



Group News

Minister

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

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** July * 2007 * August **

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

Dear Friends,

There is a great deal of talk just now in the Church about change... but there doesn't seem to be a great deal of change happening!!

Change can be difficult, can't it? But often once the positive change has occurred then we can and do feel the benefit. Take the Marton manse, for example. It has been decided that it should be upgraded with a new bathroom and a new kitchen installed. And I'm looking forward to that! Well, if I'm honest I'm looking forward to the end product, to when the change has been completed, but I'm not looking forward to the process of change, the mess and the inconvenience. But I know that there is no magic wand to be waved so that change will occur instantly. No, it will mean living around what could seem chaotic until the process has been completed.

So is that why we aren't so keen to bring about change in the Church? Is it that such change might inconvenience us or cause some uncomfortable times in the process? The national Church, along with local churches, is concerned about the future and sees the need for change NOW! The 'Catch the vision' process launched by the URC nationally is about seeing the need to change so that the churches of today are seen as vibrant and active and, not only transformed themselves, but also about the business of transforming society and, in fact, the world.

We want that, don't we? But is it that we want it on our terms, without any responsibility on our part? I'm one who advocates prayer, and prayer is, I believe, very much part of the process. But I also know that from the prayer ought to come some pointers from God as to what we need to be doing. For change to be positive and fruitful there will be the need for a good healthy balance of prayer and action. And prayer and action are linked for we ought to remember that we are in partnership with God and that we consult him and work alongside him to bring about the change that he knows is required.

Plans are needed for new kitchens and bathrooms, there needs to be consultation and that is where prayer comes in where the church is concerned. And once the plans have been made, then I will need to do some work along side the plumbers and fitters, ensuring that all is clear for them to do their job. So, too, must we be willing to clear a way for God to work alongside us in bringing about the change that is necessary for his kingdom to flourish and grow.

Blessings,

Meg

Northern Synod

JULY

- 1 Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill LEP. Revd Philip Gray's ordination anniversary
2 St Mark's High Howdon United Reformed Church.
Revd Bob Jones's ordination anniversary
3 St Andrew's Monkseaton United Reformed Church
4 St Cuthbert's, Heaton LEP. Revd Greg Thompson's birthday
5 St George's High Heaton United Reformed Church.
6 St Columba's United Reformed Church, North Shields
7 Trinity, Whitley Bay United Reformed Church.
General Assembly meeting in Manchester 7-10 July
8 Lay preachers – Mr S Armstrong, Mr FJ McCree, Mr J Perry, Miss D Postle
9 Synod's Finance and Property Committee carry a considerable responsibility.
Revd Nigel Goodfellow's ordination anniversary
10 Our incoming Moderator of General Assembly, Revd Stephen Orchard
11 Pray for a warm welcome for holidaymakers visiting our local churches
12 For those on retreats, and retreat houses. Revd David Whiting's ordination anniversary
13 Revd Colin Offor's ordination anniversary
14 That churches may be fully involved in their local community summer activities
15 Manse households, and those who 'live on the job' because they live with a minister
16 Revd Dave Herbert and Revd Peter Jordan's ordination anniversaries, and Revd Dave Herbert's birthday
17 Revd Jan Maxwell's ordination anniversary
18 For spiritual directors. Revd Margaret Johnson's birthday
19 Remember the ongoing work of Synod's Mission Executive
20 Revd David Walton's ordination anniversary
21 Some congregations are living with significant building issues
22 Revd Barry Hutchinson's ordination anniversary
23 Pray that all churches will seek creative partnerships in their wider communities.
24 For our responses to wayfarers calling by at our churches and manses.
Revd Margaret Johnson's ordination anniversary
25 Revd Ron Forster's ordination anniversary. Revd David Peel's birthday
26 For those who seek spiritual direction
27 Those engaged in the ministry of healing
28 Revd Jan Maxwell's birthday
29 Those who approach possible visiting preachers, and liaise with them
30 Bishop Robert Ladds, Anglican (Whitby)
31 The Newcastle East/Coast Mission Partnership. Revd Barry Hutchinson's birthday. Revd Kevin Watson's ordination anniversary

