



Group News

Minister

Rev Meg Robb, 10 Farington Drive, Marton (326343)
meg@eastclevelandurc.org.uk

Rev Catey Morrison, 31 Torcross Way, Redcar (471778)
catey@eastclevelandurc.org.uk

** June * 2010 * June **

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

Sometime life gets very hectic! And sometimes life gets very very hectic indeed! And it has been a bit like that for me recently. And sometimes I wonder what God thinks about our hectic lives! Does it all really give God glory? Does it please God?

I was having a barbeque recently with non-Christian friends of ours, well actually the family of Dominic's best friend from school, Connor! Now Connor's dad has faced difficult times recently, having been faced with losing his job at Corus. After considering his options, like retraining as a teacher, he thankfully managed to have his job cross-matched to a position in Corus at Skinninggrove, and having faced the interview process and steep competition for the job, he has been successful!

I asked him what he felt about the job, was he looking for other work for the longer term; was he thinking later re-training? And his reply was that, even if this work at Corus wasn't hugely long term, it was still good work, regular hours, decent enough pay, AND he got plenty of time with his family because of how the shifts work out, and that is more important to him right now, with a little girl of 2 ½ and Dominic's friend, Connor, aged just 7! And I thought – "Wow! You really have this sorted. You know what it is in life right now that is most important to you."

And I actually began to feel a bit guilty of how little time some weeks I have for my family or even time to adequately develop my prayer life and relationship with God. I do believe, and always have done, that God and my family come first in my life – but is this really lived out in my life? Am I really

doing the things that God would see as priority so that God and my family come first, or am I simply letting the busy things of my life keep me busy in my life! Am I just too busy being busy?

And is it the same for us in our churches, I wonder? Are we really doing the things that are going to make a difference, in terms of growing the Kingdom, or are we just busy organising the things that we have always tried to organise?! That is not to suggest that all that we do at present is of no value, but to present the challenge that what we do today, with a more limited number of people available to help organise, needs to be exactly the right thing to spend our limited time and energy on! Will it bring God glory we need to ask? Will this reach people outside the confines of our church? If not, is it really the absolute priority of what we should be doing?

I was challenged by our Moderator last month to think over the Godly value of church activities that we organise, questioning: 'Will this grow faith in others? Will this grow faith in the community?' And I do think that these are useful questions to ask ourselves as we seek out what we should be doing in the future. It can feel that we are running out of time as churches. Without too much imagination we can see how our churches of our Group could easily be heading towards closure in not so many more years. So now is the time to think BIG, to think GOD, and to take a firm rein of the opportunities that are out there – if we only take time to prioritise! Then we will learn to give God the glory!

God bless!

Rev Catey Morrison

Synod Prayers

Synod Prayers

Feel free to unite with other members of our denomination across the Northern Synod by using the prayer cycle in your prayers.

Week beginning 6th June

Tyne Valley Mission Partnership
Retired Ministers and those not in pastoral charge

Week beginning 13th June

North Tyne Group
Lay Preachers

Week beginning 20th June

Newcastle North/Central Mission Partnership
Elders

Week beginning 27th June

Newcastle East/Coast Mission Partnership
Churches Together in England

Manse Prayers

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

- Tue 1st June: Marton
(prayers for Linthorpe)
Tue 8th June: Guisborough
(prayers for Guisborough)
Tue 15th June: Redcar
(prayers for Marton)
Tue 22nd June: Marton
(prayers for Lingdale)
Tue 29th June: Guisborough
(prayers for Redcar)
Tue 6th July: Redcar
(prayers for Linthorpe)

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

SYNOD SILENCE & RETREATS GROUP

QUIET DAY

**Saturday 10th July at Keld
1.00pm to 4.30pm**

This is an opportunity for you to enjoy the delights of Swaledale whilst spending time in God's presence.

There will be opportunity to walk, to reflect on the Scriptures and/or to be creative.

You can discover what is happening with the Keld project and to see how the Keld manse has been brought up to a high standard and plans for the rest of our Keld buildings.

