



Group News

Minister

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** May * 2008 * May **

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

Do you understand the weather these days? When I got up this morning and it was a beautiful spring morning, the sky was deep blue and the sun was shining. By lunch time it had clouded over and had gone VERY, very dark, and then it started raining and then it started hailing. By the time I went out to pick the children up from school there was snow built up on the windscreen wipers! And now, with the children home and changed and watered, no more than half an hour after having returned home from school, I am sitting in my study, and as I write this on my computer, there is the most wonderful sunshine streaming in through the window and we are back to blue sky again! Amazing! Truly amazing! How does God do it?!

I believe that it is just as well that I don't understand the weather today, or the weather yesterday for that matter, because I believe it is good thing that God's creation can still outwit our small human brains. When we are young and we learn something new, we think we know everything, we think we know it all, we think we are wise! But really I think it is true that the more we learn, the more we realise we still don't understand, and maybe that, in fact, is wisdom. Being able to express our doubts, being able to say that we don't understand!

I always get a smug kind of glee in my heart when I realise that scientists don't know it all – and I tried to be a scientist myself, before coming into ministry! When the weather patterns are impossible or a medical condition is beyond current medical research; when events occur that only go to prove that scientists don't understand it all - I get really happy! Because in these little gaps in scientific knowledge I see opportunities to showcase the need for faith! For the reality is that even the sharpest mind can not explain it all, cannot understand it all, cannot know it all! Because someone more amazing than the smartest computer programme or the most intricate masterpiece, created our world and created us, and even more amazingly, is there for each one of us, ready to have a personal, individual relationship with us. Wow!

So as I look out of the window at the crazy weather and wonder what I should put on – water-proofs or shades – I want to jump up and down and shout “Wow, what an amazing God we have!” And as I struggle to realise that the doctors don't have all the answers, I want to say “Wow, thank you God for this reminder of how amazing you are!” Crazy I may well be, but I am sure you will agree, as we draw near to Pentecost, the time when God gave the church his Holy Spirit, gave to us a means to communicate freely with God beyond all scientific explanation, wow, what an amazing God we have!

God bless! Happy Pentecost!

Rev Catey Morrison

Redcar Church

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 will be available shortly or you can give on-line and also gift aid your sponsorship at

www.justgiving.com/jmorrisonbikeride

Christian Aid Quiz

There will shortly be circulated around the group a quiz for you to do in the comfort of your our homes in aid of John's Christian Aid bike ride appeal.

The quiz sheets will be available at £1 a sheet and there will be a £10.00 book voucher 1st prize and other goodies for the winners!

Abseil for Zoe's Place

Come and watch Catey abseil off the Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough on Sunday June 15th at 1pm and in the process raise money for Zoe's Place!

Explorations Course

The Explorations Course is being postponed to the autumn to allow people to support *Just 10* and prepare for *Vision4Life*.

New dates for the Explorations course will be announced soon!

Ethical Shopping

It was good to read Jan Harper's report in the last issue, and find that Northern Synod is to submit a resolution to Assembly in support of British farmers, who often get a raw deal at the hands of our all-powerful supermarket chains. Ethical shopping needs to be worked at but by exploring other sources before we set off on our one-stop-shop, it can be done. Our long established street markets sell mostly locally grown fruit and vegetables, and specially the nearby Farmers Markets (Stokesley - first Saturday in every month, Pinchinthorpe Hall - 1st Sunday, Guisborough - 2nd Saturday, Northallerton - 4th Friday, Nature's World - last Sunday). Another alternative is to try out a "veggie box" (small or family sized) for doorstep delivery. Larchfield (Camphill Community, which provides employment opportunities for the young disadvantaged) and Millriggs on Stokesley by-pass, retail a wide range of organic and ethical goods including gorgeous bread and other goodies from their own bake house. Both have a butchery counter and, along with private butchers in Stokesley and Guisborough, are even able to tell customers on which farm animals were reared. Another excellent source is The Veggie Shop in Roman Road (Ron also carries a selection of fair-trade goods). A further bonus is that purchases from all these sources require minimum packaging, reducing the use of many sorts of plastics - a further benefit to the environment. So let's look on this submission to Assembly in Edinburgh as a personal challenge to seek out ways of supporting our own local farming communities more effectively.

