



Group News

Minister

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

Dear Friends,

Last time I wrote to you I was anticipating change in the manse... and with that I knew that undergoing the change itself would not necessarily be smooth. Well, it wasn't! But it has been well worth it on various counts and not just to upgrade kitchen and bathroom. I'm glad also because major disasters waiting to happen have been avoided.

Firstly it was discovered that the shower had been slowly leaking and if it had not been discovered when ripping out the old bathroom eventually it would have brought down the kitchen ceiling. Then the water tank in the loft was found to have a slow leak which would have culminated in the bathroom ceiling coming down. But more than that! On installing the new boiler it was discovered that I had been sitting on a gas leak!! Who knows what disaster that could have brought!!

And that leads me to wondering what sort of potential disasters are waiting to happen in the Church if we are not prepared to embark on change. Is there something slowly leaking away within our church life which has the potential to cause a great disaster? If so, it probably won't be like the gas leak which could cause a tremendous explosion but it is more likely to be a slow seeping away of life, the water of life which is there to sustain us.

Recently I have been working with a couple of TLS (Training for Learning and Serving) students. As part of the Foundation Course they are to write essays, one of which is about how the Israelites on entering the promised land became static and settled so they no longer moved on and changed. In our church life we too can become far too settled and I believe that God's Spirit is wanting us to change, to move on before inevitable disaster overtakes us. The Church is not to comprise of a people who settle down comfortably but the Church is to be a people constantly looking to the leading of God's Spirit to bring about change... change in our individual lives, change in our church life and change in our communities. And it is God's Spirit who will lead and guide since it is God, after all, who is aware of those slow leaks, those potential disasters we are sitting on. So let's follow his lead and then we will see the benefit of change as I have within the manse.

Blessings,

Meg

Vision4life

The four Sunday services, June 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, will be used to introduce the Vision4life material as a prelude to the programme beginning in Advent 2008.

Teesside South East Mission Partnership Leadership Team Meeting Held at Linthorpe URC on 10th, April 2008

The Mission Partnership Leadership Team meets every two months to work towards the vision of Enabling Mission within the Northern Province of the URC as set out in the Five Marks of Mission.

- ◆ to proclaim the good news of the kingdom
- ◆ to teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- ◆ to respond to human need by loving service
- ◆ to seek to transform unjust structures of society
- ◆ to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

so thereby enabling local congregations to be lively, informed and effective in their local settings.

Below is a selection of the highlights from this meeting as an illustration of some of the work now being done on behalf of, the churches:-

Explorations Course

Rev Dr David Peel's course was due to start on 7th, May but has delayed until the autumn because the dates clash with the J10 campaign being held at Preston Park, Stockton. David indicated that no ministers would be attending as a way of encouraging people to be free and open in the questions they ask and issues raised.

Synod Special Mission

In November the Synod are organising a mission to focus on people at the margins of society – aiming to see the world from their perspective. The names of our representatives, on this initiative, are to be sent in by the end of May

Tees Valley Ministry

Rev David Whiting (Stockton Community Chaplain) thanked Redcar church for hosting Ken's retirement service. David is trying to build faith groups in Stockton. A celebration of faith and beliefs is arranged for 7 May from 3 – 6 pm at the Arc in Stockton. Paul Southgate, Michael Wright and Sheila Kilroy are speakers. Street Pastors are being appointed with the role of trying to help diffuse tensions within the town. The scheme is moving forward involving police and churches - but it is mainly a Christian scheme.

News/Reflections from Churches

Guisborough Work between the churches, through the Bridge Association, has been fully established and the fellowship is looking forward to helping with Hope 08 in the town.

East Cleveland Group An introduction to the Vision4life campaign was being included in 4 consecutive services with the Group Churches..

Redcar An important meeting next week to make decisions about where the fellowship is going with the building and local mission.

Lingdale New ventures includes children's activities, prior to a later shortened service, held on the third Sunday of the month.

