



Group News

Minister

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

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

** February * 2008 * February **

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

Dear friends,

Now Ken Harris has retired, or so he says, from industrial chaplaincy at Corus, myself and a Methodist deacon, Gordon Wallace, have stepped into Ken's shoes. (Notice how it takes two people to fill Ken's role at Corus!) This is my first time taking on the role as chaplain – I have never done anything like this before! This fills me with both trepidation and excitement but I am sure, with God's help, that both Gordon and I will gain much from this role, as well as make a difference to those working at Corus.

So why have I accepted this role as a part-time volunteer chaplain to Corus? Well, after much thought and prayers by both Catey and myself, we felt God was calling me into this role. And God doesn't just call anyone into any role, but ensures that each person has the skills and experience necessary to deal with whatever that role is. In my case, having worked as an engineer in Corus in Rotherham for 14 years, it has helped me to appreciate the heat, noise and dust that makes the steelworks a physically demanding place to work, but also the camaraderie that this generates amongst those who work in these conditions. So, having gained much from my time at the steelworks, I now feel it is time to give something back. I did not hide my Christianity when I worked at Corus, which did lead to some interesting conversations during the long night-shifts, but this always took second place to my role as an engineer. However, the role of a chaplain gives me the chance to make my Christian faith the primary reason to be there. It also puts me into a very privileged position of being able to meet and chat with individuals on the shop floor and people in management, in fact anyone and everyone who works for, and plays their part in steel production at, Corus. From secretaries to bricklayers, and from occupational therapist to train drivers! And because I have worked in the steel industry, I do have some understanding of the unique situation that is a steelworks.

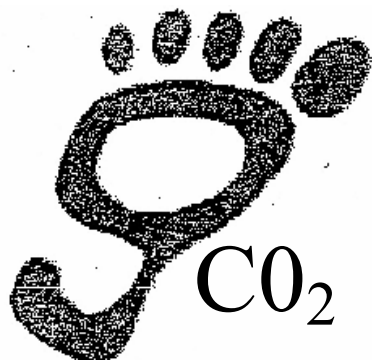
So, I would like to ask for your prayers, not only for myself as I begin this new adventure, but also for Catey, for example, that should I need to go into Corus at short notice, she will have the time to take on the child-caring role. I also hope that my role as chaplain will compliment Meg and Catey in their ministry, and the churches of the East Cleveland Group in your mission, in order that together we might reach out in God's name to people across the Teeside area.

Yours in Christ,

John Morrison

Lent 2008

Many people use Lent to deny themselves in some way in order to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Often it is chocolates that people forego which probably is why we look forward to chocolate Easter Eggs. An alternative suggestion below, will help you to concentrate on God's world and the need to conserve energy, etc. This has come from the Bishop of Liverpool and it is there for you to use as it is or to adapt as you feel able.



Carbon Fast for Lent

Traditionally people have given up things for Lent. I would like to use this Lent to do a different fast and to focus on God's earth and its poorest people in whom, according to Jesus, we are to find him.

In Africa and India I have sat with village elders and asked them if in their life time the weather has changed. "Yes" has come the resounding answer. In Africa harvests are failing and in India super cyclones have brought floods and the drowning of thousands. I've walked in rice fields where children have drowned because they could not run fast enough to escape the floods. The climate's changing for many reasons and not least because of the carbon dioxide we are putting into the atmosphere. It is estimated that the earth can sustain 0.8 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per person, per year, In the UK we emit 9.5 tons of carbon dioxide per person. Compare that with 0.24 in Bangladesh and 0.067 tons in Ethiopia.

This is God's earth. As Christians we should serve and preserve it for the present and the future, because it belongs to Christ "through and for whom all things have come into being".

WILL YOU JOIN ME IN A CARBON FAST FOR LENT? A carbon fast is a reminder of what needs to be done urgently to help the world's poor, already suffering as a result of climate change. It is also a practical step towards reducing our own carbon footprint.

Bishop of Liverpool

You could choose one of these ideas or follow this plan throughout Lent

Week One

Ash Wednesday Remove one light bulb (but without inviting danger).

Thursday Check your house for draughts with a ribbon or feather. If it flutters buy a draught excluder!

Friday Whatever mode of transport you usually use, try to make at least one of your journeys more environmentally friendly

Saturday Make sure you're using all available avenues for recycling.