Shirley & John Moorse

For Our Prayers

The Synod Prayers for May are as follows:

Week beginning 4th May

Bellingham LEP; Falstone & Keilder; Wark LEP. Minister; Janet Flawn

Week beginning 11th May

Education & Training Officer, David Peel; Universities, Colleges & Schools in the Synod

Week beginning 18th May

Children's Officer, Hannah Middleton; young people within the Synod

Week beginning 25th May

Development Enabler, Janet Turner; local church communities
Ecumenical Church Leaders: Mark Bonnington & Brian Howell (Independent Free Churches)

Please also pray this month for the people of St Mark's LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership), who meet in a school in Coulby Newham. With sadness the congregation resolved to work towards closure and their final service will be on Friday 9th May at 7.00pm. Please pray that each member of St. Mark's will find a new spiritual home and continue to be a witness to Christ within Coulby Newham.

Manse Prayers

Tuesday, 6th May Marton
Prayers for St Andrew's URC

Tuesday, 13th May Guisborough
Prayers for Guisborough URC

Tuesday, 20th May Redcar
Prayers for Linthorpe URC

Tuesday, 27th May Marton
Prayers for Redcar URC

Tuesday, 3rd June Guisborough
Prayers for Lingdale URC

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

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

Lingdale

Memories Day

Saturday 17th May, 10am – 4pm

Once again Alison Small will be bringing a selection of the photographs and documents from the Lingdale history web site. Please come along and see the additions since the last memory day in 2005 -yes it is really three years since the last one!

Family News

Jean Winter - after a nasty fall and a long stay in James Cook, Jean is now back at home and recovering, although not back in her usual place on a Sunday night just yet!

Please remember her in your prayers and we look forward to her joining us again soon.

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

Wednesdays 10.00am – 11.30am Coffee

3rd Sunday of month 5.00pm Kids Club at 5pm followed by Kids Praise at 6pm.

4th Wednesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Flower Rota

4th May Mrs H Dunstan
11th May Mrs P Griffiths
18th May Miss S Griffiths
25th May Mrs J Coulthard
1st June Mr B Dove

Linthorpe

Annual General Meeting

12th May is the Church Annual General Meeting. Please do your best to attend as the Church Meeting is the only decision making body of the church next to the Synod now that Districts have gone. Your opinion matters!

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
4 th May	H Kettlewell	A Piercy
11 th May	R Harris	S Mapplebeck G Kettlewell
18 th May	J Harper	J Haverson
25 th May	M Gilmour	H Kettlewell

Coffee/Tea After Worship

4 th May	D & S Knox
11 th May	V Walker
18 th May	H Kettlewell
25 th May	J & P Horbury

Scripture Readers

4 th May	S Mapplebeck
11 th May	Parade
18 th May	B Potter
25 th May	F Rowe

Scout Group Report

Many thanks to Anne Hood and Gillian Rathbone for running the two tables at the Middlesbrough Head Quarters table top sale. Over £60 was raised, shared between Sacred Heart Church and 21st Scout Group funds.

The Explorer Scouts have been preparing for their forthcoming hiking expedition; Beavers and Cubs have been recording their good turns; and Scouts learning to light fires without matchers or lighters and cooking techniques.

We had no Church Parade in April as all Schools were on their Easter Holidays. We are having the District St Georges Day Parade on 27th April which will include a short march, a service/camp fire to be followed by a barbecue.

Gang Show

This year's Middlesbrough Gang Show was celebrating 50 years at the Middlesbrough theatre. Our group had three Cub Scouts, one Scout and ten Explorer Scouts taking part out of the total cast of eighty in this year's production. The show ran from Tuesday 1st April to Saturday 5th and included the Saturday afternoon matinee.

The show had some of the old favourites from the past plus lots of new material such as 'Time Travel' Doctor Who, Peter Pan and West End Tributes. It was a very tiring week for most of the cast as all but Redcar and Cleveland Scouts were not on their Easter holidays, so had to go to school then perform on the evening.

Ivor Huskinson
(Group Scout Leader)

Coffee After Morning Worship

Feb 17 th	£11.30	Guide Dogs For The Blind	J & P Horbury
Feb 24 th	£18.00	Children With Liver Disease Foundation	S & D Knox
Mar 16 th	£17.56	Guide Dogs For The Blind	J & P Horbury
Mar 23 rd	£15.00	Children With Liver Disease Foundation	S & D Knox
Mar 30 th	£12.00	Macmillan Nurses	H Kettlewell
Apr 6 th	£ 15.70	Guide Dogs For The Blind	P & J Horbury
Apr 13 th	£ 13.50	Macmillan Nurses	H Kettlewell

Many thanks to those who donate so generously to these causes.