We suggest that you have a leisurely journey along the dale to Keld and then enjoy a packed lunch (If it is a nice day you may want to bring folding chairs) Or you could give custom to the restaurant housed in what was an old Shooting Lodge and then the Youth Hostel. (They serve good sandwiches).

Transport can be arranged for those who need it.

GROUP SERVICE

Sunday 11th July

11.00am

at

Lingdale United Reformed Church

There will be no other services in the Group on that day.

Transport will be available for those who need lifts

Vision4Life

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

June Word Search

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ADORATION | JOYFUL |
| BEING | PRESENCE |
| COURTS | TEMPLE |
| FAITHFULNESS | THANKSGIVING |
| GLADNESS | WORSHIP |

This month the word search is again to do prayer... the prayer of adoration and worship.

(Psalm 100) See item on Book Club.

Bible Quiz for June

1. The bible says that Eve ate an apple; is that true or false?
2. What did Gideon use to defeat the Midianite army?
3. Who did Elijah have a contest with on Mount Carmel?

Book Club for June- Psalm 100

How often do we regard prayer as asking? before God in adoration and worship, giving Think of how you would feel if the only com- worth to His very being. Although we should munication with you of a relative or a friend was adore and worship God in our own private daily one of asking and of wanting something from prayer this psalm there is very much about the you. Parents are happy to give good things to coming of God's people into His presence in the their children but they also enjoy a child's acts courts of the Temple. Our attitude in coming to of love towards them, whether be in the giving Sunday worship ought to be one of joyfulness as of a crumpled bunch of flowers or a home-made we come together into His presence and enjoy Father's Day card. God is no different for He His presence and love.

wants to enjoy his relationship with each one of us.

Prayer can be praise and thanksgiving for all of God's goodness but it can also be about coming

What is our coming together for Sunday worship really like? Does it reflect what the psalmist is saying?

Answers to May's Bible Quiz

1. How many stones did the Israelites use to cross the River Jordan without getting wet? - Twelve (Joshua, 4 v4-9)
2. How many stones did David take with him when he went to fight Goliath? - Five (1 Samuel 17 v39)
3. Who used a stone as a pillow? - Jacob (Genesis, ch.28, verse11)

Teesside South East Mission Partnership Highlights from the Leadership Team Meeting April 2010

News of People:

We noted with sadness the death of Bill Taylor from our Stockton church. Bill had served on the Synod Trust (formerly Finance and Property Committee) for many years and had been active in the life of the local church and Teesside District. We remember his wife, Evelyn, and his sons and their families.

Rev David Whiting, who had been involved in industrial mission in Stockton through Tees Valley Ministry has moved following a call to minister in our Sunderland group of churches.

Future Patterns of Ministry:

What would we miss if ordained ministry were not there? We live in very uncertain times when paid ordained ministry can no longer be guaranteed, thus new models of ministry are needed. In our Mission Partnership we would like to be able to start thinking a bit more creatively, thus we could consider a Ministry Team of paid and retired ministers, as well as lay people willing to be part of such a team to serve over the Partnership.

What is clear is that when one of the three stipendiary ministers now serving in our Partnership moves or retires, he or she will not be replaced. To help us to begin to look ahead and be prepared, we will be inviting elders from right across the Mission Partnership to come together to look at these issues and creatively plan for future patterns of ministry on Saturday 25th September from 2.00 to 4.30pm. With Synod's input and our creativity we hope that this can be the beginning of a process to discover the best way to use the wide ranging and valuable skills and gifts of both ordained and lay people who make up our Mission Partnership.

Mission Partnership Prayer Day - June 5th:

We have accepted an invitation from the Tees and Swale Mission Partnership to their prayer event on 5th June; we have decided to postpone our own plans for a Prayer Day. Lawrence Moore, Director of the URC's Windermere Centre, is to speak and those of us who have had the privilege of hearing him in the past know that he is an excellent speaker and not to be missed. It is anticipated that we will reciprocate and invite the people from Tees and Swale to some future event.

