



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

** March * 2010 * March **

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

Now it might seem for us that the earthquake in Haiti has long ago been and gone, long since passed from our minds. For sure, back in January we responded with great urgency through giving money to the Disasters Emergency Committee and individual charities working in the country, as well as holding up the people of Haiti in our prayers. But what about now? Or are we more focused now on 'The Big Read', reading the gospel of Luke this Lent, or following another course of Lenten reflection during this time when we remember Jesus in the wilderness? What is our response now to the people of Haiti? What is our ongoing response to the ongoing and painstakingly slow process of reconstruction and rehabilitation?

I do find that prayers come easy when something so tragic and devastating hits a nation or an area of the world. Even from where I sit, often thousands of miles away, I feel moved to the very core of my being to pray. That kind of prayer is easy. It is that kind of prayer which has brought the survivors of the Haitian earthquake out onto the streets to pray with Christians whose churches are no more than piles of rubble. Prayers of thanks come easier when you and your family have just survived an earthquake, and for those who have lost so much, or everything, it can surely feel like there is no other option left to them, but to pray. And we joined with them in prayer; our prayers mingling with theirs in shock and horror and in sympathy.

But what about in the months and years and decades afterwards, when the rebuilding of homes, hospitals, schools, communities, families and individual lives will continue on relentlessly over such a long time period? What then should our response be? What can we pray then?

Well for starters we can pray alongside many for the full cancellation of Haiti's debt of \$890m, which, even before this earthquake had the nation trapped in poverty as one of the poorest countries in the world. The cancellation of this debt was considered in February but instead those concerned in the International Community decided to give them a further crushing \$104m loan! We need to pray that future funds to reconstruct communities and towns will be given not loaned, in order to bring the Haitians out of their wilderness of suffering and poverty. And yes again, like in the early days after the earthquake, it will mean praying for miracles!

Another concern is Haiti's ability to deal with further natural disaster, especially with its hurricane season only three months away! We need to pray those hurricanes away from this battered island!

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And we need to keep on praying with thanks for all the help and donations that have reached the island in these last two months since the earthquake struck, and for the help to keep on coming. We need to pray without ceasing for all who suffer in Haiti as throughout the world, as we remember and keep on remembering that they our God's people too, loved by God, and strengthened by our prayers and the prayers of Christians around the world.

So maybe this Lent, if you haven't already got involved in the Big Read of Luke's gospel, or the York Lent course, or another, then you might consider Christian Aid's opportunity to 'Count your Blessings' using their thought provoking and fundraising Lenten notes. No doubt, as we do count our blessings this Lent we will be reminded as well to pray... without ceasing! (1 Thess 5:17)

Rev Catey Morrison

Synod Prayers

Week beginning 7th March

Trinity Ashington LEP Methodist/URC; St Mark's Newbiggin; Rev Barry Welsh (URC)

Week beginning 14th March

Christ Church North Broomhill LEP (Methodist/URC); Rev John Pugh (Methodist); Trinity Bedlington LEP (Methodist/URC); Rev John Joughin (Methodist)

Week beginning 21st March

Blyth; Rev Yvonne Tracey; Seaton Delavel LEP (Methodist/URC); Rev Malcolm Sellers (Methodist)

Week beginning 28th March

Our Synod link with the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique
Ecumenical: Melvin and Susan Fincham (Salvation Army)

Manse prayers

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

Tuesday, 2nd March: Redcar (*prayers for Redcar*)
Tuesday, 9th March: Guisborough (*prayers for Guisborough*)
Tuesday, 16th March: Marton (*prayers for Marton*)
Tuesday, 23rd March: Redcar (*prayers for Lingdale*)
Tuesday 30th March: Guisborough (*prayers for Linthorpe*)
Tuesday, 6th April: Marton (*prayers for Redcar*)

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



Book Club For March

Psalm 118, verses 1-2 & 19-29 and Luke, chapter 19, verses 28-40

Book Club in March will fall on Palm Sunday and these readings are part of the lectionary readings for that day. Since this is the VISION4LIFE Prayer Year these readings can help us to look at praise and thanksgiving which are very much part of prayer.

