



Group News

Minister

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** May * 2010 * May **

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

GROUNDING! All the planes have been grounded! Nothing is moving out of or into our airports as I write this and it seems as if it is going to continue for some time. And this hindrance is caused by none other than volcanic dust from Iceland. Hopefully by the time you read this letter freight passengers will have reached their destinations and its traffic will be almost as normal.

But all of this has set me thinking. What is it that hinders us in this day and age? What hinders the Kingdom of God from advancing? It almost seems as if we have been grounded!!

We are now in the season between Easter and Pentecost and I'm reminded that after the Ascension the first disciples felt as if they'd been grounded. They were full of awe and wonder at what they had witnessed of the risen Christ but nevertheless they felt powerless. But for them the volcanic dust was fear for they were fearful of what the political and religious authorities might do to them if they began to speak out. What is our volcanic dust? Is it fear or apathy or something else? Well, whatever it is we can wait like the disciples did between the Ascension and Pentecost for the Spirit to come and while we wait we can pray and ask that whatever the volcanic dust is within our lives and churches will be dealt with. It won't just happen for we will need to allow the Spirit to blow the fear or the apathy or whatever our volcanic dust is away. Then free from the `dust` we need to let the Spirit empower us to be about the business of the Kingdom rather than remaining in a grounded state where nothing is moving.

A jet engine is extremely powerful. Whenever I fly it never ceases to amaze that the planes engine is able to lift such a heavy weight and fly through the skies!!! And the Holy Spirit of God is far more powerful than any jet engine. The Spirit has the capacity to move and work unbounded by space and time. Will you wait and pray and then allow that power to work through you?

Have a good Pentecost season

Blessings,

Meg

Spring Harvest 2011?!

Catey, John and family are planning to go again to Spring Harvest in Skegness next year, and if anyone is interested in joining them do please speak to Catey. This may seem a little premature, but actually the booking lines for accommodation open in June, and Catey needs to know by then how many accommodation units to book.

Because of a late Easter next year Spring Harvest will be taking place BEFORE Easter. Speak to Catey for more details (01642: 471778).

Catey thoroughly recommends the experience of sharing worship and communion with over 3,000 other Christians, whilst also being able to go along to a huge selection of workshops, seminars, concerts and theatre productions!!!

New Hymn Books

I was at Spring Harvest last week and came across some supplementary Hymnbooks available at a knock-down price. It is called 'Worship Today' and is a collection of 500 songs in a hardback book, featuring 'Be still for the presence of the Lord', 'As the deer pants for the water', 'A touching place' by Iona's John Bell, and many more; some that we know and more that we are yet still to know. Word copies were being sold at only 50p instead of £5.00 and music copies at £5.00 instead of £25.00. After a quick phone-call to Meg it was felt that this was an opportunity that couldn't be passed, and after a quick trip back to the stall concerned I managed to secure the last 130 word books in the country – as they were selling like hot cakes! I had wanted to get 140 word copies but by the time I had had the conversation the stack on the stall were all gone, but they managed to get for us 130 which arrived the next day! I also bought enough music copies for all our musicians and a copy each for each church. I hope this gift of an opportunity will bring blessing to our group, and prevent us from repeatedly printing some newer songs on little bits of paper and thus save trees!!!

Catey 605837.

Group Children's Sleepover

6pm Saturday June 26th
to
12 noon Sunday June 27th

at our Linthorpe Church

All the fun of a sleepless night, plus games, baking, crafts and more.

Come ready to get stuck in AND discover more about Jesus at the same time.

Just bring your sleeping bag, pillow and a change of clothes and lots of enthusiasm!!!! For all children 5 and up!

Booking forms will be given out in due course or speak to Catey (01642: 471778)

Ecumenical Quiet Day

At Ushaw College, 22nd May, 10.30 - 4.00

"Come away to a quiet place and rest"

- a journey into quietness and prayer

with Christian Smith of St Antony's Priory,
Durham

Retreat Association members £20, non-members £25

Details from Ruth Crofton, tel 01388 763093

rcrofton@tiscali.co.uk

St Cuthbert's Way

The synod pilgrimage will take place July 26-31 2010, following the celebrated 65 mile trail from Melrose to Holy Island. Full details were sent out to all churches in the January mailing, and now is the time to be signing up. However, there is still one problem to overcome: the organisers plan to transport walkers to and from accommodation each day by minibus, and are currently looking for a volunteer driver. Please contact Linda Gowland if you might be able help: linda.gowland@btopenworld.com or tel 01434

The Beauty of the Spirit?

