



Group News

Minister

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** November * 2008 * November **

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

We are about to embark on an exciting journey. All of the churches in our Group have now signed up for the three year Vision4Life journey which will be beginning at the end of this month, with the beginning of Advent - albeit with some reservations. We now await the resources with which we are to begin the journey firstly into the Bible, then later Prayer and Evangelism. But before we begin let's define VISION. What is this VISION that we are hoping to gain through this journey of exploration?

Bill Hybels, minister and author, defines VISION as 'a picture of the future that produces passion.'

Bill Hybels goes on to say that for Henry Ford, his vision was for an affordable car in every driveway. For Dr Martin Luther King Junior, it was the picture of a future where two children, one black and one white, could sit across from each other on a seesaw, oblivious of the colour of each other's skin. Billy Graham had a passion producing VISION of thousands of people coming forward to trust Christ in arenas around the world. All these people got on with the task of making it happen, of making that passion producing VISION a reality, because for them, their picture of the future made their hearts beat fast and their minds race! Their VISION excited them!

What picture does that for us? Is it a picture of hungry children being fed? Is it a picture of homeless people finding shelter? Of asylum seekers finding a country to call "home"? Is it a picture of our church experiencing renewal, growth in numbers, and growth in spirituality? Of individuals using their God-given gifts in church ministry and hospitality?

I believe that there are many passion producing VISIONS that are still there to be grasped for our churches. Let's find the passion, let's Catch the VISION, as we together go on a journey with God - a journey to seek renewed life in our churches through the Spirit's blessing.

God bless!

Rev Catey Morrison

For Our Prayers

The Synod Prayers this year have a different format. Each month focuses on a different Mission Partnership with weekly prayers for churches within that Partnership. Prayers for this month are asked for our own Teesside South East Mission Partnership.

Week beginning 2nd November

The people of St Mark's LEP which closed in May and are now worshipping in other churches within the community.

Week beginning 9th November

East Cleveland Group – Guisborough, Lingdale, Linthorpe, St Andrew's, Redcar

Week beginning 16th November

Teesdale Group – St Columba's Billingham, St Andrew's Mission Thornaby, Stockton

Week beginning 23rd November

Tees Valley mission – Stockton community Chaplain; Industrial area within the Synod

Week beginning 30th November

Ministers: Catey Morrison, Meg Robb, Colin Offor, David Whiting

Ecumenical Church Leaders: John Claydon (Northern Baptist Association Regional Minister).

For our encouragement

About five years ago I attended the URC holiday week at Swanwick and in conversation with a man he told me that something extraordinary had happened to him.

He was on holiday staying at a small island in the Mediterranean Sea. The island was attractive as its coastline was dotted with little coves. One day he was lying on the beach with his wife and thought it would be a pleasant bit of exercise if he swam out to sea round the headland into the next cove where he knew there was an excellent cafe. He would have something to eat and then walk back to his wife who wanted nothing more than to stay on the beach.

So putting some money into his swimming trunks he set off. He was approaching the half-way point when he heard someone shout his name. He looked up and thought the person must be on the headland but he could not see anyone to wave to.. He shrugged his shoulders and after a short pause continued his swim. He then heard his name shouted so loudly he almost 'jumped out of the water'. He also realised that the person could not have been on the headland as it

Manse Prayers

Tue 4 th Nov	Marion (Prayers for Guisborough)
Tue 11 th Nov	Redcar (Prayers for St. Andrew's)
Tue 18 th Nov	Guisborough (Prayers for Lingdale)
Tue 25 th Nov	Marion (Prayers for Linthorpe)

Manse Prayers are open to all. They begin at 8.45am at:
Marion - 10 Farington Drive
Guisborough - 31 Oakley Close
Redcar - 31 Torcross Way

was too far away, indeed it was too far away for the first shout. He was a little frightened so turned round and swam as quickly as he could back to his wife. As he was leaving the sea he suffered the most appalling attack of cramp, which if he had continued his swim, would have occurred in deep water and he would have drowned.

His reaction was "Why me? Why was I saved from drowning?" I suggested that one reason was so he could tell other people about what had happened and in particular me!!

Richard Harris

Mission Partnership Children's Sleepover

A lovely time was had by everyone who attended the children's sleepover at St. Andrew's in Marton on the 4th and 5th of October. Ten children attended the event from four of the churches in the East Cleveland Group - sadly none from elsewhere in the Mission Partnership.