Week Two

Sunday Find the most environmentally friendly way you can to get to church today.

Monday Turn your central heating thermostat down by one degree. If you have separate thermostats on radiators, adjust these to suit the usage of the room.

Tuesday Check that all electrical equipment is switched off rather than on stand by when not in use. Screen savers do not save electricity

Wednesday As chocolate is still

on the menu this Lent be sure to reward yourself with Fairtrade chocolate,

Thursday Ensure your mobile phone charger is unplugged when not in use.

Friday Plan your menu for next week and buy only enough food so you avoid waste.

Saturday When shopping employ the LOAF principle - Locally produced, Organic, Animal friendly and Fairly traded

Week Three

Sunday "Receive the world God

has given. Go for a walk. Get wet. Dig the earth” (The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams).

Monday Fill a litre plastic bottle with water, replace the lid and place it in your toilet cistern. Water and energy will be saved with every flush.

Tuesday Take a shower instead of a bath

Wednesday Say No to Unwanted plastic Bags (SNUB). Carry a couple with you and refuse the ones you don't really need.

Thursday Make a point of switching off all lights as you leave a room.

Friday Only fill your kettle with as much -water as you need.

Saturday Begin the gardening year by going organic. Weed rather than spray and don't be over tidy. You, your garden and its wildlife will benefit from a more relaxed regime.

Week Four

Sunday Think about the environment Jesus lived in and how this affected his ministry. Reflect on examples of Jesus drawing on his environment for illustrations and inspiration.

Monday Pick up one piece of litter and place it in a bin

Tuesday Re-wear any clothes which aren't dirty and only run your washing machine when you have a full load

Wednesday Find ways to save paper (do you really need to check your e-mails today. if so, don't print them off)

Thursday Pump up your tyres. Low tyre pressures mean high energy/fuel consumption.

Friday Put out some bird feed.

Birds will almost certainly find it, wherever the location

Saturday Utilise local shops or farmers markets if possible rather than driving to the supermarket

Week Five

Sunday Think prayerfully about how we are using up our resources at an unsustainable rate and What this 'means for future generations. Ponder on the fact that the richest 20% consume 80% of the world's resources whilst the remaining 80% have to make do with 20%.

Monday Strike up a conversation with someone you haven't spoken to before.

Tuesday Go meat free for the day.

Wednesday Turn the tap off whilst brushing your teeth. Put the plug in to wash your face

Thursday Lay aside time to explore the environmental challenges we face and their consequences. (eg listen to Radio 4's 'Costing the earth')

Friday See what chemicals you have stored up in your cupboards, dispose appropriately of those which are harmful to the environment and replace them with eco-friendly products

Saturday Use 'grey' water from a water butt to wash your car. If there's none available then use a bucket rather than a hose.

Week Six

Sunday The Earth was made through and for Jesus. Would he be pleased with the way we live in it today? Take time to reflect on this.

Monday Stop unwanted junk mail by phoning the Mailing Preference Service (0845

7034599) or visiting their web site (mpsonline.org.uk)

Tuesday Replenish the bird feed and put up a bird box if possible.

Wednesday When, dusting, avoid using polishes. Just a cloth or duster will often do.

Thursday Put lids on pans when cooking and use the kettle to boil water rather than a pan

Friday Consider joining an environmental organisation like Friends of the Earth, WWF or Greenpeace. Christian organisations include Christian Ecology Link and AROcha.

Saturday Invest in at least one energy saving light bulb. You could also consider investing in some rechargeable batteries.

Week Seven

Sunday Think about the role of church within its environment. Is there anything that could be done to make it more environmentally friendly?

Monday Are you sure you're recycling everything possible? Have another check

Tuesday If You're planning to go on holiday this year, begin to think how you can make it 'greener'.