Last week I was in West London attending a conference. While I was in the airport, returning home, I heard several people behind me beginning to clap and cheer. I immediately turned around and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism I have ever seen. Moving through the terminal was a group of soldiers in their uniforms, as they began heading to their gate everyone (well almost everyone) was abruptly to their feet with their hands waving and cheering. When I saw the soldiers, probably 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for, it hit me. I'm not alone. I'm not the only red blooded Briton who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families. Of course I immediately stopped and began clapping for these young unsung heroes who are putting their lives on the line everyday for us so we can go to school, work, and enjoy our home without fear or reprisal.

Just when I thought I could not be more proud of my country or of our service men and women a young girl, not more than 6 or 7 years old, ran up to one of the male soldiers. He knelt down and said "Hi," the little girl then asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her. The young soldier didn't look any older than maybe 22 himself, said he would try and what did she want to give to her daddy. Suddenly the little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek. The mother of the little girl, who said her daughter's name was Courtney, told the young soldier that her husband was a

Corporal and had been in Afghanistan for the last 5 months.

As the mum was explaining how much her daughter, Courtney, missed her father, the young soldier began to tear up. When this temporarily single mum was done explaining her situation, all of the soldiers huddled together for a brief second. Then one of the other servicemen pulled out a military looking walkie-talkie. They started playing with the device and talking back and forth on it. After about 10-15 seconds of this, the young soldier walked back over to Courtney, bent down and said this to her, "I spoke to your daddy and he told me to give this to you." He then hugged this little girl that he had just met and gave her a kiss on the cheek. He finished by saying "Your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon." The mum at this point was crying almost uncontrollably and as the young soldier stood to his feet he saluted Courtney and her mum.

I was standing no more than 6 feet away as this entire event unfolded. As the soldiers began to leave, heading towards their gate, people resumed their applause. As I stood there applauding and looked around, there were very few dry eyes, including my own. That young soldier in one last act turned around and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear cheek rolling down his cheek. We need to remember everyday all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices. At the end of the day, it's good to be British.

Heidi Schofield (Taken from the newsletter of the 'Ecumenical Fellowship of Aelred')

News from the Persecuted Church (From the Barnabus Fund Prayer Diary)

Nadia Iftikhar, aged 11, was beaten unconscious by a Muslim teacher at her evening coaching school in Dharema, Punjab, Pakistan, after Nadia had said in class that she was both a Pakistani and a Christian. The teacher had read from a text book stating that all Pakistanis were Muslims, when Nadia made her statement The enraged teacher beat her with a bamboo, saying, "You are not a Pakistani but a Christian. Your homeland is somewhere in Europe or America." Pray for Nadia as she recovers from her ordeal (Revelation 3:8b). Pray also for her teacher and many other Pakistani Muslims who also do not believe that Christians can be loyal Pakistani citizens, that their hearts will be changed by the witness of Christians they meet.



Vision4Life

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

This month the word search is again to do prayer... and how the Holy Spirit can help us discern what God is saying. (John 14: 8-27)
See item on Book Club for May.

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|---------|-----------|
| BELIEVE | PENTECOST |
| DISCERN | SPIRIT |
| FATHER | TRUTH |
| LISTEN | WAIT |

Bible Quiz for May

1. How many stones did the Israelites use to cross the River Jordan without getting wet?
2. How many stones did David take with him when he went to fight Goliath?
3. Who used a stone as a pillow?

Book Club for May John, chapter 14, verses 5-27

Our next Book Club Sunday will fall on Pentecost Sunday and so we will use the gospel reading from the lectionary for that Sunday. It fits with the idea of prayer as it is about how we can discern the guidance of God the Father through the leading of the Holy Spirit. Jesus discerned his Father's will through the guidance of the Spirit and in this passage he promises his disciples that they will be lead by the Holy Spirit too. Much of what we know to be of God comes to

us through the bible which is why we began the three years of Vision4Life with the bible year. And the Holy Spirit can help us to recall, when necessary, what the bible says just as the Spirit helped those first disciples to recall the very words of Jesus. The Spirit reminds us of what God's will is and that his main command is the one to love each other.

And as those first disciples waited in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit at birth of the Church that Pentecost we, too, need to wait in prayer for God's leading and guidance for the Church in this day and age.