St Mark's and the Ingleby Barwick Project Sadly both of these Mission projects are to close. The final service for St Mark's Local Ecumenical Project will take place on Friday, 9th, May, in Sunnyside Primary School at 7.30pm. Attendance at this service is by invitation only because of limited space in the school hall and also because it is an ecumenical mission involving various churches from the local area.

The Ingleby Barwick Project did not get the level of community response as expected. No suitable candidate for the leadership post could be found and as the project had only 18 months to run it was thought that closure was the best option. The remaining funds can then be more usefully employed elsewhere.

Linthorpe The church holds a Prayer Morning on the second Saturday of the month.

Marton Work is progressing on Meg's house and a grant, towards the cost, has been received from Synod. Children from Junior Church made laminated book marks which raised £50. Car washing will be done by Boys' Brigade for Hope 08.

Stockton Last year's application regarding steeple repairs to English Heritage was turned down but they suggested an application again this year after doing specific repairs, which were completed. A substantial offer has now been received and contracts signed. Vision4life meetings will be held mainly after shorter morning worship over soup and a roll.

Billingham Vision4life meetings will be held mainly after shorter morning worship over coffee.

Prayer Day/Elders' Conference

The meetings known as Elders Conferences will now be called Mission Partnership Gatherings – a decision made after the Synod Consultation Day at Ushaw College. There will be no meeting in May this year but a Prayer Day on 29 November – at a venue south of river.

Sabbatical for Meg Robb

Meg is due a Sabbatical. John Durrell would supervise and during September and October there would be a trip to Greece and Turkey. More time would be taken during the early part of 2009 concentrating on the theological and spiritual development of children. Hannah will be supervising this area of the study. Catey did not feel that she needed pastoral support, at this time, but that she knew where to turn, if necessary. It was thought that pulpit supplies could be covered – Synod is likely to pay for this support. Hannah asked for Meg to attend Children's Assembly with her – agreed.

Synod Children's Officer

Hannah Middleton asked whether we wished her to help or develop children's work within the Partnership. Junior Church workers would be asked. Hannah appreciates Meg going to support the Children's Assembly this year.

Synod Finance Committee

Jane Tomlin was working hard on the committee and has spent a lot of time on the Grindon Project in Sunderland. A new Synod Treasurer will be appointed shortly and this is good news. The Maintenance of the Ministry Fund is now being assessed for next year.

Synod Pastoral Committee

A 50% vacancy for Northallerton has been declared, but the church is well aware that this might prove difficult to fill. North Northumberland churches manage their affairs in a different way to ourselves so Jan Harper will try to obtain a copy of their constitution – which may offer some useful guide lines for ourselves.

Grindon

The Grindon United Reformed Church, in Sunderland, have been developing a community work for some years and are holding an Open Day on 26 April.

Exploring Modern Spirituality

This course had been much enjoyed. It was disappointing that David Cornick, General Secretary of the URC, was unable to be present because of a bereavement.

Next Meetings

Thursday 3 July at 7 pm at Guisborough and
Wednesday 17 September at Queen's Park.

Ray Tunnicliffe (Guisborough)

Manse Prayers

Tuesday, 3rd June Guisborough
Prayers for Lingdale URC

Tuesday, 10th June Redcar
Prayers for Linthorpe URC

Tuesday, 17th June Guisborough
Prayers for Redcar URC

Tuesday, 24th June Marton
Prayers for Guisborough URC

Tuesday, 1st July Redcar
Prayers for St. Andrew's URC

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

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Marton</i> | <i>10 Farington Drive</i> |
| <i>Guisborough</i> | <i>31 Oakley Close</i> |
| <i>Redcar</i> | <i>31 Torcross Way</i> |

Mission Partnership Wheelie Bin Push – yes, wheelie! – Saturday 19th July

The long awaited opportunity of pushing your ministers for one mile along the Stray in Redcar in two wheelie bins in order to raise money for our friends in Mozambique, will be taking place on Saturday 19th July at 10am! Beginning at the Stray café at 10am, two teams of pushers and pullers will be needed to gracefully transport our two ministers along the Stray in two hopefully 'clean' wheelie bins to finish at the Regent Cinema on Redcar Seafront (just up the road from the church). For those who aren't up to the pushing and pulling, there will be a coffee morning at the church in Redcar from 10am until 12 noon, to which all the pushers and pullers and the ministers, after the event, are also invited! Look out for sponsorship forms to sponsor Catey and Meg's ordeal! Thickly padded quilts are also needed!!!