Wednesday Take time to write to a Councillor, a Minister or the Prime Minister on an issue over which you feel strongly

Maundy Thursday Tell someone about what you did for Lent and why you did it

Good Friday Replace the light bulb you removed on Ash Wednesday with a low energy bulb. **Whilst doing this, take time to make a personal pledge to continue pursuing a more sustainable way of life.**

Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Rev Ken Harris within Industry

On Saturday 19th January about a hundred people gathered at Redcar URC to give thanks for the work of Rev Ken Harris as he retires from his role in Industrial Ministry. Following his retirement from Pastoral ministry and move to live in Guisborough, Ken developed his ministry to local industry and community. His work has included:

- Chaplain in regeneration for the Stockton Area
- Billingham Churches Together Representative on Billingham Regeneration Forum
- Work with an Ecumenical Team in Port Clarence, Community Centre and people of Port Clarence
- Chaplain to Hartlepool Power Station, Teesside Power Station, Corus Steel Unions and Teesside Casting Products
- Co-chairman of the Bridge Association through Churches Together in Guisborough
- Treasurer of Redcar and Cleveland Citizen's Advice Bureau

The value of this work was recognised at the service with representatives of some of the organisations touched by Ken's enthusiasm and dedication participating in the worship. Also present were individuals from the past who had seen this ministry develop from his involvement with the Sheffield Industrial Mission prior to his ordination, continue throughout his training at Northern Baptist College and Manchester University, and then alongside his work in pastoral ministry on Tameside, Selby and finally in Blyth.

The service also included the commissioning of Gordon Wallace, a Deacon in the Methodist Church and John Morrison to continue the work of industrial chaplaincy as part of the ecumenical team that is Tees Valley Mission.

As Ken retires from this aspect of his work, we wish him well and thank him for his faithful service to God's work. For those who know Ken well, there is the knowledge that as he closes this chapter of his life, he will find other doors to open, and continue to inspire us as a servant to our Lord.

Fairtrade Wine Awards

The first ever Fairtrade Wine Awards were awarded recently at the annual Fairtrade Tasting at Vinopolis. Presenting the certificates the Executive Director of the Fairtrade Foundation said. "These awards acknowledge the quality of Fairtrade wines and will hopefully encourage more wine-lovers to try them."

Fairtrade Fortnight this year runs from 25th February to 9th March, and will highlight the Fairtrade message at a time when people are increasingly recognising they can use their shopping power as a way to help tackle global poverty.

Oldish

The first key to wisdom is assiduous and frequent questioning. For by doubting we come in enquiry and by enquiry we arrive at the truth.

Peter Abelard French philosopher and scholar (Twelfth Century)

Taizé Urges Unity

Brother Alois, Prior of the ecumenical Taizé community urged tens of thousands of young Christians from Europe who gathered in Geneva at the New Year to organise "vigils of reconciliation" for unity between churches that are divided from each other. "How can we be credible in speaking of a God of love if we remain separate?"

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.

Preachers' Day 2008

This is advance notice that, following the recent very successful day with Susan Durber, a similar event is being arranged this year for Saturday, 1st November, 2008 under the leadership of the Rev John Proctor, Director of New Testament Studies, Westminster College, Cambridge.

The venue will be St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park LEP.

Feathers and Faith

17th to 19th October on Holy Island

bird watching, bible study, theological reflection and worship

Leaders: David Peel and Adrian Hughes.

Booking forms will be available round about Easter.

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

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).

Synod Prayers For February

The Synod Prayers this year have a different format. Each month focuses on a different Mission Partnership with weekly prayers for churches within that Partnership.

February prayers are for the *Newcastle/East Coast Mission Partnership*

Sunday 3rd February:

Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill LEP; St Mark's, High Howden.

Sunday 10th February:

St Andrew's, Monkseaton; Trinity, Whitley Bay.

Sunday 17th February:

St Cuthbert's, Heaton LEP; St George's, High Heaton; St Columba's, North Shields.

Sunday 24th February:

Ministers/church leaders: Janet Appleby (CofE), Peter Heckels, Liz Blair, Jim Farley, Margaret Johnson.

Ecumenical leaders: Melvin & Susan Fincham (Salvation Army).

Manse Prayers

Tuesday 5th February Marton
Prayers for Linthorpe URC

Tuesday 12th February Redcar
Prayers for Redcar URC

Tuesday 19th February Guisborough
Prayers for Lingdale URC

Tuesday 26th February Marton
Prayers for St Andrew's URC

Tuesday 4th March Redcar
Prayers for Guisborough URC

Manse Prayers are open to all. They begin at 8.45am and are held at the following venues:

Marton 10 Farington Drive

Guisborough 31 Oakley Close

Redcar 31 Torcross Way

More Psalms from East Cleveland

Holy God, we praise you
because, O Lord, you are the greatest.
You hear my prayers and answer them.
Your sea is so sparkling and wonderful
and your creation is our hope for future days.
You help me when I am very low in spirit.
Thank you, Jesus, that you come to show us what
God is like.
Therefore I will submit to your service.