£1000 Lay Training Allowance:

Synod has decided to allocate £1000 per Mission Partnership per year for the next three years for the express purpose of enabling training to take place within the Mission Partnerships, for example financing a speaker such as Lawrence for a Partnership run event. However, there are other ways we may want to spend the money, for instance to support individuals wanting to access a course, eg. at the Windermere Centre or elsewhere; by arranging events within our Mission Partnership which may incur some cost, e.g. bringing in an outside organisation such as 'Walk thru the Bible' ministries, or any other idea!

Synod News:

Two Synod representatives from our Mission Partnership, Dr. Donna Moore (Guisborough) and Rev Meg Robb, are to attend General Assembly this July 2nd to 5th. Kate McSherry (Redcar) has been selected to go to Mozambique along with other young people from our Synod, on a trip led by our Synod Moderator, Rowena Francis.

Local Church News Round-Up:

In **STOCKTON** the scaffolding used to renovate the steeple is finally being dismantled and the congregation are looking forward to celebrating this with an open-air service. They rejoice, too, in the fact that working with the Salvation Army to create a Saturday 'Messy Church' has been an amazing success with 75 children attending in March, and more on the books!

At **BILLINGHAM** the congregation is looking to make the entrance to their church more user-friendly and are currently engaged in a banner project, with an exhibition of their work soon!

The folk at **THORNABY** are in good heart and they, too, are looking into the possibility of remodelling the entrance to their building.

GUISBOROUGH will celebrate its Bi-Centenary in October 2011 and the Moderator has agreed to come and preach at a special service to mark the occasion. Here, too, work is ongoing to enhance the physical building as well

as the spiritual foundations of the church!

LINGDALE people are looking forward to having a minister living in the village again as Catey and family will, hopefully, move into the manse later this year. During the Easter school break the URC joined forces with East Cleveland Baptist Church (based in Redcar) to run a Holiday Club at the church. The coffee mornings are attracting more interest following the purchase of new large advertising banners. A questionnaire is to be distributed to all households shortly for folk to have their say on what they would like the church to be doing in the village!

LINTHORPE people have taken the brave step of agreeing to work towards closure in July 2011.

Although this decision has not been taken lightly, and with great sadness, there is now a sense of relief that the uncertainty has gone and they can at least focus on working towards a closure with dignity and in thanksgiving for the life and witness of the people over the years.

MARTON people have recently taken part in 'Holiday at Home' organised by Churches Together and are looking forward to a weekend of Prayer Events - with a Taize Service, Prayer Breakfasts, Prayer Lunch, a Family Fun and Prayer afternoon - all culminating with a united service on Pentecost Sunday!

Praise God for all his goodness in working in us and through us in all these events!

Synod News

I was privileged to be present at the spring meeting of the United Reformed Church's Northern Synod held at Ponteland URC on Saturday 20th March 2010.

The opening worship was based on the pilgrimage to Sinai made by Meg, Catey and other members of the Synod. Barry Hutchinson, minister on Holy Island, introduced the presentation 'Called Into The Desert' and was assisted by some other members of the party, some present and some who were unable to attend and had notes on their experiences read out. Barry spoke of finding love, something which he had not found easy in life, in an icon of God in St. Catherine's Monastery near where the group stayed. He then played the beautiful song 'Love, it is a river'. Revd. Gordon Brown led prayers from the Liturgy of Vespers picked up from one of the leaders, a Russian Orthodox theologian. Catey told of how the whole experience had moved her and of how she had been given the strength to cope having been unwell right up to the event. Rowena, the Moderator, had attended Mass in the Monastery, in a shabby, unkempt church and had experienced the magnificent feel of inclusion in the presence of the glory of God. Jan Maxwell had been particularly aware that when they were actually on the mountain that it was Remembrance Sunday. During this very interesting and moving presentation we sang three rousing hymns. The presentation was accompanied by amazing slides of the desert scenery.

As Christian Aid week was due shortly, we were told that without the U.R.C., it would struggle to exist.

Last year's house-to-house collections brought in £15million. This year's focus will be on Kenya where there are massive numbers of slums and extreme poverty. The hope is to provide toilets where they are non-existent.

