

## *St Andrew’s*

### Ladies Fellowship

At our meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March we had a most interesting talk on the Transporter Bridge.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm when Lesley Bustard will be telling us about “Living with a Deaf Dog”.

### Thank You

Pie and Pea Supper with Quiz and Entertainment - Many thanks to helpers, entertainers, quiz masters (Paul and Shona) and all who helped raise £290.15 for church funds.

### For our Prayers

Following the sudden death of his wife, Margaret, please remember Albert M<sup>c</sup>Garrell and his family in your prayers.

### Junior Church

The Junior Church - Oliver, Natalie, Leanne, Jade and Isobel - spent several weeks designing and making book marks to be sold in aid of Zoe’s Place. As a result £50.00 was collected. We thank everyone for their support.

## St Andrew’s Calendar

Mon	21 Apr	3.00pm	Informal worship at Elmridge
Wed	23 Apr	2.30pm	Informal Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge

### Weekly

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

## from Uganda ...

February 2008 Rosemary writes:

Happy new year, and blessed be the name of our Living God who has given us eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord... We had a wonderful Christmas and new year; at least none of us fell sick and thanked the Lord for it. But then we were stuck at home. The chaos in neighbouring Kenya which followed the disputed elections hurt us so much. All fuel stations were dry and a litre of fuel went as much as œ5 on black market. We could not afford the fare for 3 persons to Kampala, so we had to sit at home and wait for the situation to normalise. It took us a good two weeks to get to Kampala. . . we returned to the city at the end of the second week of January and straightaway I started looking for schools for Natasha and Apophia; they had to undergo a series of interviews at different schools in the city and they were lucky to pass some of them and get admitted, However starting afresh in the new schools proved very expensive on my part. With payment of house rent due I would not have managed if it was not your timely financial input. I managed to negotiate with the head

teachers to allow me to pay in instalments for boarding school. They could not become day scholars as it would not be safe for them to cross the busy streets... How was Xmas at St. Andrews URC? I could just imagine the wonderful praise and worship that characterised that day. I always enjoy worshipping with believers in that church whenever I am at home in Nunthorpe.

The weather in the city does no favours for my chest. Its often humid, windy and dusty, except in the wet season. I have run out of Becotide but I still have a few Evohalers which are about to expire, but can still work some miracles. If you could organise any supply I will be most grateful. (THANK YOU ROGER!)

We are praying fervently for calm to return to Kenya; you know we are a land-locked country so our economy is suffering. Our supply route is cut off if chaos persists in the region. Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Nunthorpe and Marton. God keep and bless abundantly and thank you for making it possible for the kids to access schools in Kampala. We will forever be grateful to God for you.

With much love and best wishes, Rosemary and the kids.

### Hope 08

Pentecost weekend is the time when HOPE 08 will come into its own. Acts of kindness in the name of Jesus will be performed up and down this land. In Marton it is hoped to offer a free car wash in two venues. One will be either at St. Cuthbert's or Marton Methodist Church car park. It is hoped that the other will be on St. Andrew's car-park. The day will be Saturday, 10 May and the Boys Brigade will be offering their services. Hopefully we will have willing volunteers to provide coffee whilst car-owners wait for their clean cars.

The whole idea is to show people that the Church is here to serve in the name of Jesus. Please be prayerful about this. May we show God's love through this act of kindness.

Please look out for more details.

### Margaret M<sup>c</sup>Garrell

(1931-2008)

Margaret was the eldest of five. Born here in Middlesbrough, she grew up in the Grove Hill area. In fact, it was at the Youth Club at Grove Hill Methodist church that she first met Albert. The two clicked and eventually married in June, 1955. Seven years later Andrew came along followed by Ingrid.

Her working life saw her first as a librarian – and she was always an avid reader, keeping her local library in business. Then she was involved with books of a different kind when she became an accountant for the Railway. But once her family came along she became a full time Mum until her children were old enough for her to take on part time work. She loved her jobs as a dinner lady in schools and she was also a waitress at the Country Club for a while.

Margaret had an interest in sport, playing tennis in her younger days and following the football. She often pinched Albert's season ticket for MUFC, the season ticket giving her a seat whilst Albert had to make do in the Stand! But watching football wasn't her only interest in football since she did play for a ladies' team. And, of course, she loved having dogs, enjoying taking them out for walks.

Like many women of her generation she was once a great knitter, keeping her family well clothed. She enjoyed her garden, sowing seeds and delighting in watching them grow and blossom. Gardening was an interest she shared with Albert, but his love for sailing was something she shied away from. But she would always go along to Scaling Dam whenever Albert, Andrew and Ingrid went sailing and she would make the coffee. And during the year that Albert was Commodore for the Sailing Club she supported him; she was always by his side – as long as she didn't have to set foot on a boat!

She enjoyed holidays and her favourite spot was the Isle of Wight; she and the family often visited an aunt of hers there. In her early days she and Albert would often frequent dances at the church hall or down in the town. And Albert's love for music seemed to rub off on her as she enjoyed listening to several kinds of music – although Elvis Presley was her favourite.

Margaret was very sociable. She enjoyed a night out at the Bingo and she enjoyed taking part in concerts entertaining others. Her sense of humour and her love for reading found her often bringing laughter to others with her monologues. She had a real talent and a good sense of timing and her own enjoyment of the stories shone through.