Awesome, mighty God, we welcome you
because you are always there for me; you are for-
ever present.
You wrapped the Cleveland Hills and the North Sea
around us
and with you all things are possible.
You give me peace of mind.
Thank you, Jesus, for your glorious resurrection.
Therefore I will, serve you all my days.

Traidcraft

Did you know that there are 6100 Fair Traders who sell in Churches and Offices and amongst groups of friends all over the country? And all those fairtraders depend on the support of people like you who buy regularly.

With the monthly stalls and the individual orders from the catalogues, the sales at St. Andrew's were **£1153** during 2007. Thank you again for another good year! Together we have contributed to Traidcraft's sales of over £16m and helped to support the producers in 30 countries. Let's keep up the good work in 2008 knowing that we are helping to pay for education, health care, by paying a fair price for what they produce.

I have heard from Jenny Medhurst that the Christmas Shop sales were £37,000. Jenny wants to thank everyone who made this possible, especially as it was, for her, a very difficult year.

Jane Tomlin

Linthorpe

Senior Citizens Party

We are all aware of the media coverage of young people in hanging around in gangs, carrying knives, binge drinking, failing at Maths and English, etc. etc. Well, on Friday evening, 4th January, those of us who are of a certain age, were treated to a rare evening of fun and food. Eight young people willingly gave up their Friday night, not to say a number of other nights for rehearsals, - to entertain us with music, song and dance, and sketches. They were

magnificent and I'm sure I won't be the only one to say a huge thank you and to say how glad I was to be there. The previous Christmas had been my first experience of such an event... (I'm not as old as I look!!!), and this year was an even more enjoyable time. These young people have such talent and seemed as pleased as we were to be there. Thank you, all of you for your time and for the way you chatted with us and made us feel so welcome.

It wouldn't be fair of course not to mention the ladies who provide the food and kept the tea cups filled. I thoroughly enjoyed everything that I ate... and far too much of it naturally!

I'm really looking forward to the next one... and I promise to look out some older jokes for Harry... who was the link man for the evening!

Thank you... all of you... for giving us such a good time.

Jan Harper

Coffee After Morning Worship

2nd Dec – Macmillan Nurses

£14.00 – Helen Kettlewell

16th & 23rd Dec – Children With Liver Disease Foundation

£32.00 – Stuart & Dorothy Knox

6th Jan – Macmillan Nurses

£13.00 – Helen Kettlewell

Many thanks to those who support these causes so generously.

Credit Union

Tuesdays: 12.30 – 1.30pm
5.15 – 6.15pm

Tea, coffee and fellowship provided

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch	Flowers
3 rd Feb	R Harris	M Tilley	J Patrick
10 th Feb	H Kettlewell	S Mapplebeck C Tovey	TBA
17 th Feb	J Harper	H Kettlewell	G Williams
24 th Feb	J Haverson	S & D Knox	TBA

Linthorpe Calendar

Tue 12th Feb 7.30pm Elders' Meeting at Moyra's house, 2b Thornfield Road.

Modern

The Christian should resemble a fruit tree, not a Christmas tree! For the gaudy decorations of a Christmas tree are only tied on, whereas fruit grows on a fruit tree.

John Stott British Theologian (second half of 20th Century)

Redcar

Jack's Diary

Actually it isn't Jack's diary this month, it's mine (remember Jack our lovely rescue dog from S.O.S.?) Well here is the story... Jack freaks out at the colour orange, orange kites, orange bags, orange buckets etc so what did I do? Yes you guessed, I bought a very bright orange waterproof jacket, well the price reduction was SO impressive, so then came the big test, will Jack growl and run for cover when I sport my new coat? No, of course not, we needn't have worried. I donned the jacket and called 'walkies' and received the usual enthusiasm with licks and big paws all over the place. Jack knew it was me behind the tangerine attire.