Psalm 118 is thought to have been used liturgically by those going up to the Temple in Jerusalem at some of the major Jewish festivals. On the first Palm Sunday pilgrims entering the city for the Passover festival joyfully sang verses from this psalm as Jesus rode into the city. Speaking of one who is to come who would come in the name of the Lord actually saw this unfolding before their eyes. It speaks of one who would come to save his people – Hosanna means ‘Save, we pray’. Psalm 118 also speaks of salvation from death and of one entering into the city as the King who will bring such salvation.

P	S	A	L	T	P	O	C	E	S	S	P
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March Word Search

This month the word search is to do Palm Sunday.

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| PALMS | TEMPLE |
| PRAISING | JERUSALEM |
| HOSANNA | CROWD |
| DONKEY | PROCESSION |
| ENTRY | PSALM |
| PASSOVER | FESTIVAL |

Bible Quiz for March

1. Who said, ‘Send, I pray, some other person’?
2. Which prophet saw a vision of God in heaven with seraphim above him?
3. How old was Jairus’s daughter when Jesus healed her?

Answers to February’s Bible Quiz

1. What was Matthew doing when Jesus called him? *Collecting taxes* (Matthew 9:9)
2. Who advised Timothy, ‘Drink a little wine for your stomach’s sake?’ *Paul* (1 Timothy, 5:23)
3. What sign did Rahab put in her window as a sign that her family would not be harmed? *A crimson cord* (Joshua 2:15-21)

Partnership Leadership Team Meeting - January 2010

Prayer Days

Everyone was happy with the Prayer Day at Great Ayton. Agreed to try Norton Friends' Meeting House on 27 November from 10 am to 3 pm

Summer Mission Partnership Gathering

To be held at Marton on 5 June would be based on Vision4Life material "Prayer in worship/leading prayer in worship". Janet Turner to be asked to take one session. Ken, Meg and Catey to plan the event

Future Ministry Patterns

Rowena Francis, the Synod Moderator, said we need to think about what will happen in 4 or 5 years' time. By 2015 a continued fall in membership would lead to changes for churches in the partnership. Ecumenical dialogue with other local churches may be appropriate to some congregations.

It was noted that the Rev Colin Offer, of St Andrew's and St George's URC, Stockton did not wish to retire. Rowena said that it was not certain that he would be granted an extension of his pastorate - but it will receive support. Colin will have to justify to the wider Church specific work to be done in that three years. In addition, the agreement of the three Churches and the Mission Partnership will be needed.

Rowena said that we should start looking at other people who can have a role in the Mission Partnership. Norma Johnson is keen to be involved. We need to see how best we can use each others gifts in roles we are happy with. Maybe twice a year ministers can move around the partnership.

Hartlepool Church was mentioned as the Rev Val Towler will be due to retire within the next 5 years and it is then unlikely the town would qualify for full time ministerial support.

Leadership Team Membership

The meeting agreed that the membership should be serving ministers, retired ministers, lay preachers, a representative from each church, together with co-opted members, Jane, Bill and Peter ..Jan Harper is "stepping down" as Pastoral Care Lay representative at Synod. The Rev Colin Offer attends as a minister.

Feedback From Synod Committees

Jane Tomlin recommended the leaflet "all will be well", which shows how money is raised and spent in the URC. Pastoral Committee is looking at ministers and retirement; we are going to be very short of ministers by 2012.

Moderator/Synod Report

Rowena reported that no requests have been made for grants from a fund of £3,000 for small projects.

Pension fund was valued in December 2009 and has a deficit. A million pounds a year is needed for the next 20 years. Synod will have to find £28,000 this year and similar amounts in following years. 10% of capital gains will go straight to the pension fund, 10% to Retired Ministers' Housing and 15% for Synod funds. She asked for prayers for Jesmond as they have plans for a million pound improvement when a property is sold but they will now not receive the amount they were expecting to receive.

In 18 months' time we will get to the target number of ministers. The number of ministers has been reduced from 39 to 29 in 3 years increasing the number of redundant manses. The original aim was to put all the manses into the Synod pot, but it was soon realized that this was impractical. The aim, in the next 7 to 10 years, is to have 35 manses in good order.