Linthorpe Calendar

Sat 10 May	10.00-10.30am	Saturday morning monthly Prayer Meeting
Mon 12-May		AGM

Stan Baines

Stan was born in Middlesbrough just over 92 years ago. And since his father was Choirmaster at Cannon Street Congregational Church young Stan was steeped in music and the Christian faith. So it was no wonder that his life revolved around music and church. His love for both stayed with him and he gave of his talents and skills to both.

Stan was an accomplished organist deputising for Stan Burnicle at Linthorpe U.R.C. He was also a member of the choir but his service within church life was not confined to music. He was an elder and also an active member of the Property Committee. His father had a joinery business so Stan learned the trade and put his joinery skills to good use at times for the church. He was also a Sunday School teacher from way back in his Cannon Street days. And it was when a member at Cannon street that he met Gwen who was to become his wife. She, too, was a Sunday School teacher.

Stan and Gwen married in 1941 and Robin came along a few years later. Being an only child himself Stan wanted to ensure that Robin had a sibling and so Gillian came along completing the family.

Being the age he was Stan found him caught up in the Second World War. He served in North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Whilst in the army he kept his musical interest by joining a band called 'The Ambassadors'. He was an accomplished pianist and organist but he played saxophone in the band. His taste in music was eclectic. He had a critical ear and enjoyed organ music, light jazz and music from the shows. But his ear did not enjoy classical or pop music very much.

A private man Stan didn't speak about himself very much. He enjoyed walking holidays and he and Gwen often had Christian Fellowship holidays. He was not one for travelling great distances until Gillian went to California to live and then he and Gwen got used to visiting and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. When Gwen died Stan continued to make visits to the U.S.A. until recent years.

Sadly Gwen suffered a stroke just after Stan retired. By then he had moved on from the family Joinery and Undertaker business and was a manager for a building firm. He retired when he was seventy and enjoyed a few months with Gwen until she became ill. Then he spent the next few years looking after her until her death. During Gwen's illness he found some respite by being able to continue to lead his Monday Evening choir and his music kept him sane over a difficult period.

A gentle, placid man with a twinkle in his eye, Stan enjoyed his family. He loved children and was very fond of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He had a sense of humour and enjoyed teasing the children. A family tradition began with Stan finding a toy robin, producing at Christmas and repositioning it during the festive season. The family tradition remains one of looking out for where the robin has been placed during the Christmas period.

Stan was a man of surprising depths. He knew right from wrong and he practised his faith. Sadly the Stan that most knew faded away during recent years as Alzheimer's took its toll. And yet even then his humour remained... and his love for children. His own great-grandchildren along with children visiting other residents in Parkville Care Home always brought a smile to his face until recent months.

I like to believe that his faith remained somewhere in his great depths. In fact I'm sure that God's love for Stan remained constant in his latter years even when Stan was not himself. God would see beyond to the real Stan and into his depths. And now, the Christian hope is that he is healed and at peace with God in the place that God has prepared for him. In giving honour to Stan's life, to a man who began his life with great emphasis on music and church, our hope is that he is released into the music of heaven where music is of the highest quality and no wrong notes are ever heard. Our hope is that he is in a place where he is restored and whole and safe in God's care and keeping.

Guisborough

Two weeks ago we celebrated Low Sunday. The end of one church year and the start of the next. The time when life for the disciples paused before the great day of Pentecost. Life has been quiet for us too at Guisborough. But there was still plenty to do. On Low Sunday itself we took the service ourselves. Before the East Cleveland Group that happened quite often. But now we're needed only if all the Ministers, retired Ministers and Lay Preaches are unavailable – not very often. We see our Ministers preach every – but can we remember exactly how?

The general shape is easy – look in the front of Rejoice and Sing. The Bible Reading notes give us the Lectionary readings for the day and some clues as to themes. But which hymns go with which themes? And how long does a hymn take? Panic - with Ernest in hospital which hymns do we know well enough to sing unaccompanied? Then we try to pick a children's hymn they already know from school and will enjoy joining in. To be honest choosing hymns is the really difficult job. We can delegate the children's address, the bible readings and the prayers to individuals. And the sermon - although usually we split that into two 'Reflections' on the Readings. I remember once asking our 'volunteers' what they planned to do – "Wait and see!" they said. Actually finding volunteers is not difficult. There's a wealth of talent in the most unsuspected places; and once you realise you're among friends that 'Oh I just couldn't!' feeling quickly fades. But we were still very glad to see our ministers back this week

A week later (13th April), today was a special celebration for our children. Ten of them came to receive prize books for fairly regular attendance on Sunday mornings. We're proud of them and the teachers who obviously make their teaching interesting and worthwhile. In a small congregation the size of the Sunday school varies a lot, but few or many we value them hugely.