Manse Prayers

Tuesday, 26 June	Marton
Tuesday, 3 July	Guisborough
Tuesday, 10 July	St Andrew's Church
Tuesday, 17 July	Guisborough
Tuesday, 24 July	Marton
Tuesday, 31 July	Guisborough
Tuesday, 7 August	Marton
Tuesday, 13 August	Guisborough
Tuesday, 20 August	Marton
Tuesday, 27 August	Guisborough

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*

Prayer Diary

AUGUST

- 1 Brighton Road United Reformed Church
- 2 Cromer Avenue United Reformed Church
- 3 Denewell Avenue United Reformed Church
- 4 Ryton United Reformed Church
- 5 Front Street, Winlaton LEP. Revd Pam Ward's ordination anniversary
- 6 Lay preachers – Prof. J W Derry, Mr J H Drew, Mr I J Patterson
- 7 Pray for church treasurers
- 8 Those who identify and liaise with guest speakers at mid-week fellowship meetings
- 9 Synod's Finance and Property Committee
- 10 Parents who are being prepared for the baptism of their children
- 11 Revd David Walton's birthday
- 12 Revd Mike Proctor's birthday.
- 13 Those who lead worship in our local hospitals
- 14 Couples preparing for marriage
- 15 Fundraising is a gift which when exercised can enable new mission initiatives
- 16 Pray for those who feel let down by Christians or the church
- 17 For those unable to get out and about who receive holy communion at home
- 18 For those planning stewardship programmes in their local church
- 19 People preparing for church membership
- 20 Pray for the Children's Work Committee
- 21 Revd Barry Welch's ordination anniversary
- 22 Give thanks for Sunday school teachers, past and present
- 23 People find themselves in church because of a wedding, may they hear God's gospel of love
- 24 Greenbelt Christian Arts festival, Cheltenham (24-27), trip for many - young and old
- 25 Revd Malcolm Sellers's birthday
- 26 Those marrying or having their marriage blessed in church
- 27 Nina Gwilliam, representative of The Society of Friends in our region
- 28 Revd James Breslin's birthday. Revd Yvonne Tracey's ordination anniversary
- 29 Revd Andrew Coyne's birthday
- 30 Revd Val Towler's ordination anniversary
- 31 The Gateshead Mission Partnership

Please also pray for our national Church and all who work at the national U.R.C. office in London.



**Are you 11-26
years old?**

**If so, we want to
hear from you!**

The Synod Youth Action Group are trying to get the Youth of the Synod linked up, so we know who you are and you know who you are!

So if you want to know more or even tell us about yourselves, email us at...

youth.northernsynodurc@googlemail.com

From the Wider Church...

Christian Aid Weekend

A weekend away with Christian Aid is available for supporters of all ages at Swanwick in Derbyshire 19-21 October. There will be talks, debates and seminars for participants to get their teeth into, as well as a crèche, children's programme, and a special project for teenagers. Details from Christian Aid – phone 020 7523 2248.

Faith Garden

A “**Growing Together in Faith**” garden won a Silver Gilt award (just below gold) at the Chelsea Flower Show this year. The concept of a perfect garden is central to many faiths, and there are more links between plants, gardening and different faith traditions than many people realise. The winning garden, entered by Capel Manor College, showed how the rose pervades Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Judaism, Inspiration for the garden came from college chaplain Canon Chris Bard (BBC Essex Faith and Ethics Presenter) and Susan Bowden-Pickstock (BBC Cambridge Faith and Ethics Presenter), who hope to create multifaith gardens throughout the country as a catalyst to encourage others to consider the unifying effect of an interest in plants.

Sunday Trading

Leading Christian bookseller, SPCK has announced plans to trade for a ‘limited’ time on a Sunday. It argues that cathedral and large church bookshops trade on a Sunday ‘to make Christian books available to members of the public who might otherwise go unserved’. SPCK emphasises that no bookshop would be open during a Sunday service, and no employee would be compelled to work on a Sunday. The plans, however, have been criticised by the Keep Sunday Special campaign, who declared that the plan was ‘deeply at odds with Christian belief and practice’.

Bible Society Newswatch

From Group Elder's Meeting...

Worship

As well as deciding to hold a joint service within the East Cleveland Group with the intention of people worshipping together in a full church and fellowshiping together and renewing acquaintances, other issues were discussed.

In order to enhance and enrich our worship it was felt that we could put together a booklet, albeit using copyright licence to do so. This then could supplement Rejoice and Sing and do away with printing out words from time to time.