There were three presentations of valuable work being done in the field of Youth and Children. We then broke into groups to share work in this field being carried out in our own churches. Catey then led the prayers for children's and youth work. She used a ball which was thrown around the assembled company. The rule was that you were permitted to offer a prayer only when you were holding the ball. The prayers came under three headings 1.-Thank you prayers. 2-Sorry prayers. 3- Please prayers.

After lunch, Liz Blair, the Healing Advisor advertised S.H.A.S. (Synod Healing Advisors Confirmation) held four times a year. The first is to be held in Northern Synod in September.

Donald Findlay from 1Church:100Uses spoke of the ongoing work of the group. He emphasised the recession has made the work much harder and that there should be no line between buildings and mission. He particularly mentioned a project at Gainsborough URC in East Midlands which has a link with Healthy Hub, a disabled catering group. For example they run a cafe in the church and do catering for outside meetings which now use the church. This has brought in a lot of money and is a valuable community project. Donald then reported on all the projects the group is involved with in Northern Synod. With regard to Redcar, he mentioned the dis-

appointment of the withdrawal of the C.A.B. and the huge problem of so many underused buildings in the town.

On the topic of Mission for Life, Catey and Dorothy Barker, from High Heaton, presented by asking each other 'What if there had never been any mission?' They came to the conclusion that there is more happening than we think. There is now money available from Synod for every church for small projects from the Mission for Life fund. Some churches are now voluntarily giving extra money to top up these funds. It was suggested that each church should come up with one new initiative. 'Ignore this at your peril' we were told.

We had a wonderful PowerPoint presentation from Newcastle East Coast Mission Partnership on how 'Five saints and The Good Shepherd' (The five churches' names are all saints) raised £1 50,000 in five years by various means to renovate St. Andrew's church - the usual coffee mornings, lunches, Burns' Suppers, etc. etc, plus they took on an empty shop for a week and also read the Bible from cover to cover in Durham Cathedral. This was a wonderful

achievement.

There was the usual Trust report and also an appeal for a new Synod clerk to replace John Durell who retires in 12 month's time. He will be a hard act to follow.

On the topic of Deployment and Manses, we were reminded that the recognised ratio of one stipendiary minister per 150 church members is just about holding its own at present but the rate of membership is dropping dramatically while costs increase.

We then had the Ministers in Training report and the Ecumenical report before closing at 4 p.m. after a busy and enlightening Synod meeting. As you can see, because of absences, Catey had to wear several hats and they all fitted admirably!

Evelyn Robertson

Please note: This article should have appeared in Group News last month, but due to Catey having computer problems the article never made it to Roger! Profuse apologies Evelyn!

News and prayers from Christian Solidarity Worldwide

In the last two years in Nepal, militant Hindus murdered a Priest and exploded bombs in a church killing three. Ram Prasad Mainali, the instigator, was arrested. Praise God that in prison he has found real friendship from Christians, admits he was wrong, and is attending bible studies

Modern

Listen less to your own thoughts and more to God's thoughts.

François Fénelon Archbishop of Cambrai (18th century)

Lingdale

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

3 rd Sunday of month	5.00pm	Craft Club followed by Kids Praise at 6pm.
4 th Tuesday of month	2.00pm	Worship at Prospect Place

Ancient

What condemns us is not that thoughts enter into us but that we use them badly; indeed, through our thoughts we can be shipwrecked, and through our thoughts we can be crowned.

Anonymous from the Desert Fathers and Mothers (4th century)

Redcar

Kate's Off to Mozambique

Kate McSherry, a member of Redcar church, has been selected to go on a trip from our Synod to Mozambique. Following the failure of last year's anticipated visit from some young people from Mozambique due to visas being denied, it was decided that some of our own young people should travel out to meet with them and worship with them instead!