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1Samuel 16 v7

Commitment for Life

Envelopes will be collected for Commitment for Life during the two middle Sundays in February – the 10th and 17th. Our Commitment for Life partners are the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Christmas Lunch

We must thank Marcia and her helpers for providing a wonderful Christmas lunch which was enjoyed by all who attended, and raised £155 for Church Funds.

There is an eye that never sleeps,
beneath the bowl of night.
There is an ear that never shuts,
when sinks the beams of light.
There is an arm that never tires,
when human strength gives way.
There is a love that never fails,
When earthly loves decay.

Author unknown

Churches Together in Redcar Lent Course – 'Breaking News'

The Churches Together Lent course will run from the week commencing 18th February until Easter week. It has been decided to split into small groups to discuss 'Sharing God's Good News Today'. Various venues have been suggested to make it easier for people to attend. Courses will be held on:

Mondays – 2.30pm

Baptist Church Park Avenue

Wednesdays – 10.00am

Christ Church Coatham

Thursdays – 2.30pm

Newcomen Methodist Church

Thursdays – 7.30pm

Zetland Park Methodist Church

Fridays – 10.00am

Redcar URC; led by Rev Catey

Redcar Calendar

Sun 24 Feb After Worship Fairtrade Coffee and Cakes; Fairtrade Stall

Weekly

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

Guisborough

Now we have passed the shortest day so everything should be getting lighter and brighter. Let's hope it is for you all in your lives. As always in early December our youngsters acted out a very interesting and enjoyable Christmas playlet ably assisted by their teachers and Catey. Every year they find a different way of portraying the wonderful story of the birth of our Lord – thank you.

After that we had to travel north – a long way north – to Caithness where we now have family. The journey up is very beautiful especially North of Inverness. Our children live right on the edge of the (often very wild) sea and within sight of the Castle of Mey where the Queen Mother visited every year. We attended a couple of services at the little church where she worshiped and where Charles has placed a simple memorial to her.

On the Sunday morning, there were plenty of young families and the service was very happy. On Christmas morning the children came back all excited with their presents. During the singing of the hymns the minister showed slides of the events through the year in the five churches in the group. It gave us a good idea of the people and life of the area. Perhaps that's an idea we might develop in the East Cleveland Group. We need something to foster our sense of belonging to each other – all of us, not just the 'high heid yins' as they say up there.

Although it was our first visit we found people were so kind and helpful (we got lost several times and had to ask for help). In some parts of the country the locals regard incomers with re-

serve, but not Caithness. Add to that the bright crisp days and a fringe of hoar frost on the beach right down to the waters edge. We quite took to the place – if only it wasn't so far away.

Remote it may be but we found a URC at Thurso a few miles along the coast. And surprise surprise Malcolm Smith (once minister at Linthorpe) served there for a short time after he retired. On the way south we attended a wedding in a castle near Dundee presided over by yet another URC Minister. (She was very good).

But the holidays are over and it's back to work as usual. The Women's World Day of Prayer will soon be upon us. There are events to celebrate Ken's retirement from industrial ministry and a much deferred congregational lunch.

Maureen

Churches Together in Guisborough

Lent Discussions

Wednesday evenings

starting on the 13th February,

St Nicholas Parish Church

7.30pm - 9.00pm

Theme - The Lord's Prayer

All are welcome.

Guisborough URC Rotas

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
3rd Feb	M Baird	M Houston	D Moore	D Collins
10th Feb	J Basham		R Tunnicliffe	H Senior
17th Feb	B Ward		J Reynolds	M Baird
24th Feb	M Burrows		G Jordan	J Reynolds

Guisborough Calendar

Sat 2 Feb	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – at the Methodist Church.
Fri 8 to Sun 10 Feb		World Peace Services – note local events.
Sat 9 Feb	10am – 12noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Tue 19 Feb	7.15pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 20 Jan	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.
Tue 26 to Thu 28 Feb		Synod Retreat at Shepherd's Dene Retreat House, Riding Mill.

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

St Andrew's

Advance Notice

Saturday 8th March 2008
7.30pm

Pie and Pea Supper

Quiz and Entertainment.

Raffle

Tickets £3.50
available shortly from
Una, Margaret & Joan

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Monday 3rd March 2008 at 7.30pm.

Please could all written reports for the AGM booklet be with me by 10th February, at the latest, to allow time for their preparation, printing and distribution.