Answers to March's Bible Quiz

1. How did David show Saul how close he had come to killing him?
Because he cut off a corner of his robe when he could have killed him (1 Samuel, chapter 24)
2. What food did the ravens bring to feed Elijah?
Bread and meat (1 KINGS, chapter 17, verses 1-6)
3. Why did Jesus curse a fig tree?
Because it had no fruit (Matthew, chapter 21, verses 18-22 & Mark, chapter 11, verses 20-26)

Synod Prayers

Week beginning 2nd May

Cromer Avenue, Gateshead; Denewell Avenue, Gateshead; Rev Gordon Brown

Week beginning 9th May

Ryton; Winlaton Local Ecumenical Partnership; Rev Elaine Brown

Week beginning 16th May

Stockton Road, Sunderland; Grinadon, Sunderland; Rev Peter Jordan; Helen Stephenson, (Church Related Community Worker)

Week beginning 23rd May

PENTECOST: *The Mission of the Church*

Week beginning 30th May

Boldon; Roker; St. Bede, Sunderland; Rev David Whiting (*who will be inducted to serve these churches on 1st May*)

Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham

Manse Prayers

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

Tue 4th May: Redcar (*prayers for Linthorpe*)

Tue 11th May: Marton (*prayers for Guisborough*)

Tue 18th May: Guisborough (*prayers for Marton*)

Tue 25th May: Redcar (*prayers for Lingdale*)

Tue 1st June: Marton (*prayers for Linthorpe*)

Guisborough: 31 Oakley Cl Marton: 10 Farington Dr
Redcar: 31 Torcross Way

Mission Partnership

Day on Prayer

Saturday, 5th June

St Andrew's URC, Marton

This will be a day when you can come and go as you please. Drop in for a long or as short a time as you like. There will be stations for you to learn about different aspects of pray and also to pray quietly for some of the issue facing our churches and the world.

Lingdale

Flower Rota

2nd May - Mr A Thompson

9th May - Mrs M Saunders

16th May - Miss J Scarth

23rd May - Mr T Waller

30th May - Mrs J Scott

6th June - Mrs P Green

Holiday Club

Thanks to all those who organised / helped out and well done on the beautiful Easter garden!

Susan

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

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

4th Tuesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Guisborough

Last term of TLS, as well as Job, we studied the book of Ecclesiastes. The writer has a reputation for being a bit of a pessimist, everything is vanity and so much chasing after the wind. I, however, have found his writing a good antidote to worry. He points out that striving after riches is futile because we can't take it with us, he even says striving after knowledge is ultimately futile because we cannot know everything. His words echo a song by Dire Straits that my husband reckons was written for me. The chorus ends "These things have always been the same, so why worry now?"

Jesus told us not to worry so much as well, remember the sparrows and the lilies of the field.

I have been trying to follow the writer of Ecclesiastes' advice to enjoy life, while I am young and to enjoy work for it's own sake. I have been out to the cinema, I have enjoyed the first walking group outing of the season on the first really glorious day of Spring and I have tried to take pleasure in the mundane little jobs of each day.

The only problem now is that all this not worrying has allowed deadlines to creep up on me. So I am late with this article, I haven't started the as-

signment to hand in this month, let alone the Journal I am supposed to write and I am taking my first solo service tomorrow. Am I worried? Well, yes, a little bit but that won't get the jobs done. I shall remember from Ecclesiastes that it is better to work than to be idle and will be busy for a while.

Try not to feel too sorry for me, I've also organised a holiday for when it is all done. (I'm so glad we decided not to fly anywhere.) When you read this it will all be over.

If you've never read Ecclesiastes I can recommend it and you may even recognise one passage from another pop song "To everything there is a season, turn turn, turn."

I'll leave you with 2 references to check for yourselves, both at the end of the book, chapter 12, verses 12 and 13. Good advice for me and I hope for all of you too.

Donna Moore.

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
2nd May	B Ward	D Cross	J Bulmer	D Harris
9th May	D Moore		M Houston	D Collins
16th May	R Tunnicliffe		D Beattie	V Beattie
23rd May	J Basham		D Houston	H Senior
30th May	J Reynolds		M Robson	D Collins

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	1 May	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – Guisborough Christian Fellowship at 32, Thames Avenue
Tue	4 May	7.15pm	Prayer Meeting – Vision 4Life.
Sat	8 May	10 – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Sun	16 May	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.
Tue	18 May	7.15pm	Elders meeting (<i>Provisional date</i>)

Weekly

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

Rev Chris Elliott 1946 - 2010

The Rev Chris Elliott, who died on 21st, March, 2010, aged 64, worked as a painter and decorator for over twenty years before responding to a call to be a minister. As an active member of his local church and lay preacher, the level and quality of his commitment to faith was soon drawn to the attention of others in the congregation and whose encouragement gave Chris a clear sign that God was asking him to go onto full time service of the Lord. In later life, when asked why he became a minister, there were no words in response, but perhaps something more telling - just an upward look.

