



Group News

Minister

Rev Meg Robb, 10 Farington Drive, Marton (326343)

Rev Catey Morrison, 31 Torcross Way, Redcar (471778)

** November * 2007 * November **

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

Dear Friends,

I spoke recently at one or two churches in the Group about the need for us to learn to live more simply. In fact, I believe I even coined a phrase to help us to remember, although very much along the lines of the ones used by Christian Aid, 'Live simply so that others may simply live.' I myself felt so challenged by what had arisen in my sermon preparation that I deliberately used less paper in my service preparation! But of course living simply involves far more than that!

To live simply these days in our country is actually quite a difficult thing to do. Our food and other supermarket items come wrapped in cardboard, plastic and paper several times over, causing a huge waste problem just from our weekly shopping. That is not living simply. That is damaging to our environment! Also we are faced with many decisions as we go about our shopping. Do we buy fair trade and pay more? Do we buy the brand names? Do we buy the cheap ranges and pay less, thus saving money – living more simply, but which are bad for the producers? So what does living more simply mean to us? Does it mean paying less for our shopping? No! Does it mean paying more and buying fairly traded goods? Yes! And does it mean cutting back on excessive luxury items? Yes!

But what does living more simply also mean? Does it mean turning down the thermostat on the central heating? Yes! Does it mean washing at 30° instead of 40°? Yes! It also means mak-

ing ethical choices about the transport we use, the holidays we take, the gifts and clothes we buy, the banks we use and the investments we make. According to the Guardian, The co-operative Bank, Triodos Bank and the Ecology Building Society are the three front-runners in ethical banking. Have you thought about switching?

It also means thinking again about the gifts we are going to buy this Christmas. There are a lot of catalogues around with an ever-increasing range of fairly-traded gifts. Alternatively, many agencies run schemes which enable you to make a contribution to an overseas project into a gift, eg through Traidcraft, Tearcraft, Worldshare, WaterAid and many more agencies.

Personally, I try to buy a large proportion of my families clothing from the vast number of charity shops that are around these days, and we all end up wonderfully clothed! But it is not just good for my purse! For as I am clothing myself and my family through such second hand purchases we might just also be clothing someone in a developing world, or providing cement to build a well or school. For the first time this year I am also experimenting to see how many Christmas presents I can buy through my charity shop rummages. Well why does everything we receive have to be brand new, whilst those in developing nations recycle our used specs etc?

Living simply is a challenge to us all. It is a challenge to make us think about the quality of life that we expect to have, that we take for granted, while other people are left to live with so little. Do we need to purchase that new lux-

ury item? Or by doing so am I just further widening the gap between myself and the poor of the world? Is there something else I could be doing with my money, with my time, with my energy? Adding my voice to a campaign for instance?

What an example we would make if all the Christians in this country, if all the Christians throughout the world, decided, in solidarity

with the poor, to live more simply? If we were recognisable as Christians by our simple lifestyle? We all need to find our own ways of living more simply so that others might simply live – travelling light was Christ’s way too!

God bless!

Rev Catey Morrison

Synod Prayer Diary

- 1 Northgate United Reformed Church, Darlington
- 2 Springfield Church Centre, Darlington
- 3 Northallerton United Reformed Church
- 4 Barnard Castle United Reformed Church.
Rev Joan Grindrod-Helmn’s ordination anniversary
- 5 Keld United Reformed Church, Swaledale. Rev Bob Jones’s birthday
- 6 Low Row United Reformed Church
- 7 Lay preachers – Mrs D Clarke, Dr P Clarke
- 8 The work of Synod’s Pastoral Committee
- 9 Local Ecumenical Partnerships across the Synod
- 10 We appreciate our European links, and the work of Tjarda Murray
- 11 Remembrance Sunday - a time to recall how much we owe to those who have given so much
- 12 That we may make the most of our contact with ‘outside groups’ using our premises
- 13 Rev Ron Forster’s birthday
- 14 For those exercising their gifts of poetry and art in our local churches
- 15 The continuing ministry of the Cedarwood Centre on the Meadow Well estate, North Shields
- 16 All considering a vocation
- 17 We pray for our Synod’s contacts in the United Protestant Church of Belgium
- 18 Rev Peter Rand’s birthday
- 19 That all make the most of training opportunities
- 20 Inner city congregations and those who live at the centre but who are in many ways ‘on the edges’
- 21 For all who provide drinks after worship while people mingle and catch up with one another
- 22 For the way increasing numbers of churches are using films
- 23 Rev Pamela Ward’s birthday
- 24 For those on vestry duty, whose ministry of prayer is so appreciated by worship leaders
- 25 We give thanks for our local church’s links with churches across the world
- 26 Fr Colin Carr, Theological Consultant to the North East’s Churches
- 27 For all preparing for extra Christmas activities and services in the coming weeks
- 28 Bishop Tom Wright (Anglican, Durham Diocese)
- 29 Bishop Mark Bryant (Anglican, Bishop of Jarrow)
- 30 The Tees and Swale Mission Partnership