Kate is one of six young people to receive a place on the trip funded by 'Belonging to the World Church' programme, and will be going out to Mozambique for around ten days in late August/early September (flights still to be confirmed!). Although her place is funded, we would like to use this visit to be able to support the church in Mozambique, by raising enough money for Kate to take a laptop computer out for one of the churches. The Synod is currently asking for second hand laptops to be donated, as email is now becoming a valuable way for

to be able to communicate with one another across the country, in a country where phone-calls are expensive and difficult to make. And with prices starting so realistically Kate and I are hoping that we can raise enough money – around £450! – to provide Kate with a small gift of money to help towards Maria tablets and other necessary expenses AND purchase one new lap top for her to take out with her in her luggage! In order to make this happen Kate is organising a table top sale and coffee morning on June 26th at Redcar Church, and would love your support on the day!

Additionally after the Sunday service on July 25th Kate, her five year old son, Brian, and the children of Redcar Church will be completing a sponsored walk from Redcar to Saltburn along the beach! All support is most welcome and please also feel free to come and walk with them on the day! Sponsor forms will be circulated shortly.

Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale

for Mozambique

June 26th

10-12noon

Donations of table top items, cakes, tombola and raffle prizes most welcome!

Churches Together

Saturday June 19th

Lunchtime Celebration Witness Event in Redcar Town Centre

with puppets and singing and leaflets to hand out, this will be a lively and lovely chance to show our positive Christian presence in Redcar.

More information will be given out shortly in the notices!

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

A Tribute to Eric Lindsley:

Eric began life during the final months of the First World War on June 12th 1918 in Redcar. Having quite an austere upbringing and a fairly tough start in life, Eric had it in his favour that he was bright and at Hugh Bell School Eric did very well. Eric started working at the age of 14 as an office boy at Acklam Steel Works, but Eric wanted to better himself, and, against his mother's wishes, he put himself through college. With further education under his belt Eric was able to progress up through the steelworks, taking a position as Junior Clerk and then Clerk. But then the war interrupted Eric's aspirations and Eric joined the army.

Eric was there at Dunkirk, and when the film *Atonement* was being filmed on Redcar beach, Eric was also there to tell them where they were getting it wrong, from his own personal experience! Dunkirk for Eric was "Up to your knees in muck and bullets". Eric then spent three years in Egypt and Palestine/Israel without leave home, although as a perk he was able to visit Bethlehem, a visit which stuck in his memory. Eric did well in the army, rising in rank over time to become a Staff Sergeant. Eric did make at least one visit home during the war in order to get married, and so it was on August 17th 1940 that Eric married his bride Elsie. Sadly the honeymoon consisted of Elsie accompanying Eric down to London in order to see him off again!

The end of the war brought Eric swiftly home, returning in the August of 1945, and they were able to purchase their first home together, a semi-detached house in Lydbrook Street, with a mortgage of £4 a month! This was just in time as their first son, Geoff, was born in May 1946, followed seven years later in 1953 by Malcom. And so life got back on track for Eric, as he returned to his job as clerk in Britannia Steelworks, and he continued to work his way up, receiving a promotion in 1954, with a move to be manager at Warrenby Steelworks, before a final move to Lackenby Steelworks, where he stayed until retirement in 1979.

In 1958 Eric joined the Masons – an organisation that was to become an important part of his life, and where he gave speeches, became master, and gained provincial recognition, as well as mentoring newcomers to the organisation; and in 2008 he re-

ceived special acknowledgement of his 50 years of service.

After retirement Eric and Elsie used their new found freedom to travel abroad, something that they had begun to do a little in the years running up to retirement. However, by the early 1990's Elsie was struggling with ill health, and Eric nursed Elsie, looked after her for ten years as arthritis and dementia took hold and she became progressively more frail. Finally Elsie had to go into a home, but Eric went in to see her every day without fail until Elsie sadly died in 2001.

But Eric was still to face life after Elsie and carried on with his hobbies, including painting, for he was a talented artist! He painted wherever he was in England or further afield, turning sketches into masterpieces which filled his home and formed an art gallery in the corridor outside his flat. Eric also liked playing golf, and in earlier years enjoyed gardening. He also liked walking, going off for walks of 6 or 7 miles, complete with his flat cap and sticks! The outdoor life even extended to some camping trips in earlier life with his family, although on one occasion he did manage to set the borrowed tent on fire!