As it was Disability Sunday on October 5th, 'Disability' was also the theme of our sleepover. We had a go at a Guide Dog relay, to experience what it is like to be blind, as well as attempting baking without being able to talk. This was a big challenge for some of the younger children, but everyone was successful in the end! The younger group then made a Disability Sunday poster, with raised letters, so people could read the poster by feeling it, whilst the older group made up their very own sketch to share what they had learnt in the service the following morning.

Then after a nice snack of hot dogs, the biscuits and muffins that had been baked, and a cup of hot chocolate, we settled down to watch the film 'Ratatouille', to learn more about what it feels like to be excluded in various ways. Then it was time to settle down for some sleep, or at least so we leaders thought!!!

After a good nights sleep (!!?) we awoke to sausage sandwiches and some packing up and tidying up, before we all took part in leading the worship at St Andrew's. And then, sadly, it was time to go home – until next time!!!

We would all like to thank everyone at St Andrew's for letting us stay, Jacquie Coulthard from our Lingdale church for doing all the shopping and preparing the activities, as well as Una Sutherland for helping make breakfast for us!

Our sleepover at Church

We were a bit nervous but also excited because we never slept at a church before but hoped to make new friends.

When we got there we started to put our beds out and Catey made us feel welcome. For the weekend we had a theme which was disabilities. Around this theme we did lots of different activities. We split into two groups for teams and we did some games being blind and cooking with out speaking to each other and some drama which we performed in church the next day. We actually made the speech up ourselves. Then we has a little discussion on what we had done all evening and then watched a film that fitted with what we have being dong. We had very little sleep then we were very tired the next morning.

We think that you should do another sleepover another times because it was fun and different and we met new people. We felt we learnt a lot. Thank you.

Lots of love

Natalie and Leanne

Mission Partnership Prayer Day

Saturday, 29th November

10:30am – 3:00pm

The Friends Meeting House,

Great Ayton

There will be some input and some time for quiet reflection at the start of the VISION4LIFE process. Please bring a packed lunch

Modern

War springs from the love and loyalty being offered to God being applied to some God-substitute, one of the most dangerous being nationalism

Robert Runcie Archbishop of Canterbury (Late 20th century)

Vision4Life Bible Year Menu

This is a collection of materials to help local churches devise their own programmes to enable a fresher, deeper and more confident engagement with the Bible by everyone associated with their church. It will be available from this month on-line at the Vision4Life website <http://vision4life.terapad.com/index.cfm?fa=contentGeneric.home> and will continue to grow and develop all through the 'BIBLE YEAR' of the Vision4Life process (Advent 2008 to Advent 2009). TheV4L steering group would be delighted to include relevant materials that other people offer them – an invitation to that effect with full details about what is being looked for is being included in our synod's monthly mailing later this month, or can be downloaded from the synod website.

At long last
we have sufficient
quantity for each of you to
have his own.

Guard it well

These Tuits have been hard to come by
especially the round ones.

A ROUND TUIT

This is an indispensable item. It will help you become a much more efficient worker. For years we have heard people say 'I'll do this when I get a ROUND TUIT.'

Now that you have a ROUND TUIT of your very own, many things that have needed to be accomplished will get done.

Anon

Submitted by Audrey Smith.

Sinai Pilgrimage

Barry Hutchinson and Ruth Crofton are planning to lead a Pilgrimage to Sinai 5th – 12th November 2009.

"Amongst other experiences we will stay in a guest house in the grounds of St Catherine's, climb (or camel ride) up Mount Sinai, spend time in quietness in various locations within the desert and meet with the Bedouin of the Sinai. We will be accompanied by Elena Narinskaya, a Russian Orthodox theologian who knows St. Catherine's and whose warm personality and knowledge will add much to our trip. We end the week at a four star hotel to reflect on our experience."

The cost will be in the region of £850. Financial support may be available. Further details from the Synod website.

Visitors from Zambia

A big thank you to John and Shirley Morse for hosting our Zambian visitors in October. Because of their kind offer of accommodation Rev Prince Nkhoswe and Rev Gerald Phiri were able to spend the weekend in the Group learning about our church life here on Teesside and meeting with us all, including uplifting preaching from them on Sunday morning across the Group. I hope they enjoyed their stay with us as much as we appreciated the inspiration they gave us!