Sunday 2nd December

GROUP ADVENT SERVICE

6.00pm at Lingdale URC

Group Supplement Hymnbook

I am collecting ideas for hymns which could be included in the new Group supplement hymnbook? Basically I would like to know if anyone has any favourite hymns that are not included in Rejoice and Sing, maybe that they have heard on Songs of Praise, that they would like to see appearing in the Group supplement hymnbook that is being planned. If they can just let me know! I would appreciate it! Many thanks and God bless!

Catey

More Psalms from East Cleveland

Father God, I praise you

because you are caring and you are full of mercy.

The flowers are wonderfully made as are the earth
and the sea.

You look after me.

Thank you, Jesus, for children and grandchildren.

Therefore, I will be ever thankful for your care.

Lord, with me from each day's beginning to its end, I
praise you

because you are so caring and you created us as
your unique children.

Thank you for the seasons as they are so different
and for the certainty comes with each new dawn.

You provide sufficient for all my needs.

Thank you, Jesus, for your presence and your
peace.

Therefore, I will praise you for ever.

CHRISTIAN AID

NE Region

Advent Hope

Reception and Ecumenical Service commemorating World Aids Day
and anticipating the season of Advent

At the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Dalby Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough

on **Friday 30th November**

Preacher: **John Bell** from the **Iona Community**.

Overseas speaker: **Nue Sebisaba** from **Burundi**
speaking about the work of Christian Aid partners responding
to the needs of those living with HIV and AIDS.

The evening begins with a reception at **6.15pm** – an opportunity to get together with people from all over the area – then the service starts at **7.00pm** and it will be supported by music and drama by people from local churches.

Please make this occasion known to friends and those with a concern for those living with HIV/AIDS in the world's poorest countries and come prepared to make a contribution to the work of Christian Aid, an agency which exists to serve the churches as they respond to the Gospel to the poor.

Bible Study Group

Meg intends to hold a Bible Study Group at the **Marton Manse** on Thursday afternoons.

The first series will be in line with '*Flesh of our flesh*' which is concerned with AIDS and HIV and is the focus of the Christian Aid Advent Service at the end of November. It is hoped that this could lead towards some small input into that service. Thereafter topics are to be negotiated.

If you are interested please come along and share in these times. Anyone is invited.

*Thursdays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th November
2.00pm - 3.00pm*

Manse Prayers

Please note the change of time

Tuesday, 6th November - Guisborough
Prayers for St Andrew's URC

Tuesday, 13th November - Marton
Prayers for Guisborough URC

Tuesday, 20th November - Redcar
Prayers for Lingdale URC

Tuesday, 27th November - Guisborough
Prayers for Linthorpe URC

Tuesday, 4th December - Marton
Prayers for Redcar URC

Tuesday, 11th December - Redcar
Prayers for St Andrew's URC

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

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

Linthorpe

Date For Your Dairy

Autumn Coffee Morning

3rd November 2007

Cake Stall Tombola etc Traidcraft

Tickets: 50p including coffee/tea

Rotas

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

Scripture Readers

4 th Nov	R Harris
11 th Nov	Parade
18 th Nov	M Gilmour
25 th Nov	V Walker

Church Flowers

4 th Nov	Jeanette Rutherford
11 th Nov	Joan Patrick
18 th Nov	Betty Harris
25 th Nov	Florence Rix

Coffee After Morning Worship:

30th September – £8.50 & 7th October – £13.50

Guide Dogs For The Blind

John & Peggy Horbury

Many thanks to all who give so generously to this and other worthy causes.

Diary Date

Wed 7-Nov	7.00pm	Elders Conference - "One Church – One Hundred Uses" at Redcar URC
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Synod

Yesterday's Synod agenda was heavily weighted in favour of Finance and Deployment...and if this sounds a deadly way to spend a Saturday, - well, I thought so too! Until I actually got there. It was far from dull, - the business was accomplished efficiently, and quickly, although carefully and prayerfully. And we had a children's Synod running alongside ours, which we were privileged to share and to enjoy some of the fun they had.