How could we have a Nativity Play without them?

It was also great to see Ernest back in Church. He was in Hospital almost three weeks and even now he's having a bit of a struggle. Still everyone is clustering round and he makes some progress every day.

What else is there? Gift Day? Money is not what Churches are about - but without it we can't do all the things we do now. Barbara tells me we raised something over £4730 this year – just another £13000 or so to go!

Finally as I write I'm watching the London Marathon. All those thousands of people, and all that heroic effort to raise money for charity. Makes me wish I was young and fit again! – like John Morrison on his bike – and Catey too.

Maureen

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week in our region this year will see a visit from Christian Aid Director Daleep Mukarji, who will be preaching at a join service in Darlington on 11th May. There will also be opportunity to meet and hear from Christian Aid 'Country Managers', who are arriving early for their staff conference in order to spend time in Area Offices to learn about this unique fundraising week. Charlotte Timson from Malawi will be in Guisborough on that same Sunday evening, and at the Lord Mayor's Coffee Morning in Newcastle on 12th May. Jacques Miaglia from the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be in Upper Swaledale on 15th May and around Newcastle on 16th May. Country Managers are those who have the overview of all the partner organisations in a particular country which receive grants from Christian Aid.

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
May 4th	B Ward	J Reynolds	R Tunnicliffe	B McDonald
May 11th	D Moore		J Bulmer	D Harris
May 18th	R Tunnicliffe		D Beattie	V Beattie
May 25th	M Baird		M Robson	D Collins

Guisborough Calendar

Fri	2-May – Mon	5-May	Bridge Association - Hope 08 - A Million Hours of Kindness – join to make up our share of 300 hours in Guisborough. Phone Jenny on 07807 327963 if you can help.
Sat	3-May	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – Guisborough Christian Fellowship at 32, Thames Avenue.
Wed	7-May	7.30pm	‘Just 10’ in Preston Park, Stockton and the following Wednesdays until 25th June
Sat	10-May	10 – 12 noon	Farmers’ Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Sun	18-May	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro’ Churches JC’s joining together at Prior Purseglove Sports Centre.

Weekly

Tuesdays	12.00pm	Bible Study
Thursdays	9.30am – 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and some of us

Redcar

Family News

Sadly we announce the death of Alec Bramley, aged 90. Alec, always cheerful, was a regular attendee for many years at our church until his health failed.

Congratulations

Congratulations to John Davis for managing to cycle from Land’s End to John O’Groats in seven days to raise money for the Langalanga Scholarship Fund in Kenya.

Beetle Drive & Faith Supper

Saturday 10th May

All are welcome to come along to a Beetle Drive and Faith Supper from 6pm at the church. People are asked to bring a small contribution of food of their choosing for the faith supper. Tickets are available at £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children, although do feel free to just turn up on the night.

Hope 2008

Monday May 5th 2008

As part of Hope 2008, ‘Churches Together in Redcar’ is arranging a litter clean up. We’re hoping as many people as possible will join in to show the residents of Redcar how Christians care.

- 9.30am Assemble in Zetland Park Methodist Church for prayer and tea/coffee. This church will be open for tea/coffee and rest throughout the day.
- 10.00am Litter picking on the stray, High Street and hot spots indicated to us.
- 12noon Soup at lunch time will be served at the Baptist Church.
- 1.00pm Litter picking
- 3.00pm Final gathering on the Stray, with all the collected litter.

If you can help in any way, washing up, serving tea, please make sure you put your name on the list in church.

Saturday 14th June

BBQ for Christian Aid

12noon-2pm

See Page 2

John ch10 v10

I have come in order that you might have life – life in all it's fullness.

Jack's Diary

Six must dos when out walkies:

1. Chase a few rabbits (making sure not to catch any).
2. Lose the family
3. Roll in something stinky (I recommend goose poo, it stays with you for weeks no matter how many baths you are subjected to).
4. Have a swim in the pond.
5. Make some new friends (this only happens if you have rolled in stinky stuff, it makes you more interesting).
6. Find the family

If you can achieve all of this then it's been a perfect outing!

Alec Bramley

Alec began life on 29th December, 1916, in Middlesbrough. He was one of four, having two elder sisters, Doris and Flo, and twin brother, Gordon. When he was twelve the family moved to Redcar and at the age of fourteen he moved into the house where he was to spend the rest of his long life.