The idea of perhaps stepping aside from lectionary readings from time to time was discussed. We agreed that on occasions perhaps a minister could preach on a theme (eg. prayer, justice, etc.) for a month within one particular church. This would be an opportunity to bring some teaching to the whole congregation at appropriate times. The whole idea would need to be taken in to account whilst arranging the Preaching Plan. So if you wonder why a minister is at the same church for a month at a time then there is a good reason.

Around the World...

From Russia

Russian Orthodox bishop rules out ‘compromise’ on papacy

A representative of the Russian Orthodox Church has ruled out any “compromise” with the Roman Catholic Church over the status of the papacy, which is one of the issues that continues to divide the Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox churches. “There can be no compromises whatsoever in this matter,” said Russian Orthodox Bishop Hilarion of Vienna and Austria. Hilarion serves as the Moscow Patriarchate’s emissary to European organisations, and he was speaking in an interview with Russia’s Interfax news agency in advance of an October meeting of Orthodox and Catholic theologians in Ravenna, Italy.

Moscow – 7 June

Redcar

Beetle Drive

The Beetle Drive held on 26th May raised £64 for Church funds. Many thanks to all who attended and especially thanks to Mrs Evelyn Roberston for organising the evening which was most enjoyable.

PARC

Our quarterly collection for Palestine Agricultural Relief Committee as our Commitment for Life will be taken on the 8th and 15th July.

Thank You

It was a great surprise to be presented with a bouquet, card and M & S vouchers to mark my retirement as Church Secretary at Redcar URC. I have enjoyed 14 years in this privileged position, but realise that now is the right time for me to hand over the reins. Thank you all for your help and guidance over the years.

Anne Davis

FLOWER FESTIVAL

THEME - GIFTS

United Reformed Church
Station Road, Redcar

Saturday 18th August
Viewing and refreshments
10am - 4pm

Sunday 19th August
Viewing 10am - 11am
Sunday service at 11am

PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS

GROUP SERVICE

Sunday 1st July

11.00am

at Redcar U.R.C.

includes Traidcraft Stall

All members of the Group are encouraged to come to this service which will include contributions from across the group. Arrangements have been made to ensure transport is available from all group churches.

The service will be followed by the opportunity to enjoy a picnic lunch (please bring your own food) and fellowship on the beach.

Group News

For future editions of 'Group News' please pass any Redcar contributions to Mrs Norma Creek by the first Sunday of each month.

Jack

There is no living with him now he is famous!!

Redcar Calendar

Diary

Sun 1st July	11.00am	Group Service at Redcar URC at 11am. Please bring a packed lunch to have together on the beach, or if wet in the Church.
Wed 4th July	7.30 pm	at Newcommen Church. Redcar Bible Society are having an open meeting, the speaker will be Rev. Marion Gardner. All are welcome.
Sun 8th July	3.00pm	Sea Sunday Churches Together in Redcar are having a joint service on the promenade opposite the Lifeboat House - if wet in the boat house. Please support our local sea farers
Wed 25th July	7.00pm	Elders Meeting
Sat 28th July	11:30am	Memorial Sevice at our church organised by Stanway Garnet
Sat 18th Aug		Flower Festival

Weekly

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

Lingdale

Lingdale Calendar

For Your Diary

Wed 11-Jul	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Wed 12-Jul	7.30pm	Elders Meeting

Weekly

Wednesday	11.00am – 12noon	Coffee
	12noon – 1.00pm	Soup and Roll

Flower Rota

1 st Jul	Mr T Waller
8 th Jul	Miss S Griffiths
15 th Jul	Mrs J Scott
22 nd Jul	Mrs P Green
29 th Jul	Mr A Thompson
5 th Aug	Mrs M Curnow
12 th Aug	Mrs H Dunstan
19 th Aug	Mrs P Griffiths
26 th Aug	Miss S Griffiths
2 nd Sep	Mr B Dove

Linthorpe

Thank You

A grateful thanks from Peggy And John Horbury for £12.00 donated towards Guide Dogs for the Blind, from coffee after morning worship on 3rd June.

Credit Union

Every Tuesday:

12.30 – 1.30pm & 5.15 – 6.15pm

Come and support this community work.

Information available

Traidcraft Stall

The Traidcraft Stall will be open on the second Sunday in the month, after the Parade Service.