The moderator was encouraged by the last Synod Elders' gathering when 80 attended.

On behalf of John Ellis she said that the contributions from Churches have kept up with inflation and she rejoiced at the standard of M & M giving nationwide.

Any Other Business

The joint Messy Church venture of Stockton with the Salvation Army has been very successful.

The hall at Redcar is being painted. Builders are renovating the terrace house next to the Church, which will then be let.

Corus is still producing steel until mid February. At least 120 jobs have been saved by an investment that has been made into coke ovens.

The Town Pastors' scheme in Stockton on Fridays has been extended to Saturdays. Stockton has many volunteers, who help the police to avoid public order problems in the town centre, and some will go to Middlesbrough to give support.

Meg had received an invitation to go to an Anglican Readers' Day Conference.

Elders' Gathering to be held at Newcastle on 17 April.

6th November is a Preaching Study Day in Newcastle - cost £8

Ray Tunnicliffe (edited)

Another Modern Miracle ?

Simon Loveitt's Father Peter died recently. The following was taken from the eulogy given by Simon

After becoming the senior car designer at the Reliant Motor Company he entered the ministry and during this time he served our Church in South Aston, where he built up excellent relationships with the Muslim community. One day, Dad was honoured to be asked by the local Imam, who is the leader of the Mosque, to come to his house and pray for his little boy who, from birth, had suffered from epilepsy, and was get-

ting worse. At the house many of the senior men of the Mosque were gathered around the child's bed. Dad explained that he could only offer prayers then in the name of Jesus Christ. This was accepted, because, as they said, he was a Minister of Christ and a good man. Dad prayed, and offered the laying on of hands, then left.

A week or two later, having not heard anything, he met the Imam's brother and asked how the child was. "Oh he is fine, and back to school, but did you have any doubts that he wouldn't be?"

Dad was taken aback and humbled by the power of their faith, and that of the Muslim community.

Guisborough

I have been thinking back over the last month wondering what to write about when a theme floated to the surface, food.

I started with the final weekend of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when our friends from the churches in Troisdorf, Germany arrived to be welcomed with a faith supper. It was lovely to welcome old friends and new at the lovely new building that is St. Paulinus Catholic Church. The table was groaning as more and more food appeared. There was so much that some was put away and reappeared the following night, after the joint service, when it disappeared as if by magic.

The next was the Cleveland Scots Burn's night, at which many of our church members were present. We had a wonderful meal, with haggis of course, tales were told, songs were sung and toasts raised. It was a bitterly cold night as always but warm inside.

I've had a couple of events postponed since before Christmas due to bad weather (remember the snow?). A meal out with colleagues, from a surgery I work for, where more than 30 of us sat down to a three course meal with wine. The noise from all the chattering was cacophonous but still someone's loud laugh came over

the top. The other was a chance to meet up with my old school friend and her family and finally exchange Christmas presents. After the more adventurous went skiing on the indoor slope we all played Laserquest (ask any youngster) and then went for a Chinese buffet. Oh the temptation of the all you can eat buffet and oh the regret when you have had eyes bigger than your stomach.

In between have been several coffee and biscuits after church with a chance to catch up on everyone's news and sympathise with the aches and pains of winter. There have also been a few tutorials for TLS with hot drinks and biscuits to help the hard thinking along. The broken lemon biscuits would have been a bit of a disaster but they were so moreish and of course broken biscuits have no calories, don't they?

And today, as I write this, is Shrove Tuesday, traditionally a time of feasting prior to the long fasting of Lent and even though we won't be fasting, we will still be eating pancakes tonight.

Food is such an important theme in the Bible,

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
7th Mar	D Beattie	D Houston	J Basham	M Ward
14th Mar	J Reynolds		D Moore	M Sollett
21st Mar	M Houston		D Houston	D Cross
28th Mar	R Tunnicliffe		B Ward	D Harris

stories of feast and famine, fast and festival connect the Old and New Testaments. Jesus sat down to eat with sinners, shared meals with his disciples and fed the 5000. Food brings us together and binds us. Those we sit down to eat with are connected to us in a special way, friends, colleagues, family and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Christian Aid sent out a leaflet for Lent asking us to think, each day, about those who don't have the blessings we enjoy. If we help them in their work, even if it's only to buy Fair Trade products, then we are sitting down to eat with those we will never meet but are connected to by our actions.

