



www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Group News

Minister

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** February * 2010 * February **

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

Dear Friends,

For our last edition Catey talked about journeying... mainly through the dry, dusty desert. But since then some of us have had to journey through the slippery ice and snow whilst others, quite sensibly, have stayed put waiting for the thaw to occur. And it was a novelty to begin with and a delight to see youngsters really enjoying themselves but even they seemed to grow tired of it after a while for it did last beyond our expectations.

And our expectations of our journey with God during 2010... what are they? Will we happily move along while the snow is fresh and easy under foot and then not take the risks when the ice makes it hard going? It would be wrong to take unnecessary risks as we did when, sadly, we had to cancel services due to bad weather but faith is about taking risks at times... stepping out in faith on what may seem uncertain ground. And, yes, we may fall flat on our faces at times but God is there to pick us up, dust us off and to help us start again.

Let's leave the snow behind and go back to the heat of the desert. Once we'd finally arrived at the top of Mount Sinai, Catey and I sat there admiring the view. We were both worn out as the climb had been hard and we both recognised that nothing of any real worth comes to us easily. It is especially so in our faith journeys.

During Lent which will begin in February we are to journey through towards Easter with an attitude of prayerfulness and waiting. Waiting as well as journeying is important. We had to stop and rest on our journey up to the summit of Mount Sinai. Waiting, resting is as important as the journey. And waiting was what the Israelites did whilst Moses climbed the mountain. And so as we journey and take risks we also need those quiet times of prayerfulness for direction on our journeys. Resting makes us more alert for when we are on the road.

So make the most of your journey with God through this year and remember, too, to make the most of your rest, quiet and prayer.

Blessings,

Meg



Vision4Life

February Word Search

P	R	A	I	S	E	R	T	H	I	N	C
C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	O	N	O	A
U	N	E	M	P	I	R	E	P	T	T	E
L	W	T	R	U	S	T	I	V	E	E	S
I	D	O	C	T	O	R	E	I	R	S	A
G	E	R	M	F	O	R	L	G	C	I	R
E	M	P	I	E	S	N	T	E	E	A	O
N	I	M	L	A	S	P	E	N	S	R	O
T	S	E	E	K	I	N	G	Y	S	P	P
I	T	I	R	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N
L	O	R	D	O	F	A	L	L	O	N	T
E	N	L	I	S	T	E	N	I	N	G	E

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| CAESAR | CONFESSION |
| DOCTOR | INTERCESSION |
| EMPIRE | LISTENING |
| EVERYONE | PETITION |
| GENTILE | PRAISE |
| LORD OF ALL | PSALM |
| POOR | SEEKING |
| WOMEN | TRUST |

These words are to do with either the gospel of Luke or Prayer. See Book Club for February.

Bible Quiz for February

1. What was Matthew doing when Jesus called him?
2. Who advised Timothy, 'Drink a little wine for your stomach's sake'?
3. What sign did Rahab put in her window as a sign she and her family would not be harmed?

Answers to December and January

1. Why was it important that Jesus, the Messiah, should be born in the town of Bethlehem? **The prophet Micah foretold this. Matthew 2:6 & Micah 5:2**
2. There is no mention of a stable in the bible so why is it assumed that Jesus was born in a stable? **Because Mary laid him in a manger. Luke 2:7**
3. Who were terrified by the glory of the Lord? **The shepherds Luke 2:9**
4. Why do we assume that there were three wise men as Matthew does mention a number? **Because there were 3 gifts but there is no mention of how many men there were. Matthew 2:11**
5. Can you give a bible reference for this verse? 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' **Isaiah 9:6**
6. Which gospels do not mention the birth of Jesus? **Mark and John**
7. In which country did the Holy Family find themselves as refugees? **Egypt Matthew 2:13-15**

How can I achieve a 10% reduction in my carbon output in 2010?

Representatives of the joint strategy Unit and Middlesbrough Council have accepted invitations to lead a:

Workshop

Nature's World Conference Centre
Thursday 11th February - 7.30pm
Refreshments from 7.00pm

To help us rise to the challenge.

Bring Your Friends, your Ideas, and your Questions.