He graduated from the Northern College, Manchester in 1987 and went to his first pastorate in Guisborough and Lingdale, Cleveland where he served as minister from 1987 until 1991. He came to the pastorate at a time of transition: three years earlier the British Council of Churches Evaluation Report of the Guisborough Ecumenical Project had effectively signalled the end of an attempt by churches in the town to come together as one fellowship – and with discussions for a new grouping of East Cleveland United Reformed Churches being only in the early stages of consideration. The situation within the local churches was fluid, with some valuable cooperation between fellowships still remaining as an inheritance from the failed ecumenical experiment – in particular with the Methodists and United Reformed Church. All of this Chris had to take into consideration as he embarked on his first ministry. Realizing the importance of clear communication within a fellowship, in giving an opportunity for the success of a church's mission, he began by visiting all members with their elder – to explain his vision. The importance of communication with members became a regular theme throughout his pastorate. This was followed by a campaign to attract new families to the church, which resulted in additional people becoming regular worshippers and raising the level of attendance, at services, significantly during the course of his ministry. It was also during his time at Guisborough that the Junior Church was restored to the fellowship – after it had been effectively function-

ing in the Methodist Church as part of the former Ecumenical Partnership.

Chris was a good preacher who grew in maturity and depth of exposition of scripture as he gained more experience in full time ministry. He always had something of relevance to say – easily related to a biblical text and presented with that most important of talents – the ability to hold his audience's attention. He was naturally sociable, well able relate to anyone – an attribute that gave him a quiet authority when chairing meetings of the church or in his pastoral work as he addressed the concerns of people both in the congregation, the local community and as Chaplain of Guisborough Hospital. Outside of the role of minister it was noted that he was a keen Rugby Union fan – never happier than when recalling stories of the game to all like minded sports enthusiasts. Chris was an engaging and popular minister of the church.

It was, therefore, a great disappointment when Guisborough and Lingdale members had to say farewell to Christ, when he accepted a call to serve at Stamford, Bourne and Maxey United Reformed churches in Lincolnshire in 1991.

In the Joint Lincolnshire Pastorate Chris experienced his longest period of ministry - serving for 11 years. One highlight of his time there was the 150th, Anniversary Celebrations of the Bourne Church in 1996 – but there also came a point of great difficulty, pain and sadness when his marriage to Christine came to an end.

From this charge there came a change of direction for, in 2002, he became a chaplain in the United States of America. This calling abroad was to be a case manager in *'Homes for the Brave'* in Bridge Port, Connecticut. It was a centre for homeless war veterans, who had turned to alcohol and drugs in the aftermath of their combat experiences. They were traumatised people – looking to Chris, with his interpersonal skills, to help them back into a normal life.

After three years in America Chris returned to the UK in 2005 to live in Pulborough and take up a post as minister for three churches in the West Sussex Area – a pastorate from which he retired in April 2006.

He then moved to Lincolnshire where he worked as a care worker in a residential home in Osgodby, serving there for three years until his early retirement, because of ill health, in September of 2009. He married Eileen, in February 2008, and worshipped at the Methodist Church in Middle Rasen - frequently preaching at this church and others in the local circuit.

Chris had recently received treatment for cancer but on Friday 19th March suffered from a stroke

from which he died two days later on Sunday 21st March 2010. He is survived by his wife Eileen, former wife Christine and two sons, Carl and Craig. We offer our deepest sympathies to his wife and family, at this sad and difficult time. He will be in our thoughts and prayers with the sure and certain knowledge and comfort for us all – now that he is now with the Lord Jesus.

Ray Tunnicliffe

St Andrew's

Quiz and Supper

The Quiz, Pie and Pea Supper held on Saturday 27th March raised £278.00 for church funds. Many thanks to the Moodie Family for organising the Quiz, kitchen helpers (in particular the chief “washer uper” - Albert) and everyone who came and helped to make this a lovely evening.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid - Grant and Steven are doing a Christian Aid Sponsored Walk from Garstang to Abbeystead in the Wyre Valley once again this year in May. Anyone interested in sponsoring them please add their names to the list on the church notice board.