To sum up who Eric was, he was an intelligent man who worked hard, but found new release and freedom on retirement. He was a committed, clear-headed, organised and determined man, yet generous and there for others. Eric was always known in the church for being a very dapper gentleman, with his trilby hat and shiny shoes. And he was also incredibly chatty with everyone he met as he went about the town, as well as being a little comedian, so there will be a few he also upset! We still don't know what he said to Gordon Brown on his recent visit to Downing Street!

And Eric still had a lot of living left to do! He hadn't finished yet. The last six years of Eric's life was re-invigorated by the friendship he gained with Kathleen. He doted on her, and she did the world of good for him. But Eric's 91 years of life came suddenly to an end with a simple slip. It was a blessing that he did not suffer long, that he quickly did not know what was happening. His strong faith had carried him to that point in life, and clearly carried him beyond to where he is now united with God in heaven.

Catey

St Andrew's

Thank you

Una and Joan's coffee morning held on 15th April raised £188.00 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

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 30th May

St Mary's, Church of England

Week beginning 6th June

Nunthorpe Methodist Church

Week beginning 13th June

St Bernadette's RC Church

Week beginning 20th June

St Andrew's United Reformed Church

Week beginning 27th June

Marton Methodist Church

Week beginning 4th July

St Cuthbert's Church of England

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship held their annual lunch on 11th May at the King's head. We had a lovely meal and chat and thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon. Sadly this is our last meeting of the session (how time flies).

Please note the first meeting of the new session will be on Wednesday 1st Sept. 2010 at 7.30pm.

Holiday Memory Stall

Doreen would be grateful for any items collected on holiday as she is once again going to be having a "Holiday Memory Stall" at our Annual Bazaar in November.

Advance Notice

We will be having a Strawberry Tea on Saturday 3rd July at 2.00pm. Proceeds are in aid of church funds. There will be a tombola and bring and buy stall. Donations for these stalls will be gratefully received by Una or Joan Swan. Tickets will be available in the near future.

Christian Aid Walk 2010

At 5.50am on the 13th May Steven Etwell and I set off to Garstang where we were starting our sponsored walk for Christian Aid. We got there about 8.00am and arrived at Pat Ascroft's home where bacon and sausage buns were being freshly served as we got in the door. After breakfast we had a gentle walk down to the Tourist Centre. This was the starting point of our 12 mile walk in the Wyre Valley.

When everybody had arrived by 9.00am, we set off going along all the nice market stalls of Garstang Market. These ranged from Lancashire Cheese to locally hand crafted produce. We then went across the playing field on to the River Wyre and across Parkhead Brook going along the slopes of Square Crossey Wood and passed Throstle Nest Farm. At this time we saw a huge flock of sandmartins. Along the banks of the Wyre we saw the Gartstang Millennium Green which is run by volunteers from the Management Team aided by Wyre Borough Rangers and Friends of the Community. The Millennium Green often gets flooded but now flood barriers are in place. By this time the sunshine was beaming down and I was getting a bright red glow on my face.

We then walked up Woodacre Great Wood where there were lots of bluebells. We were walking very near to the motorway and railway line at this point and saw a load of marsh marigolds as we went into Grizedale Brook. Here we got views of Blackpool Tower and Heysham Nuclear Power Station. There were plenty of goslings and lapwings here. Next we came to Scorton where we had a tea stop. We saw a sheep which had just died after getting strangled in a bush with her lambs standing next to her. They were certainly in distress.