Linthorpe

Scout Report

District Camp

Our District Camp was held from 26th to 28th September on the theme of the Olympics. Four scouts, nine Explorer Scouts and two leaders

attended. A total of over 120 Middlesbrough Scouts attended the camp which started with an opening ceremony followed by a very large camp fire.

The main activities started on the Saturday with climbing wall, mountain biking and inflatable

sumo. Archery programmable robots and various crafts were also available throughout the day.

On the Sunday, we had team events, chair basketball and tug of war. The closing ceremony was followed by striking camp.

The weather was cold on the night with glorious sun shine which certainly helped it make it a very good weekend for both leaders and children.

Church Parade Harvest

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts where invited to the banquet at harvest festival on Sunday 12th October. Scouts and Explorers read the reading and all sections helped to give out gifts of chocolate money to the congregation.

Look out for our Autumn fair coming soon

Ivor Huskinson, Group Scout Leader

Coffee After Morning Worship:

- 21.09.08 Guide Dogs For The Blind.
£11.40 P & J Horbury
- 28.09.08 Children With Liver Disease.
£15.00 S & D Knox
- 5.10.08 Macmillan Nurses.
£13.50 H. Kettlewell

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

Rotas

Scripture Readers

2 nd Nov	M Warren
9 th Nov	Parade
16 th Nov	M Gilmour
23 rd Nov	J Haverson
30 th Nov	R Harris

Vestry And Porch Duty

	Vestry	Porch
2 nd Nov	M Gilmour	S & D Knox
9 th Nov	J Haverson	S Mapplebeck G Kettlewell
16 th Nov	J Harper	H Kettlewell
23 rd Nov	A Piercy	G Dodds
30 th Nov	J Haverson	A Piercy

Tea/Coffee After Worship

2 nd Nov	H. Kettlewell Macmillan Nurses
9 th Nov	J Nunn MENCAP
16 th Nov	S & D Knox Children With Liver Disease
23 rd Nov	J & P Horbury Guide Dogs For The Blind
30 th Nov	H Kettlewell Macmillan Nurses

Linthorpe Calendar

- Sat 1st Nov Worship Leaders Study Day at Kingston park led by John Proctor from Westminster College. The subject will be Mark's gospel, the lectionary gospel for 2009/10. This day is intended for all those who take part in worship. For details, speak to Jan Harper, who can arrange lifts. The cost is £8.00.
- Wed 5th Nov 7.30pm 'Explorations' with Rev Dr David Peel, at Queen's Park
- Sat 15th Nov Enquirer's Conference at Roundhay, Leeds, - speak to Jan for details.
- Thu 20th Nov 7.00pm Pastoral Committee at Denewell Avenue. Gateshead.
- Sat 29th Nov Prayer Morning at The Friends House, Great Ayton.
- Sun 30th Nov 6.00pm Group Advent Service at Lingdale .

Guisborough

I think you all know Bob Macdonald is now settled into a residential home near his daughter at Newark. He is on the high side of ninety five, and after a number of falls and a broken hip feels he needs to be near his family. He and Renee came here thirty years ago and contributed a lot to our church. Everyone will have their own memories. But for the church I would pick just two instances. Back in the seventies we were part of an ecumenical experiment along with the Anglicans and Methodists. One day there was to be a joint confirmation service when young people of all three churches took the next step in becoming full members. Whatever happened it was going to be a memorable day. But it was also a very cold one, with more snow and ice than I can remember. The heating in St Nicholas' failed and we had a long cold wait while the Bishop's car fought its way through from Stokesley. Without their Bishop, the Anglicans could not go ahead. Howard Williams, our own Moderator went off the road somewhere in Durham. That was when we realized the URC is different. In an emergency any

church member can take the place of the Minister, or even the Moderator. And that was how Bob, as church secretary found himself standing with the Bishop of Whitby and the Methodist Superintendent welcoming the children into full communion with all three churches. He stood tall, and I must say we were very proud of him!

My other memory is more somber. When Bob was Secretary, we faced a very serious and long running problem with our then Minister (No names No pack drill). The Powers-that-Be seemed unable to help. It was the sort of situation that could easily have destroyed our community – not to say our unfortunate Minister. Everyone was very unhappy – many of the elders were talking of 'robust action'. But through it all, it was Bob's quiet voice that maintained calm and reminded us of how Christians should behave, even in very troublesome times. Because of him we all grew in Christian understanding, and nobody resigned in protest. For that alone he deserves a special place in our hearts. And of course I've told you only a very small part of his story.