Most of us find finance difficult to understand, which is why we are so lucky to have Jane Tomlin in our Mission Partnership. Not only is she extremely knowledgeable about financial matters, but she has the patience of a saint when it comes to explaining things to the rest of us.

Deployment has been a thorny issue which has been concerning the Pastoral Committee and the Designated Group throughout the whole of this year...and just because we in our Mission Partnership are comfortable at the moment... the question will be asked of us again at some point. How will we manage if our ministerial quota is cut? We need to be thinking about this even now, - so that it doesn't come as a huge shock when we are asked to discuss it at some point in the, - not too distant, - future. There are papers available which will explain the background and the procedure, - and you'll be able to see those churches which are already moving on this issue.

Having said all that, Synod was a happy occasion, with time to reacquaint ourselves with friends from across the area and to wander around the Mustard Seed bookshop.

We were given a couple of questionnaires for folk to complete about finance, - and we are asked to try and get as many people to fill them in as possible. Each church has copies, - and those of us who are even a little computer literate can do it on-line...just visit the Synod website.

Jan Harper

Group Scout Report

A good turn out at September Church Parade due to holding Archery after the service.

Cubs

2 cubs have been invested.

The Cub Scout are Collecting Money in Smartie tube to help provide for the Christmas Child shoe box appeal.

Scouts

During September the Scouts enjoyed a night of cooking techniques. They included making Corn cakes, Burgers/Nan bread and caramelised fruits. The Scouts will be making cakes and sweets for the Group Autumn Fair.

Explorer Scouts

The Explorer Scouts took part in Operation Escape, a two day orienteering exercise covering an area from Comondale to Whitby. The teams have two days to cover the area, finding the check points without being caught by leaders who are chasing them. This was our first time taking up this challenge and we came in sixth out of the 16 teams taking part.

Christmas card delivery stamps will be available from Explorer Scouts and other leaders. The last date for stamps is the Sunday 9th December – get your post delivered for only 20p per card. The area covered will be shown on the Church Hall notice board. All the money collected is for the senior citizens Christmas party.

Our two Beaver Leaders, June Harker and Janet Granville, will be retiring at the end of the year. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their time and dedicated commitment to the group, in particular the Beaver Scouts. We all wish them well for the future. In the mean time the Beavers and Cub Scouts will be having joint meetings until the new leaders are trained and able to take over completely.

Ivor Huskinson (Group Scout Leader)

Sing we now

Sing we now is the title of a book containing a small selection of the music of *Stan Burnicle* who for over 50 years was organist and choirmaster at Linthorpe Church. Stan died in 2002 but the music lives on!

The URC Musicians Guild (North East Branch) invites you to an afternoon of music at Linthorpe. There will also be the chance to buy the book.

Saturday 10 November
2.15pm - 5.30pm
Linthorpe URC Church

Cost: **Free** - but the book, if you would like it, costs £4.00

There will be singing, organ playing, tea and an Epilogue taken by Rev Meg Robb

Guisborough Choral Society

Conductor – Stuart Buckton

ANNUAL CAROL CONCERT

*Traditional Carols for
Choir and Audience*

Saturday 15th December
7.30pm

Guisborough Methodist Church

Tickets £8 (Concessions £7, under19 £1)
Greensleeves Music Shop & Guisborough Bookshop

Guisborough

Maureen and David have once again asked if I would ‘fill their shoes’ and provide this month’s contribution from Guisborough. It is with great pleasure that we received Tom and Doreen Cross into membership this month. They are true members of the Group and we welcome them to our team.

A number of related events have recently made me aware of the enormous contributions made by certain so called retired members of our church team. They are an energetic, consistent and reliable workforce behind the day to day functioning of the ministry, welfare and housekeeping required to keep ‘Church’ on the road. I am now working full time after a number of years on a part-time contract. I feel the stress which results from balancing the requirements of the job with the time available. I recognise that at times I have not wanted to find myself too committed to Elders responsibilities in case it was at the expense of a bit of time for me.

I know that both Maureen and David do plenty of dancing and walking in their shoes! So I would not find them comfortable. However by seeing things from another person’s perspective, spending a day with their shoes on, we might better see where our priorities should lie. Surely supporting one another and allowing ourselves to be supported when needed, are both so essential to a healthy church community. Like geese flying in formation to migrate, we must keep in touch with each other’s needs. I believe they honk! Let’s talk, meet for coffee, call on the phone; be there for each other and be ready to listen too.