Book Club for February

All of our churches have agreed that Book Club should continue. Since it is now *Vision4Life Prayer Year* passages relating to prayer will be used except for during Lent when folk in Guisborough, Lingdale and Redcar will be looking at *Luke*. This is part of The Big Read organised by Durham diocese when people are encouraged to read Bishop Tom Wright's 'Luke for Everyone'. For these three congregations this will be an ecumenical experience as other denominations in these areas have chosen to engage with The Big Read.

For those in our Linthorpe and Marton churches Book Club Sunday in February will look at three psalms which are actually prayers. Please see the page on book Club for further details.

Luke's Gospel - The Big Read for Guisborough, Lingdale and Redcar

Luke was a Gentile who wrote mainly for the Gentile world. By profession he was a doctor but he gave much of his time to writing not only his gospel but also the Book of Acts. Near the very beginning of his gospel he takes his readers to Nazareth and by the end of his account of the Acts of the Apostles he has taken them to Rome. Throughout the story he goes to great lengths to proclaim Jesus as Lord. This he did in a culture when the Roman Empire had a profound affect on the world he knew. He wrote during the period when Caesar alone was to be proclaimed as Lord. Luke wants his readers to know that Jesus was not only the Messiah, the Christ, God's Anointed but that he was also God and Lord of all. Caesar and any other human looking to be treated as a god was only a pretender in Luke's eyes.

Luke's gospel is also a gospel for everyone, for all people. In chapter 4 he has Jesus lay out his manifesto as he began his ministry and throughout the gospel Luke shows how Jesus did care for everyone including the poor, along with women and children and any who were on the margins of society.

Bishop Tom Wright, a New Testament scholar, has produced several books on New Testament books 'Luke for Everyone' being one of them. He writes in a style that is easy to read and accessible to everyone. He uses everyday illustrations as he brings out the meaning of the passages and he works from his own translations of those passages.

Anyone from any of our churches who would like a copy of Tom Wright's book should see Catey. (Price £3.50 which is much less than the usual price).

Psalms 138 - 145 for Linthorpe and St. Andrew's

What do you know about King David? You will, no doubt, have heard that he wrote some of the psalms, psalm 23 being the most well known.

Shepherding in his younger days was a tremendous preparation for his later life. He knew where to find shelter, food and water in the harsh wilderness and how to defend his flock and himself from the threat from wild animals. David was one who knew about the hard side of life having to run from Saul who was out for his blood. As a fugitive he had cried out to God and learned to trust him again as he had as a young shepherd boy and as he had when he slew Goliath.

Psalms 138 – 145 are credited to David and they, along with other psalms attributed to him, give an insight into his relationship with God. His writing shows how David conversed with God, crying out to him for help and protection at times and praising him for his love and mercy at others. He is full of admiration and adoration at the wonders and awesomeness of God's creation.

David's psalms are prayers which often portray David's own sense of weakness and smallness against the magnificence of God and they express need for his dependency on God. They show us that prayer is about relationship and trust taking us away from prayer being about lists of our wants.

If you want to know more about David's life then read from 1 Samuel, chapter 16 through to 1 Kings, chapter 2. You could skim through and read snippets of his life. David was not perfect by any means but his trust and faith in God and his relationship with God was what made him great.

Synod Prayers

Week beginning 7th February

Berwick & Horncliffe; Crookham; Erskine, Belford; St Cuthbert's, North Sunderland; Chatton; Wooler; Rothbury; Thropton

Week beginning 14th February

North Northumberland Ministry Team: Rev David Herbert, Rev Tony Ritchie, Rev Pamela Ward; Kate Baxter; Mairice Taylor; Graham Ferguson

Week beginning 21st February

St Cuthbert's Holy Island Project; Rev Barry Hutchinson

Week beginning 28th February

St James's, Alnwick; Rev Joan Grindrod-Helmn.

Ecumenical: Rev Leo Osborn (Chair of Newcastle Methodist District)

Manse Prayers

Manse Prayers are held every Tuesday at 8.45am and everyone is welcome to attend. Venues are as follows:

Tuesday, 2nd February Redcar
(prayers for Redcar)
Tuesday, 9th February Guisborough
(prayers for Guisborough)
Tuesday, 16th February Marton
(prayers for Marton)
Tuesday, 23rd February Guisborough
(prayers for Lingdale)
Tuesday 2nd March Redcar
(prayers for Linthorpe)

Marton: 10 Farington Drive Redcar: 31 Torcross Way
Guisborough: 31 Oakley Close

Traidcraft

'A Christian response to poverty set up more than 30 years ago- the prayerful and active support of churches and churchgoers is essential to our work'

Thank you to all those who support the Stall each month and order goods on a regular basis. The total sales at St Andrew's in 2009 were £1157 - just under 50% of my total sales which came to £2508. Without the monthly sales here I would not be able to carry on. You, the customers, are very important.