When he left school he became an apprentice joiner working in the building trade. Being of the generation that he was his working life was disrupted due to the Second World War he joined the army and was involved in the D Day landings at Arnhem. In 1944 he was injured with shrapnel in both thighs and ankles but after a spell in hospital in Wales he returned to battle and went through until the end of the War. Then he spent some time in Berlin and also escorted prisoners at Nuremburg. As for most men who found themselves as soldiers during the War, Alec rarely spoke of the horror of battle although those years always figured highly in his mind. He did confess that Arnhem was the worst but preferred to remember the good times, times of the comradeship. On returning home in 1947 Alec rejoined the building trade and he travelled to different projects in Britain. In the early 50s he began work with I.C.I. and he remained there until he retired.

Alec never married and he lived in the family

home with his mum and his sister, Doris. Sadly his father had died in 1947 and later, when his mum also died, he and Doris shared the house until she also died in 2001 aged 91. His other sister, Flo, did marry but had no family but his twin brother, Gordon, married and provided Alec with a niece, Christine. Christine's family was very special to him, especially her children, Deborah and Phillip and, of course, he was proud of his great-nephews and nieces, Thomas, Sophie, Abbie, Laura and Matthew.

A private person, family was important to Alec. He held his own opinions, enjoyed his television and he had a sense of humour. Also he loved a drive out into the countryside. He recently said that he'd had a good life and he enjoyed his independence staying on his own in the family home until his last recent spell in hospital. He was beginning to find the effects of old age difficult, especially his failing eye-sight.

Alec was a man of faith having had a good grounding in church life. His mother was a Methodist and she took the girls with her whilst his father was a Congregationalist and he took his sons with him. Eventually Alec found himself as a member of the U.R.C. Christine knew that her Uncle Alec prayed regularly and she has the faith to believe that he is now safe in the hands of God.

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

Wednesday	8.00am	Wednesday Prayers
Wednesday	2.00pm	Fellowship
Thursday	9.30am	Thursday Prayers
	10.00-11.30am	Pop-in Centre

Monthly

First Tuesday	8.00am	Churches Together Prayer Service at Newcommen Methodist Church
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St Andrew's

Ladies Fellowship

At our last meeting Lesley Bustard gave us a talk about her very clever deaf dog, Kelly. We didn't know what a star Kelly was (newspaper articles and appearing on GMTV!) Kelly has won many obedience training competitions and even competed at Crufts with the N. England Team. Thank you Lesley. It was a lovely talk and we just managed to get a flavour of how difficult it was for you to train a deaf dog for obedience competitions. Well done Lesley and Kelly too.

Our next meeting, which will be our last until September, will be our Annual Lunch on Wednesday 7th May, 2008 at 12.30pm at the Bay Horse, Great Broughton.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jane Tomlin's husband, Mike, who has just been honoured by the Annual Convention of the Unitarian Church in recognition of his service of over thirty years as honorary treasurer of their Stockton Church.

Thank You

To you all.....Albert, Andrew, Ingrid and Chris would like to thank all their friends for their prayers and kind thoughts which is helping them get through this sad time. It has been so much appreciated.

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 12-May	3.00pm	Informal Worship at Elmridge
Wed 21-May	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

Jessie Smith

To everyone at Nunthorpe and Marton United Reformed Church,

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness and thoughts, since the stroke our mother, Jessie, suffered at Christmas. Nunthorpe and Marton United Reformed Church has been an important part of her life for nearly forty years and it is a great help to us and, we are certain, to her that she has so many friends who have shown such kindness in visiting and keeping her in their thoughts.

It was a great relief when Mum was able to move from the hospital in London to James Cook Hospital, and then from there to the Graceland care home in Guisborough. Mum has recovered well physically from the stroke and has started to settle into her new home in Guisborough. We know Mum is very much cheered by her visitors and always has a great smile on her face.

Best wishes to all at the Church.

Neil and James Smith.

Churches Together

Hope 08

Acts of Kindness over the Pentecost weekend

Car Wash & Coffee Morning

FREE

Saturday 10th May

10.00am to 1.00pm

St Andrew's URC and Marton Methodist

* * * * *

Quiz Night

Saturday 10th May

7.30pm

Marton Methodist Church

Preachers

	4-May	11-May	18-May	25-May	1-Jun
Marton	9.30am K Harris	C Morrison Parade	B Stewart	M Robb EcoSun Comm	M Robb Church Meet
	6.30pm				
Lintho	11.00am M Robb	C Morrison Parade	C Price Communion	M Robb	J Harper
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion	M Robb	C Morrison	D Harris	K Harris Communion
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison Communion	M Robb	M Robb	K Harris	K Harris
Lingdale	6.00pm M Robb	C Morrison Communion	M Robb	M Robb	Ling Folk

Material for the Magazine to church editors by Sunday 11th May please

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