Linthorpe Calendar

Diary Dates

July 7 th – 10 th	Assembly: Please remember all those attending Assembly in Manchester, in your prayers
8 th July 11.00am	Parade Service followed by a Traidcraft Stall
10 th July	Elders' Meeting

Rotas

	Flowers	Readers	Vestry	Porch
1 st Jul	Joan Patrick	F Rowe	J Haverson	G Dodds
8 th Jul	Dorothy Knox	Parade	H Kettlewell	S Mapplebeck & G Kettlewell
15 th Jul	TBA	J Harper	J. Harper	M Tilley
22 nd Jul	TBA	M Warren	M Gilmour	H Kettlewell
29 th Jul	TBA	P Bradley	R Harris	J Haverson
5 th Aug	TBA	R Harris	J Haverson	G Dodds
12 th Aug	Pearl Dalgleish	TBA	A Piercy	S Mapplebeck & G Kettlewell
19 th Aug	TBA	M Gilmour	J Harper	H Kettlewell
26 th Aug	Jan Harper*	F Rowe	H Kettlewell	M Tilley

* in memory of June Mankin

Group Scout Report

Centenary Camps were held across the Country with Thousands of Scouts taking part. Fifteen of our Explorer Scouts took part in the Cleveland Centenary Camp held at Raven Gill Camp Site, Comondale, from Friday 25th May to Monday 28th May. It was not the weather that we had become used to as the temperature dropped along with the rain, but not as much rain in the North East as some other parts of the Country. Those that attended had lots of activities including a climbing wall and archery.

Sixteen Cub Scouts and five adults attended our annual Pack holiday at the Jubilee Centre at Comondale. On the Monday activities included looking around the site and its boundaries followed by backwoods style cooking (saves on the washing up) and they all enjoyed burning their own sausages. Tuesday's events included Steam trek and working on the communicators badge. During Wednesday the older cubs worked on completing the Camper badge and the Communicator badge with the younger cubs. On the Thursday five Beaver scouts and two Beaver leaders took the train from Middlesbrough to Comondale to spend the day with the Cubs. A 'Blind Trail' (follow a string around a set course whilst blindfolded) was set up for both Beavers and

Cubs. After lunch various games were played on the large field. Parents arrived after tea to see the site and joined in the Camp Fire songs and sketches before taking their children home.

The Scouts took part in the District 5-a-Side competition on Saturday 9th June. All those who took part had a fun and very tiring day, playing seven games and winning the mid session penalty shoot out. Unfortunately we got beaten in the semi final 2-1 by the eventual winners, the 3rd Middlesbrough.

Ivor Huskinson

Guisborough

I'm just back from visiting family in the Far North. Actually they are on the point of moving South – to Thurso. That's just about as far north as you can go on the mainland. But at least visiting them will not involve paying a King's ransom to the ferry company! Of course the mechanics of moving are very stressful. Fortunately the school there provides good support for children with educational difficulties. And they sold their house for a good price in just a week so they can think of building a new one in their new location.

All that has distracted me very much from what has been going on here at home. I rely on Ernest for news of what's happening. This is the time of year when people go on holiday and numbers at our services fall for a while. This year however we have had to contend with more problems than usual. All three of our ministers are away, Meg to Canada, Catey to her sick bed and Ken to Germany. Organists too have had their problems. Ernest as you know has been in hospital but is recovering steadily and hopes to be back at the keyboard by the time you read this. Madge too has been really rather unwell, but she too soldiers on.

Many Churches would struggle in this situation. It says much for our people and the example set by our ministers over the years, that we just carry on. We can even sing unaccompanied! Now that's something I would not have expected a few years ago! God's work has to go on and each and every one of us has a part to play. Part of that is to pray for the sick and offer what practical help is needed. Ernest in particular wants to thank everyone who has helped him.

The Bridge Project annual report is circulating and I'm told it is very encouraging. Well worth a read. So if you have a copy please let me see it!