We stopped for lunch and freshly made drinks at

Linthorpe Calendar

Dates For Your Diary

Sat	June 5 th		Prayer day at Darlington led by Lawrence Moore, Director of the Windermere Centre.
Tue	June 8 th	7.00pm	Church AGM in the Jameson Lounge
Tue	June 15 th	10.00am -	Inventory Day The church will be open from 10.00am. Please come and help as we undertake this task

Guisborough

Donna has taken a well earned holiday up on the west coast of Scotland. So I am doing my best to keep the flag flying for her. As you know Donna is training to be a Lay Preacher. The URC Course (called TLS) is very demanding. She is the only person doing it locally so several of us have been dragooned in as 'extras' for her tutorials. The course itself is very interesting, and David Whiting her tutor is inspiring. But as I said it's hard work. How Donna fit's it all in alongside her Doctoring and the rest I don't know. However all Christians draw strength from the gift of the Holy Spirit which the Churches celebrate as the Feast of Pentecost.

I've also been on holiday – our usual week with friends from two other URCs. Their churches are much larger than any of ours, and I have to admit to being just being just a tiny bit envious of what a really big church can do!

This year we took a house in Rosedale on the south side of the Moors. It's a beautiful place, popular with families and walkers, but fairly quiet at this time of year. Still a bit chilly, but enough fresh green leaves and flowers to confirm that spring had definitely arrived.

One of our number recalled a time 60 years ago. He'd been given a team of handicapped men and a load of potatoes to plant. Rows and rows of

them. On top of one particularly muddy heap was a beautiful clump of primroses. One of the men said, 'there's beauty everywhere provided you keep your eyes open'. The sad thing is so many people walk straight past and seem not to notice. It's the same in the Alps. Well we saw lots of primroses, and violets and cowslips and wood sorrel. All the fresh clean colours of Nature coming back to life. And to make it perfect, the call of a Cuckoo.

Sometimes I feel with all our high tech and sophistication the World has lost some of its innocence. So it was a real joy to find May Day being celebrated in the old way on the Village Green at Sinnington. Flocks of small children dancing round the Maypole holding brightly coloured ribbons. They were concentrating furiously as the patterns of weaving in and out got more and more complicated. But when they reversed the dance it always unwound again. At least until the parents were invited to take over. 'No Mum it's round Alice – that way' There were all sorts of stalls and a pet dog show and even a coconut shy. It made me feel very nostalgic. And the sun shone!

We had time to meet up with our U3A Natural History group for a walk from St Gregory's Minster. Along with Lastingham it's one of the 'must see' small churches of Yorkshire. Places

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
June 6th	D Cross	B Ward	D Moore	M Robson
June 13th	M Burrows		J Basham	J McGregor J
June 20th	D Houston		M Houston	Basham
June 27th	D Beattie		J Bulmer	Ladies Flow's

where it seems very easy to feel the presence of God around you. The valley is narrow, and filled with quite a broad river. At least is it was a

river half a mile up.. But by the time it reached the Minster it had completely dried up; leaving me wondering where all the water had gone.

As you walk on the moors you keep encountering stone crosses, some very old and worn. The one above Rosedale is unusually tall and looks

almost new. Ana's cross, according to the map. We like walking but our navigation is a bit uncertain. No matter, all we had to do was look for the cross and we'd be alright. I'm sure there's a sermon there somewhere.

Maureen Houston

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	5 June	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – hosted by St Nicholas' Church at 10, Tidkin Lane.
Sat	5 June	9.45am – 3.30pm	Mission Partnership Prayer Day at Northgate URC, Darlington with Lawrence Moore, Director of the Windermere Centre as speaker.
Sat	12 June	10am – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Tue	15 June	7.15pm	Church Meeting.
Sun	20 June	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.

Weekly

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

Preachers

	6-Jun	13-Jun	20-Jun	27-Jun	4-Jul
Marthon	9.30am L Bustard	M Robb Church Meet	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Book Club	L Bustard
	6.30pm				
Lintho	11.00am J Harper	J Lamplugh Parade	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Book Club	L Bustard
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion	Guis Folk	C Morrison	M Robb Book Club	N Johnson
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison	C Morrison	C Morrison Meeting	M Robb Book Club	N Johnson Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm K Harris	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Craft & Family	M Robb Book Club	K Harris

Material for the July/August Magazine to church editors by Sunday 13th June please

Group Editor – R Wheeler, 5 Muirfield, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0JN. 01642 300546. rwhe106500@aol.com