Have a thoughtful and fruitful Lenten journey while I try to cutback in the next few weeks to undo the damage of the last.

Donna Moore.

GUISBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor - Michael Summers

Presents

LAURIDSEN

LUX AETERNA

and

TIPPETT

5 NEGRO SPIRITUALS

from A Child of our Time

Guests

Organist - Andrew Christer
and The Northern Spirit Singers

ST NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH

Saturday 24th April 2010 at 7-30pm

Tickets Price £8. Concessions £7 , £ 1 (under 19 yrs)
available from Greensleeves Music Shop; The Guisborough
Bookshop, www.wegotickets.com and at the door.

Guisborough Calendar

Various dates in March	7.30pm	Guisborough Churches Together – Lent Bible Study Course <i>(See notice in the church for dates and venues of the various Groups)</i>
Tue 2 Mar	7.15pm	Finance and Property Committee meeting.
Fri 5 Mar		Women's World Day of Prayer
	2.00pm	St Paulinis RC Church, Speaker: Mrs Rita Proudler
	7.00pm	United Reformed Church, Speaker: Rev Meg Robb.
Sat 6 Mar	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast hosted by St Paulinus RC - the new church in The Avenue, for the Bridge Association and the Churches in Guisborough.
Tue 9 Mar	7.30pm	Pastoral Carers Meeting, 31, Oakley Close.
Sat 13 Mar	10am – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Sun 14 Mar	9.30am	Gift Day Service.
Sun 14 Mar	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.
Tue 16 Mar	7.15pm	Annual General Meeting
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.

Redcar

Lent Bible Studies - The Big Read

These will be on the Gospel of Luke at Win Cordiner's house, 46, Redcar Lane as part of The Big Read, on Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd of March at 2.30pm. All are welcome to come along. Please contact Catey if you would like a lift.

Bishop Tom Wright's book 'Luke for Everyone' will be available to purchase at a 55% discount price of only £3.15.

Final service of St Luke Big Read

Wednesday 31st March - 7.30pm

when all Churches will come together
at Westgate Methodist Church, Guisborough

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 5th March

**2.30pm at St Albans
7.00pm at Redcar URC**

Please support these services if possible – not only women invited, men and children too!

'The Renaissance Singers'

**Saturday 6th March
7.30pm**

**A concert in our Church
in aid of the Bible Society**

Tickets available from Norma Creek
Price £4, which includes tea and a biscuit.

Sunday 14th March – Faith Lunch.

The Morrison Family will provide soup if we could bring either a savoury for main course or a dessert.

Coffee Morning in our Church

**Saturday 27th March
10am-12noon.**

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

Modern

Sow everywhere the good seed given to you. Sow in good ground, sow in sand, sow among the stones, sow on the road, sow among the weeds,. Perhaps some of these seeds will open up and grow and bring forth fruit, if even not at once.

Linthorpe

Special Church Meeting

Saturday March 6th:

10.30am in the Walker Hall

This will follow the usual Prayer Morning at 10am. Please join us for prayers before the meeting.

Welcome Back!

How good it was to see Ivor back with us in church for Parade Service again after his recent operation. It was also pleasing to see some of the Scouts joining us for worship.

Ida Stevely

Coffee After Morning Worship

17th Jan Children With Liver Disease
£15.00 S & D Knox

Many thanks to those who stay after worship and give so generously to this and all the other charitable causes.

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
7 th Mar	R Harris	M Tilley
14 th Mar	H Kettlewell	G Kettlewell
21 st Mar	J Harper	G Dodds
28 th Mar	J Haverson	S & D Knox

Communion Preparation

Mar 21st G Williams
M Walton

Scripture Readers

Mar 7th R Harris
Mar 14th Scouts
Mar 21st J Harper
Mar 28th P Bradley

Church Flowers

Mar 7th TBA
Mar 14th TBA
Mar 21st TBA
Mar 28th J Harper
(in memory of Stan Burnicle)

St Andrew's

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service for the 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 are welcome.