Roger

Operation Christmas Child

Seventy shoe boxes were filled and collected by Junior Church. Many thanks to all who filled a shoe box and/or donated money. Also thanks to friends from the Brunton Arms who donated £50.00 to this worthy cause. Lastly, but certainly not least, to Shona who organised us all and to Grant who delivered the shoe boxes to the "pick up point".

Women's World Day of Prayer

St Bernadette's RC Church

Friday 7th March 2008 – 2.00pm.

All welcome.

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert was held on Saturday 1st December. We had singing, musical recitals, readings and some good jokes. It was a lovely way to start our Christmas celebrations. Thank you to everyone for a lovely evening. £125.00 was raised for church funds.

Congratulations to Ben Wheeler

As part of working for his Community Service Award within the Boys' Brigade Ben arranged a concert held in St. Andrews's and managed to raise **£425** for the work of **Zoë's Place**.

As a keen and very competent saxophone player, Ben is a member of the Middlesbrough Jazz and Blues Orchestra. Some of the orchestra came along to entertain us. The programme was varied and all who were there thoroughly enjoyed it.

A representative from Zoë's Place was there to collect the cheque and she was delighted with the whole evening having enjoyed the concert along with receiving the donation. The money will go towards helping the families of sick children to cope with the demands and strains that having sick children can place on family life. A sick child's short or overnight stay in Zoë's Place can give a parents time to catch up with other children in the family or to relax in ways they usually don't have time for.

It is good, isn't it, to hear of young people serving the community when so often teenagers get a bad press. This is good news and we are thankful to the Boys' Brigade officers who work so hard with so many lads.

By the way, it is probably no accident that Zoë's Place is so named. *Zoë* is the Greek word for *life* and in organising this concert Ben has played a part in making life easier for many such families.

'Selfish capitalism' and unrealistic wealth expectations are the reason twice as many Brits as mainland Europeans suffer mental illness, according to Oliver James, author of *The Selfish Capitalist – Origins of Affluenza*. According to James' research, 23% of Britons, Americans, Australians and New Zealanders are likely to face mental health battles, compared to 11.5% of other western Europeans. Mental illness has almost doubled since the 1970s in the English-speaking countries where FTSE 100 chief executives earn 133 times the average wage. Other European countries, however, have a less selfish capitalist approach, James claims. What makes the social inequality toxic is its combination with the belief that 'material affluence is the key to fulfilment and open to anyone willing to work hard enough'. This turns 'miserable people' into 'needy consumers' who can be 'suckered into ... competitive workaholicism'.

Bible Society Newswatch

Ladies Fellowship

At our first meeting of 2008 Jean Lamplugh gave us an update on her TLS Course. We were all very impressed at how well Jean is progressing with this time consuming, academic course. It is obvious that she is enjoying it although a lot of hard work is required but her dedication shines through. Thank you Jean for coming to tell us about it.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm when the Rev Meg Robb will be telling us about a "Holiday in Canada".

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 18 Feb 3.00pm Informal Worship at Elmridge (where Grant Sutherland works)

Wed 20 Feb 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)

Lingdale

Spring Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st March 2008 10am – 12noon

Cakes, Tombola, Book Sale

Tea & Coffee

Donations Welcome

Christmas Birthday

Jean Winter has asked me to pass on her thanks for the card and flowers she received for her 80th birthday on Christmas Eve – Catey presented the bouquet to Jean at the end of the Christingle Service from all at Lingdale URC.

Lingdale Calendar

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

3 rd Feb	Mrs M Curnow
10 th Feb	Mrs H Dunstan
17 th Feb	Mrs P Griffiths
24 th Feb	Miss S Griffiths
2 nd Mar	Mrs J Coulthard

Preachers

	3-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb	2-Mar
Marion	9.30am C Morrison	M Robb Parade	D Harris	M Robb Communion	C Morrison
	6.30pm			M Robb Communion	
Lintho	11.00am J Harper	M Robb Parade	K Harris Communion	M Robb	J Harper
	6.30pm				
Guisbo	9.30am M Robb Communion	C Morrison	M Robb	C Morrison	K Harris Communion
Redcar	11.00am M Robb	K Harris	C Morrison	J Harper	M Robb Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm C Morrison	K Harris Communion	C Price	C Morrison	M Robb

Material for the Magazine to church editors by Sunday 10th February please

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