The need has never been greater. So many producers are now dependent on being able to sell their coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa and crafts to the local co-operative and to get a proper price for the goods so that they can improve their quality of life. We must continue with this, more vigorously than ever, in times of recession.

The following message came from Jenny Medhurst who again ran the Christmas Shop (with the help of the Northern Synod which again made an interest free loan)

The shop took £27,000 this year! Thank you for helping to publicise it and to everyone who supported it. This will make such a difference

to our producers. They're not just facing food price rises and climate change but they've been badly affected by the drop in value of the pound. We didn't break any records, but we knew we wouldn't - and what we did was very important and appreciated by a lot of people - including lots of happy customers, who loved the shop and knew what a difference their shopping with us made.

Let us hope and pray that this New Year will bring real change so that we have a fairer, more sustainable world. Very best wishes, Jenny

Thank you all

Jane Tomlin

East Cleveland Group Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
Income - General Fund		
Contributions from Churches: Guisborough	2800	2622
Lingdale	1400	1308
Linthorpe	4200	3933
Redcar	2800	2622
St Andrew's	<u>4200</u>	<u>3933</u>
	15400	14418
Group News Contributions	649	455
Charity fundraising	<u>-</u>	<u>394</u>
	16049	15267
Expenditure - General Fund		
Ministers' Expenses		
Rev Meg Robb including Sabbatical	2163	1917
Rev Catey Morrison	2783	3007
Computer etc	-	487
Fixed Car Allowances	2707	2707
Pulpit Supply fees	2041	1694
Expenses: Rev Ken Harris	457	641
Group News costs	706	455
Manse Costs: Marton	1928	1866
Redcar	2016	2206
Mission Partnership event	49	-
Administration expenses	25	29
Fundraising paid over	-	394
Valuation Fee (Redcar Manse)	<u>57</u>	<u>-</u>
	14932	£ 15403
Surplus for year (deficit 2008)	<u>£ 1117</u>	<u>£ (136)</u>
General Fund at 1 January 2009	2375	2511
General Fund at 31 December 2009	<u>£ 3492</u>	<u>£ 2375</u>

Assets as of 31 December 2009

Lloyds Bank	5697	
Investment with Synod	<u>8677</u>	
		14374
<i>Less</i> Creditors	(2034)	
<i>Add</i> Debtors	131	
		<u>£ 12471</u>

Represented by

Manse Fund ^{See Note}	8979	
General Fund ^{As Above}	3492	
		<u>£ 12471</u>

Note

Manse Fund - There has been no change in the Manse Fund this year so it has been omitted from the income and expenses account for reasons of simplicity.

Full accounts will be available as soon as the Synod has re-valued the funds and credited the interest due.

19th January 2010

Jane Tomlin (Group Treasurer)

St Andrew's

Commissioning Service

for
Jean Lamplugh
as a
Lay Preacher

Saturday 20th February 2010
2.00pm

St Andrews URC ~ All welcome

Flower List

There are still some empty dates on the Flower List for 2010. Will anyone who is interested please take a moment to add their name to the list.

Women's World Day of Prayer

A Service for Women's World Day of Prayer is to be held at Nunthorpe Methodist Church on Friday 5th March, 2010 at 2.00pm. Teas and coffees to be served after the service.

All welcome.

Ladies Fellowship

Due to the severe weather our January meeting of the Ladies Fellowship was cancelled. Hopefully the weather will now be kind to us and our next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 when Peter Howe will give us a talk on his 'Early Years in the Police Force'.

Prayers For Churches Together

Instead of First Friday Prayers the new pattern of prayer is as follows. Each week one of the churches on our Churches Together patch will be the prayer focus. Please use the list below in your own prayers.

Week beginning 7th February
St Cuthbert's Church of England

Week beginning 14th February
Pioneering Ministry in Coulby Newham

Week beginning 21st February
St Mary's, Church of England

Week beginning 28th February
Nunthorpe Methodist Church

Week beginning 7th March
St Bernadette's RC Church

Fund Raising

At the Christmas Concert held on 9th Dec. the raffle raised £48.00 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone who made this a very enjoyable evening.