Oberammergau Passion Play June 2010!

Catey is organising a trip to see the Oberammergau Passion Play in June 2010, yes in June of the year 2010 for anyone wanting to go on this amazing trip! The particular tour that Catey is exploring departs on June 28th 2010 and takes in Lake Garda, Venice and Verona as well as two nights in the region of Oberammergau to see the Passion Play. Return flights will be arranged from the North of England. If you would like more information on the Oberammergau Passion Play or other aspects of this trip, including prices, please speak to Catey.

Encouragement

We are intended to encourage one another (such as Hebrews 3: 13) and particularly to celebrate the virtues of those we know who have died.

May I draw your attention to the Christian virtues of the late Stan. Baines (his obituary was in the May issue of 'Group News').

Firstly, he was never heard to speak unkindly or to malign any one else, an achievement! Secondly, when his father died he found there was a large outstanding debt owed to the Inland Revenue from his joinery business. When all was settled there was no money left, and indeed there was still a sizeable amount still owing. With the death of Stan's father this was legally lost to the Inland Revenue. Stan's Christian conscience however, would not allow him to ignore this debt and he paid this off from his own pocket. He was forced to leave and sell the family home in Arlington Road, eventually finishing in a modest house in Latham Road. The business closed down and Stan obtained employment as a joiner with a local firm; staying with them until he retired.

At the time I was Session Clerk in Park Presbyterian Church, as Linthorpe Church then was, and this was told to me in confidence by the then minister. When Stan died I discovered that this 'confidential information' was known to several members of the Church Choir! So let us pray that if we are tested we follow his example.

There must surely be many others within the five churches who know of people of similar worth. Why not let us know about them?

Richard Harris

Synod Prayers

During June we are asked to pray for the Newcastle North/Central Mission Partnership.

Week beginning 1st June

St Andrew's, Benton LEP; Trinity, Gosforth LEP

Week beginning 8th June

St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park LEP

Week beginning 15th June

Jesmond URC; St. James URC; urban communities

Week beginning 22nd June

St. Andrew's URC, Kenton, West End URC; Robert Stewart Memorial URC

Week beginning 29th June

Ministers: Peter Rand, David Bedford, Roger Mills (CofE), Nigel Watson, James Breslin, Nigel Goodfellow

Ecumenical Church Leaders: Kevin Dunn, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle

Redcar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 80th birthday greetings
Albert McGarrell for 6th June

Happy 90th birthday greetings
Eric Linsley for 12th June
enjoy your cruise!

Churches Together

The litter pick up. Organised by Catey was a huge success. About 70 people of all ages and from most of the churches in the town collected litter from the beach, stray and round Tesco, collecting approximately 50 sacks of rubbish.

Refreshments were available at Zetland Park Methodist Church and the afternoon closed with Catey conducting the group in a short service.

Thank you Catey and your many helpers.

CHRISTIAN AID BBQ

Saturday 14th June !

12noon until 2.00pm

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. To raise money John will be cooking up a BBQ at Redcar church on Saturday 14th June from 12noon until 2pm.

There will also be a Tombola, Bring and Buy stall, and a raffle.

Donations of cakes, bric a brac and prizes would be gratefully received!

If you would like to sponsor John then sponsor forms are available or you can give on-line and also gift aid your sponsorship at

www.justgiving.com/jmorrisonbikeride

Commitment for Life

On 13th and 20th July envelopes will be available for Commitment for Life donations for the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Beetle Drive

A big 'thank you' to Mrs. Evelyn Robertson who organised a very enjoyable and frantic evening, shaking dice and drawing an odd assortment of beetles! £52 was raised for Church funds.

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

Linthorpe

Scout Report

Beavers & Cubs have all been keeping a diary of there good turns at home as part of the activity badges.