Joyce Basham

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
4th Nov	D Houston	J Basham	M Houston	M Sollett
11th Nov	M Robson		D Beattie	M Robson
18th Nov	D Moore		J Reynolds	V Beattie
25th Nov	M Baird		G Jordan	D Moore

Guisborough Calendar

Sat 3-Nov	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast at 32, Thames Ave – hosts - The Guisborough Christian Fellowship
Wed 7-Nov	7.00pm	Elders Conference - “ <i>One Church – One Hundred Uses</i> ” at Redcar URC
Sat 10-Nov	10-12 noon	Farmers’ Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Sun 18-Nov	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro’ Churches Junior Churches joining together at Prior Purselglove Sports Centre.
Fri 30-Nov	7.00pm	Christian Aid Regional Advent Service at the Cathedral, Coulby Newham

Weekly

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

Lingdale

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Harvest Celebrations. Over £140 was raised for Christian Aid.

Flower Rota

4 th November	Mrs M Curnow
11 th November	Mrs H Dunstan
18 th November	Mrs P Griffiths
25 th November	Miss S Griffiths
2 nd December	Mr B Dove

Group Advent Service

Sunday 2nd December 2007

6.00pm

Refreshments afterwards

All Welcome

Lingdale Calendar

Wed 7-Nov 7.00pm Elders Conference - “*One Church – One Hundred Uses*” at Redcar URC

Weekly

Wednesdays	10.00am – 11.00am	Coffee
1 st and 3 rd Wednesday of the month	11.30am – 12.30am	Soup and a Roll
4 th Wednesday of the month	2.00pm	Worship at Prospect Place

St Andrew's

Autumn Bazaar

**Saturday 10th November
11.30am - 1.30pm**

There will be a raffle, tombola, bric a brac, cake stall, holiday memory stall, teas and coffees plus home made soup etc.

Please come along and support. All proceeds are for church funds.

Ladies Fellowship

We had a lovely talk from Sheila on her "*Childhood Memories*". It certainly brought a lot of fond ones back to us. Many thanks Sheila.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th November at 7.30pm when Jimmy will be showing slides of a visit to India.

Chocolate Quiz

There were no winners but Pam made £32.00 for church funds. Many thanks Pam. Answers overleaf.

- 1 Sport for Princes
- 2 Assorted Girls
- 3 Dairy Holder
- 4 Edible Fasteners
- 5 Wobbly Infants
- 6 Can You Fox that Bear
- 7 Money Making Royalty
- 8 Lorry Driver's Snack
- 9 Here comes the kid
- 10 Up out There
- 11 Even more up out there
- 12 Big Cat's Pub
- 13 Disturb the Surface
- 14 Melts in your mouth not your hand
- 15 Powerful Money Maker
- 16 10 cent pub
- 17 Toothless
- 18 The Red Planet
- 19 Have a Break
- 20 Big Bus
- 21 Spin Round
- 22 Nine
- 23 Bertie's Special
- 24 100% AU
- 25 Bubbles
- 26 Theme
- 27 It's a Party
- 28 Outside Meal
- 29 Brave but so Tiny
- 30 Kojak's Favourite

Rosemary writes from Uganda

Greetings! I was so pleased to receive your lovely and encouraging letter with a heart-warming sticker from Deuteronomy 33 v27. The Good News Bible puts it very nicely "God has always been your defence, his eternal arms are your support" How wonderful to be reminded of God's bountiful care for me all the time. So happy you enjoyed your trip to York Minster with the ecumenical fellowship group. I don't think I would have been able to climb to the top of the Chapter House had I been with you. My chest is so limiting these days I get very breathless when I climb a few steps; this could be due to the weather in Kampala; it is not cold but humid and stuffy. This makes my chest heavy and wheezy most of the time, especially at night and very early in the morning. However I still have some few inhalers to give me some relief, and Life goes on! Thanks for Natasha and Apophia's greeting cards. Unfortunately by the time the post arrived they had returned to school in Masaka. I will be taking the cards to their school next week when I go to clear the remaining school fees. I am sure they will be delighted to hear from you. They are due for confirmation in November this year, so I am preparing for that. Life in the city has been very difficult with high cost of living but God is the same yesterday, today, and for ever, so we manage to cope in all conditions.