Lent Course

Once again we'll be following the *York Course*. This year it is entitled - '*When I Survey... Christ's cross and ours*'

The Church Times as published in January, 2010 says of this year's course - 'Refreshingly challenging and well worth considering... it packs a great deal into 24 pages'.

Look out for lists for you to sign up.

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 15 Feb 2.30pm Worship at Elmridge
Wed 17 Feb 2.30pm Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge

Weekly

Wednesday 9.30am Prayers
Sunday After Worship Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)
Boys Brigade Details available from ministers and church elders

Greetings from Uganda

You will be aware that you've received no update on Rosemary, our partner in Uganda, for some months. It had been hoped she would visit us again in 2009 but there have been problems with communications as she has been moved between hospitals - from instructing post-graduates at the Public Health College in Kampala to now teaching Paediatrics in Jinja. As a result no mail has reached her for months: this included the documentation she needs to apply for a visa. Additionally, there was a hold-up over transfer of funds but this has now been resolved and copies of the documents have been entrusted to one of her former teachers (now retired and living in Wales) to deliver by hand during her visit to Uganda this month. We had a lovely surprise when, on 1st January, she telephoned to wish us all a very Happy New Year! She was at home for a short break, with several nieces, and in spite of being involved in a road traffic accident last month, said that thankfully nothing was broken and sounded remarkably bright and cheerful. Please remember Rosemary in your prayers and ask that obstacles may be overcome to enable her to visit in 2010.

Shirley

Linthorpe

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
7 th Feb	R Harris	M Tilley
14 th Feb	J Haverson	G Kettlewell & C Tovey
21 st Feb	J Harper	H Kettlewell
28 th Feb	M Gilmour	J Haverson

Scripture Readers

7 th Feb	M Warren
14 th Feb	Scouts
21 st Feb	F Rowe
28 th Feb	J Haverson

Church Flowers

7 th Feb	V Vij
14 th Feb	G Williams
21 st Feb	TBA
28 th Feb	TBA

Coffee/Tea After Worship

7 th Feb	G Williams	RNLI
14 th Feb	G Rathbone	Scouts
21 st Feb	H Kettlewell	Macmillan Nurses
28 th Feb	S & D Knox	Children with Liver Disease

Coffee After Morning Worship

15 th Nov 09	Guide Dogs For The Blind	£15.00	<i>P & J Horbury</i>
29 th Nov 09	RNLI	£12.50	<i>G Williams</i>
6 th Dec 09	Guide Dogs For The Blind	£13.00	<i>P & J Horbury</i>
27 th Dec 09	Macmillan Nurses	£7.00	<i>H Kettlewell</i>
3 rd Jan 10	Macmillan Nurses	£8.20	<i>H Kettlewell</i>

Many thanks to all who stay behind after worship and give generously to these and other causes.

Communion Preparation

21st Feb M Gilmour & D Knox

Ancient

We hold this gathering on Sunday, since this is the first day on which God, by making a transformation of darkness and chaos, made the universe, and on the same day Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead.

Justin Martyr Christian Apologist (2nd century)

Linthorpe Calendar

Dates For Your Diary:

Sat 6th Feb 10-10.30am Prayer Morning in the Jameson Lounge
Tue 9th Feb 7.00pm Elders' Meeting at Moyra's house

Redcar

Jack's Diary

Don't you just love going to the vets? All those lovely new smells and lots of new friends to meet, but then it is all spoilt when the door opens and a vet person in a green suit shouts '*Jack Milburn Please*' That's is it, I'm down on the floor and nothing short of a bulldozer is going to move me, but I never take into consideration the highly polished surface so I'm gently pulled across the floor and slither into the consulting room.

The last visit I made, however, to my new vet (who is conveniently just round the corner) I didn't slide across the waiting room floor, the vet carried me into the consulting room and he was so kind, he called me a 'poor wee boy' (he was Irish.) I like the Irish and the Welsh and the Scots and the English, in fact I love everybody, sorry no I don't like people who carry orange flowered bags – very suspect- anyway lets get back to my new vet. He took my temperature, stuck his nose into my mouth, had a sniff and a good look round, checked my ears and heart and gave me an injection, which I didn't even feel. I don't know why I get so het up at the vets, there's nothing to it!