Scouts have been planning the menu and activities for the forthcoming Spring Bank Camp at Raven Gill.

The Explorer Scouts have had a weekend at Ket-tleness Scout centre 10 explorers enjoyed the weekend involved in a wide variety of activities to improve team building. The weather could have been better but did not prevent them getting through there activities.

Middlesbrough District St Georges Day Parade on April 27th which includes a short 30 minute march around the District headquarters in the Tollesby area followed by a service/camp fire.

A collection was taken during the service and a cheque for £180 was presented to representatives from the 'James Cook Hospital' anti natal clinic.

Open Night/AGM

The 21st Scout Group held its open night and AGM on Thursday 1st May. The event was well attended and even managed to finish on time. My thanks to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts that provided the entertainment for the parents.

Jumble Sale

Many thanks to all those that contributed to making the Jumble sale possible, especially the members of the Group Executive Committee who helped set up look after the stalls and clear up at the end. Also Cub Scouts Luke and Josh and Jamie, Donovan and Matthew from the Scouts helped as part of there working in the community awards. £172 was raised towards Group Funds.

Ivor Huskinson (Group Scout Leader)

Linthorpe Calendar

Tue 10-Jun 7.30pm Elders' Meeting
Sat 13-Jun 10.00am Monthly prayer morning ~ Jameson Lounge

Coffee After Morning Worship

20th April & 4th May — *Stuart & Dorothy Knox*
£26.00 — Children With Liver Disease Foundation

27th April — *Helen Kettlewell*
£16.50 — Macmillan Nurses

Grateful thanks to all who donate to these and other worthy causes.

Duty Rotas

Vestry

1st June H Kettlewell
8th June M Gilmour

15th June J Harper

22nd June A Piercy

29th June J Haverson

Porch

A Piercy
S Mapplebeck

C Tovey

S & D Knox

M Tilley

H Kettlewell

Coffee After Morning Worship

1st June Children With Liver Disease Foundation S & D Knox

8th June MENCAP J Nunn

15th June Guide Dogs For The Blind P & J Horbury

22nd June Macmillan Nurses H Kettlewell

29th June Children With Liver Disease Foundation S & D Knox

Readers

1st June J Haverson

8th June Parade

15th June V Walker

22nd June M Gilmour

29th June R Harris

Guisborough

Mid May and we don't know whether summer has come or not. It's been a bit like this all year, a week of warm sunny weather, and then back to cold grey days and rather more rain than the garden needs. The flowers just don't know what to do! But at least we don't (often) suffer the extremes of nature that have beset other countries recently. Perhaps rather than carp about small hardships we should rejoice in all the good things God has given us – and be more compassionate to those born in less fortunate places.

Which brings me to Christian Aid Week. My heart ought to leap with joy at the opportunity to reach out into the community and invite people to help with the good work. But if I'm honest I look out of the window and sigh. It's cold, and there is a threat of rain. Still I agreed to go, and go I must. But once I get started knocking on people's doors *'I'm collecting for Christian Aid. Would you like to help?'* It changes. At almost every house I'm greeted by a friendly face – most I remember from last time, a few are new. And they seem genuinely glad to see me and to help. It gives me a warm feeling about my fellow town's folk; and reconciles me to the few who said 'No'. I guess I'm selective about the charities I support too. And I'm frankly amused by the one who pretended to be out but couldn't resist twitching the curtains to see I'd gone yet! And finally

| Date | Vestry | Communion Door | Flowers |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1st June | R Tunnicliffe | B Ward | D Moore |
| 8th June | M Burrows | | J Basham |
| 15th June | D Houston | | M Houston |
| 22nd June | J Reynolds | | D Beattie |
| 29th June | J Basham | | M Baird |

the lady who chased down the road after me *'My husband was very wrong to turn you away! I'll speak to him later! Anyway here's my contribution! 'Thanks – see you again next year!'* And all being well I hope I will.

Modern

Some people have just enough religion to make them feel uncomfortable.