Our students are in their last semester and are in the field on school health services practicum in Mpigi District. They have been joined by another group of students from Finland who are doing a similar course on exchange programme. Their English

ADVANCE NOTICE

Christmas Concert

Saturday 1st December

Full details in the next issue.

Answers

- 1 Polo
- 2 Dolly Mixtures
- 3 Milk Tray
- 4 Chocolate Buttons
- 5 Jelly Babies
- 6 Fox's Glacier Mints
- 7 Mint
- 8 Yorkie
- 9 Milky Bar
- 10 Galaxy
- 11 Milky Way
- 12 Lion Bar
- 13 Ripple
- 14 M & M's
- 15 Extra Strong Mint
- 16 Dime Bar
- 17 Drink Wine Gums
- 18 Mars
- 19 Kit Kat
- 20 Double Decker
- 21 Twirl
- 22 After Eight
- 23 Licorice Allsorts
- 24 All Gold
- 25 Aero
- 26 Topic
- 27 Celebration
- 28 Picnic
- 29 Minature Heroes
- 30 Lollipop

is so bad that sometimes we have to use interpreters. But they are learning very fast and enjoying their stay in Uganda. Right now we are busy with support supervision and the weather is not the best. It is raining a lot and feeder roads in the community are impassable so sometimes we get stuck in the road and need the help of the local people to push the vehicle. The rains have been so severe in the Eastern and Northern parts of Uganda, floods have displaced hundreds of people. So many schools have closed and about 27 districts are cut off due to floods. The Red Cross and other food relief agencies are the ones taking care of population by the use of helicopters, otherwise road transport communication is completely impossible. Pray for all those affected that the situation may normalise soon. These people have suffered enough, first from LRA war and then floods. It is a double tragedy!!!

I am almost through securing schools for the kids (two adopted nieces) next year, so hopefully they will be able to start at the new school by February 2008. I thank you for all your support and prayers that have kept me going throughout this difficult time. May God continue to bless you richly.

Hosea 14 v4 - 7. Well, my dear friends, lets keep in touch. Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus at St. Andrews URC.

With love,

Rosemary.

2nd October 2007

Marton Fellowship Club

St Andrew's Church
Every fortnight at 2.00pm

Forthcoming events

Outing to York
The role of the magistrate
Sempre Singers
Christmas Lunch

New members welcome
Further details – Mrs J Graham
Tel 505088

St Andrew's Calendar

- | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------|---|
| Fri | 2-Nov | 7.30pm | First Friday Ecumenical Prayer Group hosted by Shirley Moore at 28 Chandler's Ridge. Everyone welcome |
| Fri | 9-Nov | 2.30pm | Remembrance Day Service at Kirkley Lodge |
| Mon | 19-Nov | 3.00pm | Informal Worship at Elmridge (where Grant Sutherland works) |
| Wed | 21-Nov | 2.30pm | Informal Communion at Kirkley Lodge |
| Sun | 2-Dec | | Church Meeting following a shortened service |
| Fri | 7-Dec | 7.30pm | First Friday Ecumenical Prayer Group hosted by Cath Blackburn at 104 Birchwood Road |

Weekly

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| Wednesday | 9.30am | Prayers |
| Friday | 6.15pm | Boys Brigade |
| Sunday | After Worship | Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month) |

Redcar

CHRISTMAS MINI BAZAAR

Saturday November 10th
10.00am - 12.00noon

Tombola, Cake Stall, Raffle and books

Tickets 50p

Please come and support this enjoyable event.

We Enjoyed

The concert given by the White Rose Singers on 29th September in aid of the Bible Society raised £160 and was an enjoyable evening.

On 30th September after the service we had a delicious Harvest Lunch prepared by Marcia Shearer and her helpers! Many thanks to all who helped in any way.

Redcar Calendar

Wed 7-Nov 7.00pm Elders Conference - *“One Church – One Hundred Uses”* at Redcar URC

Weekly

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

Preachers

	4-Nov	11-Nov	18-Nov	25-Nov	2-Dec
Marton	9.30am J Harper	M Robb Parade	C Morrison	M Robb Communion	M Robb Church mtg
Lintho	11.00am C Morrison	M Robb Parade	C Morrison Communion	J Harper	J Harper
Guisbo	9.30am M Robb Communion	C Morrison	M Robb	K Harris	C Morrison Communion
Redcar	11.00am K Harris	J Harper	M Robb	C Morrison	Redcar Folk Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm M Robb	C Morrison Communion	C Price	M Robb	M Robb GroupAdvent

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

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