Our Ambassadors at large (Ken, Dorothy and Donna but minus Catey, Ernest and Madge) have been in Germany at the Kirchen Tag celebrations. About 80,000 Protestants from all over the world gather for a very long weekend of celebration and meeting and study. Enough of it in English to make it worthwhile for our folk. This year they were at Cologne where the hospitality was just wonderful. Archbishop Tutu was there too and the sun was hot enough to make him feel at home. The people from

Guisborough Calendar

Sun	1 Jul	11.00am	East Cleveland Group of Churches – Joint Service in Redcar URC - followed by picnic meal.
Sat	7 Jul	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – Methodist Church.
Sat	14 Jul	10 – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Sun	15 Jul	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purseglove Sports Centre.
Thu	19 Jul	7.15pm	Elders Meeting.

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

Troisdorf just down the river are keen to build links with Churches Together in Guisborough. You may remember we had a lady visit us back in January. So that's something to look forward to.

Goodbye, God, bless, and have a good holiday.

Maureen Houston

Guisborough Rotas

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
1st July	D Moore		M Baird	N Tucker
8th July	M Houston	J Reynolds	D Houston	C Robertson
15th July	M Robson		G Jordan	D Kane
22nd July	M Burrows		J Bulmer	J Reynolds
29th July	D Beattie		B Ward	J McGregor

St Andrew's

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held on Thursday 24th May at Albert and Margaret's raised £146 for church funds. Many thanks to Albert, Margaret and everyone who came along for an enjoyable morning.

Christian Aid Walk

Grant and Steven's Christian Aid Sponsored Walk in the Wyre Valley raised approx £280. Thanks to everyone who contributed and well done the Grant and Steven for a great effort.

Bazaar Holiday Stall

Doreen is once again organising a Holiday Memory Stall at our Annual Bazaar. If anyone would like to bring a small item back from holiday Doreen will be delighted to sell it. All proceeds for church funds.

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 2-Jul 7.30pm Elder's Meeting

Weekly

Wednesday 9.30am Prayers

Friday 6.15pm Boys Brigade

Last Sunday in month Traid Craft Stall

Church Finances

The June Church meeting heard concern about our church finances. There has been a significant drop in income from the free-will offertory and an increase in expenses leading to a current account deficit of £2000. The Gift Aid Tax Refund is also anticipated to be down on previous years.

We were reminded that in the coming year the average contribution to the URC Ministry Fund would be £12/member/week. Income well in excess of this is required if we are to maintain buildings and meet our other local obligations.

Walk for Mary Thomson Fund

Many people who have been refused asylum lose all their support and become destitute, even although they may still be trying to pursue a just outcome to their case. Some are from countries to which there is no safe route of return at the present time. Many end up at best sleeping on the floor of any friend who is willing to risk losing their own support by taking them in; at worst many are simply forced to live rough on the streets and in the parks.

The Mary Thomson Fund's aim is to provide refugees and asylum seekers with no support a weekly cash payment of £5.00 and a bag of nourishing, stable foods. Shirley and John raised approx £180 for their walk on 26th May. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

Preachers

	1-Jul	8-Jul	15-Jul	22-Jul	29-Jul
Marton 9.30am	GROUP SERVICE	M Robb	C Morrison	L Bustard	M Robb Communion
Lintho 11.00am		M Robb Parade	C Morrison	J Lamplugh	M Robb
Guisbo 9.30am		C Morrison Communion	M Robb	C Morrison	C Morrison
Redcar 11.00am		K Harris Communion	M Robb	D Whiting	C Morrison
Lingdale 6.00pm		K Harris Communion	M Robb	C Morrison	M Robb
	5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	2-Sep
Marton 9.30am	J Harper	M Robb	C Morrison	C Morrison	M Robb
	6.30pm			M Robb Communion	
Lintho 11.00am	K Harris	M Robb	C Price Communion	C Morrison	J Harper
Guisbo 9.30am	M Robb Communion	K Harris	M Robb	M Robb	C Morrison Communion
Redcar 11.00am	M Robb Communion	K Harris	M Robb	M Robb	C Morrison
Lingdale 6.00pm	M Robb	M Robb Communion	K Harris	C Morrison	M Robb

I am hoping that the September Edition of Group News will be published on 2nd September. I am on holiday during mid August and will put the magazine together when I return

GROUP SERVICE

Sunday 1st July – 11.00am

Hosted by Redcar U.R.C.

The service followed by the option of a picnic lunch
(please bring your own picnic) on the beach.

Material for the September Magazine to church editors by Sunday 19th August please
Group Editor – R Wheeler, 5 Muirfield, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0JN. 01642 300546. rwhe106500@aol.com