Margaret was jovial; she was never downhearted but always positive. She was well liked and always ready to help those in need. I've heard her described as the lady who was always smiling, an encourager, a sensible lady, comforting to know. And no one knew that more than her own family. For the last ten years she loved being a grandma to Isobel. She doted on her, delighting in pushing her young grand-daughter

in her pram to the park, and as Isobel grew, taking her to pantomimes and such like. She also took her to Sunday School and baby-sitting was never a chore but a real joy.

Margaret was greatly proud to see Isobel fitting into Sunday School so well. She had been a Sunday School teacher herself way back in her Grove Hill Methodist days. Church was always an important part of her life but her faith grew deeper as she grew older. As a serving elder and social secretary at St. Andrew's, she was well known and well loved. Her faith gave her strength.

Her choice of hymns for today show that she knew of god's love – she had heard the story of it long ago and loved to hear it still. And Margaret shared that love, which finds its source in God, with so many people. And now it may seem that that love is lost to us. But she seemed to know that death never conquers love. Her love lives on – in our hearts, in our minds and in our memories of her.

Today is Maundy Thursday, a day which brought much sorrow and sadness and led to Good Friday. At the loss of their friend the disciples of Jesus must have wondered whether light would ever return. And maybe they wondered too whether their love for him had been enough. But light did dawn again with Easter morning. I don't pretend to understand resurrection – but Easter speaks of new life. Jesus was changed with no signs of the agony of his death, save a scar or two for the benefit of disbelieving disciples. I believe that the resurrection is about much more than life after death, although that is the ultimate and Margaret has now reached that ultimate. She is safe in God's love – living on in his love and care.

But resurrection brought a change in the disciples, too. Life once more had meaning and the love of Jesus lived on through his friends. Is that not what Margaret would want for us? The dawn will come when Margaret's love, God's love, can live on through us. In fact I believe it already does.

*Meg Robb*

# Redcar

## Jack's letter

*My special friend Jack  
I love you  
When we walk  
When we talk  
You're so much fun  
You're my pedigree chum*

Beautiful words especially when you realise who they are from.

Valentine's Day, as usual no cards for me, or so I thought, by mid afternoon I had given up. After all I had been married for nearly three months, so romance was a thing of the past. 4pm Paul went to collect Jack for us to take for a walk. As I made my way out of the house something caught my eye on the front door mat, a card, a VALENTINE'S CARD! HURRAY! Somebody loved me. I looked up and there was my valentine, a rather coy Jack wagging his tail at me, how wonderful! Actually Paul had assisted Jack with his little poem, so I owe him an apology, not so unromantic after all.

*Alix*

Proverbs ch17 v17

*A friend loves at all times*

## ***Fellowship Coffee Morning***

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**  
10.00am—12noon

Bric a brac stall.

## Renaissance Choir Concert

The concert given by the Renaissance Choir was huge success. It was wonderful to see the church almost full and to hear the comments as people left.

The concert raised £220 for the Bible Society, a worth cause providing Bibles and help to countries in need.

## *The Middleton Festival*

### *Choir*

### *Coffee morning*

will be held in our hall on

**Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am - 12noon

Tickets £1 for coffee and biscuits or a soft drink.

Cake Stall, Raffle and Tombola.

## **Slovak city plans Europe's 'biggest' statue of Christ**

Pavel Hagyari, the mayor of Presov in eastern Slovakia, has unveiled plans to build Europe's biggest statue of Christ outside his city. We count on private sponsors to be generous in backing this ultimate symbol of our Christian faith.

## Redcar Calendar

### Weekly

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

# *Lingdale*

## **Kids Club**

Calling all 5 – 11 year olds! Do you like crafts, games and stories? If you do come along to the launch of our new kids club at 5pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April! Then join in with the family service at 6pm – show everyone what you have been making!

## **Spring Coffee Morning**

Thank you to everyone who attended or donated items for our spring coffee morning – over £80 was raised for Church funds.

NB – Soup & a Roll is no longer being held. Thanks to those who have supported this event.

## **Flower Rota**

6 <sup>th</sup> April	Mr T Waller
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Mrs J Scott
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Mrs P Green
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Mr A Thompson
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs H Dunstan

## **Lingdale Calendar**

Wed 30 Apr                      7.00pm Elders Meeting

### **Weekly**

Wednesdays 10.00am – 11.30am Coffee

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

# *Preachers*

	<b>6-Apr</b>	<b>13-Apr</b>	<b>20-Apr</b>	<b>27-Apr</b>	<b>4-May</b>
<b>Marton</b>	9.30am C Morrison	M Robb	C Morrison	MartonWT	K Harris
	6.30pm				
<b>Lintho</b>	11.00am J Harper	M Robb	C Morrison	J Harper	M Robb
<b>Guisbo</b>	9.30am M Robb Communion	C Morrison	M Robb	M Robb	C Morrison Communion
<b>Redcar</b>	11.00am M Robb	C Morrison	M Robb	C Morrison	C Morrison Communion
<b>Lingdale</b>	6.00pm K Martin	M Robb Communion	C Morrison	M Robb	M Robb

Material for the May Magazine to church editors by Sunday 13th April please

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