Ladies Fellowship

At the last Ladies Fellowship meeting we all went on a journey - a climb, some of the way by camel, up Mount Sinai!(Meg's camel led the way up) Thank you Meg for the wonderful photos and lovely talk. The photos were quite breathtaking and the climb looked very difficult and hot.

Our last meeting of this session will be our annual lunch on **Tuesday 11th May**, at 12.30pm at the King's Head Newton under Roseberry.

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon	2.30pm	Worship at Elmridge
Wed 27 th May	2.30pm	Communion Service at Kirkley Lodge at

Weekly

Wednesday	9.30am	Prayers
Sunday	After Worship	Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)
Boys Brigade		Details available from ministers and church elders

Ancient

Too late I came to you, beauty so ancient and so new, too late I came to love you! And see! You were within me, and I was outside myself and searching for you there.

Augustine of Hippo, Bishop, Church Father (5th Century)

Churches Together in Marton and Nunthorpe

Pentecost Celebrations

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity it was felt that we ought to work together more at the major Christian Festivals. On Good Friday some of us walked from Marton Methodist Church carrying a large cross to Nunthorpe Methodist Church for a joint service.

Over the Pentecost weekend we intend to have some opportunities for prayer. This will be in line with the first disciples who waited in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The weekend will begin with a **Taize Service at St Bernadette's** on the evening of Friday, 21st May and will end with a **Joint Service at Marton Methodist Church** on the evening of Sunday, 23rd May. In between times there will be opportunity to pray at a lunch time event or a Prayer Breakfast, etc. St. Andrew's will be hosting a Prayer Breakfast before our usual worship on 23rd May. Look out for a full programme in the near future.

Prayer Cycle

Churches Together in Marton and Nunthorpe ask we join together in prayers for our local churches.

Week beginning 2nd May:

St Andrew's United Reformed Church

Week beginning 9th May:

Marton Methodist Church

Week beginning 16th May:

St Cuthbert's, Church of England

Week beginning 23rd May:

Pioneering Ministry In Coulby Newham

Week beginning 30th May:

St Mary's, Church of England

Week beginning 6th June:

Nunthorpe Methodist Church

Please pray for the Pentecost Weekend and for the prayer events. Pray, too, for Rev Sue Greenwood who is on sabbatical.

Redcar

Ascension Day Service

Thursday 13th May

8am at Errington Woods

led by Rev Malcom Newman

Catey will be going and is willing to give lifts to those who also want to go.

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

Modern

Wherever ugliness is kept at bay, there the Spirit of God, who is the God of Beauty, is doing His creative and re-creative labour.

Donald Coggan former Archbishop of Canterbury (Late 20th century)

Linthorpe

Coffee After Morning Worship

Mar 7 th	Guide Dogs For The Blind	£13.00	J & P Horbury
Mar 21 st	RNLI	£13.40	G Williams
Mar 28 th	MacMillan Nurses	£9.00	H Kettlewell
April 4 th	Guide Dogs For The Blind	£7.00	J & P Horbury

Many thanks to those who stay and give so generously to these worthy causes.

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
May 2 nd	R Harris	M Tilley
May 9 th	J Haverson	G Kettlewell
May 16 th	J Harper	H Kettlewell
May 23 rd	H Kettlewell	G Dodds
May 30 th	M Gilmour	M Tilley

Scripture Readers

May 2 nd	J Haverson
May 9 th	Scouts
May 16 th	J Harper
May 23 rd	R Harris
May 30 th	M Gilmour

Church Flowers

May 2 nd	TBA
May 9 th	C Tovey
May 16 th	R Winn
May 23 rd	I Stevely
May 30 th	E Williams

Communion Preparation

16th May J Haverson M Tilley

Linthorpe Calendar

Dates For Your Diary

May 11th 7.00pm Church Meeting AGM - Jameson Lounge

Preachers

	2-May	9-May	16-May	23-May	30-May
Marton	9.30am M Robb Sinai	M Robb Parade	C Morrison Communion	M Robb Book Club	K Harris
	6.30pm				
Lintho	11.00am K Harris	M Robb Parade, Sinai	C Morrison Communion	M Robb Book Club	J Harper
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion	K Harris	N Johnson	K Harris Book Club	M Robb
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison Communion	C Morrison Sinai	N Johnson	K Harris Book Club	M Robb
Lingdale	6.00pm N Johnson	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Craft & Family	C Morrison	M Robb

Material for the Magazine to church editors by Sunday 16th May please

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