Quiz, Pie and Pea Supper

A quiz, pie and pea supper is to be held here at St. Andrew's on Sat. 27th March, 2010 at 7.30pm. There will be a raffle and all proceeds will go to church funds.

Tickets £4.00 are available from Una, Doreen, Sheila and Joan Swan. Please come along and have some fun!!

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 March
St Andrew's United Reformed Church

Week beginning 14th March
Marton Methodist Church

Week beginning 21st March
St Cuthbert's, Church Of England

Week beginning 28th March
Pioneering Ministry in Coulby Newham

Week beginning 4th April
St Mary's. Church of England

Ladies Fellowship

We had a very enjoyable evening with Peter Howe at our last meeting - Some laughter, reminiscences of a bygone time and live music. Thank you Peter.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30pm we will be hearing from the Rev Roughley of the Leprosy Mission.

Churches Together

Good Friday - March of Witness

Churches Together are organising a march of witness ending in a service at Nunthorpe Methodist Church. This will begin at Marton Methodist Church at 8.30am. People can join the march at various points on the way or just come to the service at Nunthorpe Methodist Church. One stopping point will be at St Andrew`s.

Our Jemina (widely known as 'Mamie') was cheered up during her recent stay in Rehabilitation by this poem from her 78 year old sister-in-law.

We lost Jemina Puddleduck
Couldn't find her anywhere;
Then we had a bit of luck
She'd just gone into care.

Because the roads are pretty bad
And we're just feeling old,
We can't get about so much
So our visit is on hold.

Give us a ring when you want,
We're stuck in the house all day.
We'll try and have a little haunt
To your "Holiday Home" one day.

St Andrew's Calendar

Fri 5 th March	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at Nunthorpe Methodist Church
Mon 15 th March	2.30pm	Worship at Elmridge
Wed 17 th March	2.30pm	Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge
Sat 27 th March	7.30pm	Quiz, Pie and Pea Supper
Maundy Thursday	6.30pm	Communion Service
Good Friday	8.30am	Churches Together march of witness
	2.30pm	Service in 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

Holidays?

Have you considered the URC 'Holiday Forum'? From Saturday afternoon (21st August) to after breakfast the following Friday (27th)? A fuller description of last year's holiday is given in last October's Group News.

This year the cost is from £310 per adult to £35 for the under fives.

The main speaker will be our General Secretary Roberta Rominger and the subject is to be 'God is still speaking'.

Contact Angela Storer 01904 331219 or e-mail angelastorer@aol.com

Lingdale

Flower Rota

7th March - Mrs J Scott
 14th March - Mrs P Green
 21st March - Mr A Thompson
 28th March - Mrs H Dunstan
 4th April - Mrs P Griffiths

Lingdale Manse Progress

Progress is continuing to be made with regard to the Lingdale Manse. Drawings are currently being prepared to guide the building works which are required to bring the manse up to standard.

Lingdale Calendar

Sat 13th March 10.30 - 12noon Coffee Morning
 Wed 28th April 7.00pm Annual General Meeting

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

Ancient

This is the Creator:- in respect of his love our Father; in respect of his power our Lord; in respect of his wisdom, our Maker and Designer.

Irenaeus Bishop of Lyons, a theologian (2nd century)

Preachers

	7-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	28-Mar	4-Apr
Marton	9.30am M Robb Church Meet	C Morrison Parade	M Robb	M Robb Book Club	C Morrison Communion
	6.30pm			M Robb Communion	
Lintho	11.00am K Harris	C Morrison Parade	M Robb Communion	M Robb Book Club	C Morrison Communion
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion	M Robb	K Harris	N Johnson Book Club	M Robb Communion
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison Communion	M Robb	C Morrison Meeting	C Morrison Book Club	M Robb Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm C Morrison	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Craft & Family	C Morrison Book Club	M Robb Communion

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

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