John Wesley, Founder of Methodism (Eighteenth Century)

What else to say? We were in Devon for a week with a group from the church where John and Catey Morrison used to belong. It's the sort of church we would all like to belong to – a large and growing congregation, a lot of young families, life bursting from every seam. If we want a Vision for the Future we could do a lot worse than look to them. Where am I talking about? Oxford perhaps - or one of our great cathedral cities? Well no – it's Rotherham.

When we got home there was a message on the phone '*Ernest is in hospital again*' Its been happening a lot recently; And now Bob Macdonald has broken his hip. It takes a lot of courage to face down the problems of old age. But I liked Ernest's comment when I collected him from James Cook – '*I think I'm winning on points!*'

Maureen

Guisborough Calendar

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---|
| Wed 4 Jun | 7.30pm. | 'Just 10' in Preston Park, Stockton and the following Wednesdays until 25 th , June. |
| Sat 7 Jun | 8.00am | Prayer Breakfast – St Nicholas Church hosts at 10, Tidkin Lane. |
| Sat 14 Jun | 10– 12 noon | Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome. |
| Sun 15 Jun | 10.00am | Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre. |

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

Holiday Memory Stall

Doreen is once again having a Holiday Memory Stall at our Annual Bazaar. She would love you to bring back a small gift from your holiday to augment this stall.

Ladies Fellowship

The final meeting of our programme was our Annual Lunch held at the Bay Horse, Great Broughton. It was a beautiful sunny day and we enjoyed a lovely meal with our chat. We resume our monthly meetings once again in September.

Una and Joan's Coffee Morning
8 Towthorpe, Nunthorpe
Thursday 19th June 2008
10.30am - noon

Raffle, Bring and Buy
 Tickets £1.00 available from Una or Joan
 Proceeds for church funds

Walk for Christian Aid 2008

At 7.00am on the 10th May we set off on our journey to Bleasdale. We met up with a gentleman at the service station off the M6 who led us to our destination. When we got to Bleasdale Parish Hall our taxi was waiting to take us to our starting point. Bleasdale is a privately owned parish which consists of a school, a church and the hall. We set off from there at 10.00am and went to the Landrover Garage on the A6 near Catterall to start our walk.

Our walk was the Badger's Brock at Bowland. We followed the River Brock towards its source. Our walk took us along mainly wooded areas towards Cloughton where we saw a massive amount of bluebells and plenty of dippers in the water. Most of us, including myself, had a pair of binoculars to look at the birds. We saw the remains of Brock Abbey which had been used in the Iron Age. As we got deeper into the forest but still following the River Brock we saw a *grifola frondosa* which is also known as the hen of

the woods. We then went past the limekiln of Bowland and also saw a hen harrier.

We stopped for lunch at 1.00pm at Bowland Picnic Site. Thirty minutes later we started walking again. We went across quite a few bridges in the valley and saw a golden plover, a ring ouzel perched on a tree and a merlin. We started to come across a few paragliders when we came out of the trees and woodland area. Next we came into a scout camp where there was an assault course and archery.

As we were getting into the open by this point we had Fairsnape facing us which is 510feet above sea level. We also saw Parlick and Spade Meadow in the distance along with Bleasdale Moors.

We finally got back to Bleasdale Parish at 3.30pm where we had a cup of tea waiting for us and some cake. At 4.15pm we got taken to Beacon Fell Country Park where we can see over to the Great Orme in North Wales on a clear day.

After that we came home via Clitheroe and Gisburn and finally stopped at the George Hotel at Wormald Green for our evening meal. We came home at 8.30pm.

Grant Sutherland and Steven Etwell

Hope 2008

On Saturday 10th May we held a Free Car Wash at our church helped by the Boy's Brigade and several church members. It was a beautiful day! We had many customers, extremely enthusiastic and eventually very wet car washers who did an excellent job. Everyone had a great time and although everything was free we managed to collect just over £82.00 which will be going to Christian Aid. Well done everyone in particular the Boys Brigade.

Ancient

God draws, but he draws the willing.

John Chrysostom, Church Father (Fourth Century)

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 23-Jun 3.00pm Informal Worship at **Elmridge**
 Wed 25-Jun 2.30pm Informal 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