Do not be afraid, I will save you, I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burnt, for I am the Lord your God who saves you. I will give up whole nations to save your life, because you are precious to me and because I love you. Do not be afraid, I am with you.

(Isaiah chapter 43)

Catherine Milburn

Winter

We must live through the dreary winter if we would value the spring.

And the woods must be cold and silent before the robins sing.

The flowers must be buried in darkness before they can bud and bloom.

And the sweetest, warmest sunshine comes after the storm and gloom.

Submitted by Norma Creek

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

Guisborough

Do you believe in coincidence? I've had some interesting examples to ponder recently.

At New year we visited my parents in Scotland and on the day of our return snow was forecast so we set off an hour early. We made it across the A66 in good time and stopped at Scotch Corner for a coffee before the last stretch home. When we came out it was snowing heavily, large flakes, and we had a slow journey up the M1 to Darlington. As we turned off to head East it came over the radio traffic announcement that the A66 was now closed due to heavy snow. I could put it down to good weather forecasting and forward planning but this has happened to us before on that stretch of road. It always seems to close behind us when we are on the right side.

I was preparing for my first TLS tutorial this term when we were to study Job and the reasons for suffering in the World. In one exercise we were asked to think of a recent disaster when many people had died and the next day the radio news reported the Haiti earthquake.

Suddenly the questions became very immediate. We didn't find any easy answers. Many great minds have tried to make sense of suffering from a time before the writing of Job up to the present day. We held a retiring collection for the Christian Aid special appeal on

Sunday and prayed, a chance for us to stand alongside those who suffer.

I am writing my first essay for the course and am finding it very difficult. I'm very wordy and incapable of sticking to the word count. I sat down on Saturday to finish it but couldn't. On Sunday Ken asked me to read a passage which will be really useful and the things he said have contributed to the finished product. Sometimes coincidence seems to be full of purpose.

The recent snow caused an unprecedented event in our little church. We cancelled a service as it simply wasn't safe for anyone to get there. The deep snow lying on a bed of thick ice made it dangerous to walk or drive, so we all stayed home safe and warm, but we were so glad to be able to meet again this Sunday and wish each other a belated Happy New Year. A Happy New Year to you too and watch out for those "coincidences".

Donna Moore

Guisborough URC Rotas

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
7 th Feb	J Basham	M Houston	R Tunnicliffe	D Collins
14 th Feb	B Ward		D Beattie	H Senior
21 st Feb	M Burrows		D Cross	M Baird
28 th Feb	M Robson		J Bulmer	D Cross

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	6 Feb	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast for the Bridge Association – at the Methodist Church.
Sat	13 Feb	10 – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Tue	16 Feb	7.15pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	21 Feb	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.

Weekly

Tuesdays	12 noon	Bible Study
Thursdays	9.30am – 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and others.

Lingdale

Vision4Life - Year of Prayer

As part of the Vision4Life Year of Prayer, Synod have produced a booklet entitled 'Praying our Days'. As this is intended for groups and individuals, there should be a copy included with this months Group News. If not, and you would like a copy, please see me, Susan.

Flower Rota

7th February - Mr A Thompson
 14th February - Mrs M Saunders
 21st February - Miss J Scarth
 28th February - Mr T Waller
 7th March - Mrs J Scott

Lingdale Calendar

Wed 3rd Mar 7.00pm Elders Meeting
 Sat 13th Mar 10.30 - 12noon Coffee Morning
Weekly
 3rd Sunday of month 5.00pm Craft Club followed by Kids Praise at 6pm.
 4th Wednesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Modern

I begin to think that guts come next to love; anyway, love without them is a flimsy sentimental thing.

Florence Allshorn English Missionary (First half 20th century)

Preachers

	7-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	7-Mar
Marton	9.30am C Morrison	M Robb Parade	M Robb Communion	M Robb	M Robb Church Meet
	6.30pm				
Lintho	11.00am C Morrison	M Robb Parade	M Robb Communion	M Robb	K Harris
Guisbo	9.30am N Johnson Communion	Guis Folk	N Johnson	K Harris	C Morrison Communion
Redcar	11.00am J Harper	C Milburn	K Harris	K Harris	C Morrison Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm K Harris Communion	C Morrison Craft & Family	M Robb	C Morrison	C Morrison

Material for the March Magazine to church editors by Sunday 14th February please

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