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	1 Nov	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast - for the Bridge - Guisborough Christian Fellowship at 32, Thames Avenue.
Sat	8 Nov	10 – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Tue	11 Nov	7.30pm	Musical Evening - hosted by Mike Thompson.
Sun	16 Nov	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purseglove Sports Centre.
Tue	24 Nov	7.15pm	Church Meeting.
Tue	27 Nov	2.30pm	Service in the Belmont Care Home, Rectory Lane. All friends welcome.
Sat	29 Nov	10 – 3.00pm	Mission Partnership Prayer Day at the Friends Meeting House, Great Ayton.

Weekly

Tuesdays	12.30pm	Bible Study
Thursdays	9.30am – 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and some of us

After thinking about Bob MacDonald and his times, Guisborough URC in the autumn of 2008 seems rather humdrum. But maybe that is how it should be. The Chinese have a curse 'May you live in interesting times!' Looking at the chaotic state of the World right now, how I wish there was someone like Bob sitting behind the World Leaders reminding them of how Our Lord would expect them to behave!

In some ways this Year-without-a-Summer, has been very difficult, especially for the farmers. Only the other day whilst walking near Kettle-ness many fields remained unharvested. I wondered how much of the grain had fallen. Good for the birds though not for the farmer. But at long last we are almost at the stage when we really can sing 'All is safely gathered in'. And a week or so ago we had our Harvest Festival. When I was young the fields were often bristling with stubble and garlanded with sheaves well into January. Now alas the

ploughs move in almost as soon as the combines move out. Maybe I'm too sentimental and I ought to think of the people who need the food. Catey took the opportunity to remind us that we depend on the harvest of many lands and produced a range of tropical fruits to prove it. Try some and see - she said. The folk who had lived in or visited those countries licked their lips. The others were, shall I say cagey. Of course that works both ways. When the harvest fails in a rice growing area the Aid Agencies say even hungry people are wary of accepting wheat. Most of us are very conservative about what we eat. Ask your grandmother about tinned snoek.

Maureen Houston

Date	Vestry	Communion Door		Flowers
2 nd Nov	M Burrows	J Basham	D Beattie	D Cross
9 th Nov	D Houston		M Houston	M Sollett
16 th Nov	M Robson		M Baird	M Robson
23 rd Nov	D Moore		J Reynolds	V Beattie
30 th Nov	M Burrows		G Jordan	R Tunnicliffe

Lingdale

Harvest Supper and Quiz

Thank you to everyone who supported this event – over £50 was raised for church funds. Especial thanks to Ian Curnow for the quiz and Martin Wood for the pies!

Flower Rota

2 nd November	Miss S Griffiths
9 th November	Mrs J Coulthard
16 th November	Mr B Dove
23 rd November	Mr A Thompson
30 th November	Mrs M Saunders
7 th December	Miss J Scarth

Operation Christmas Child

Don't forget boxes have to be at Church no later than the 16th November.

Lingdale Calendar

Regular events

3 rd Sunday of month	5.00pm	Messy Church
4 th Wednesday of month	2.00pm	Worship at Prospect Place

Redcar

Winsome Prime

Sadly we announce the death of Win Prime on October 11th. Our deepest sympathy to Jack and the family.

New Members

We are looking forward to welcoming some new members into the church in the near future. Would anyone else feeling led to become a member at this time, please speak to me.

Catey

Harvest Lunch

Many thanks to John Morrison and Marcia and David Shearer who provided us with delicious soup and a sweet. This was John's way of saying 'thank you' to all who helped him raise over £2,300 for Christian Aid.

Mini Bazaar

November 8th

Tombola, Cake stall,
Bring and buy, Grand Raffle

Tickets 70p
includes coffee and mince pie

Development Ahead

Our plans for the redevelopment of our premises in conjunction with 1 Church 100 Uses Church Redevelopment Agency are now moving along quite well. Initial plans for the conversion of part of the premises into rentable office space have been drawn up by an architect and whilst we explore funding options, ideas are now being sought for how to make the sanctuary into a multi-purpose space as well as retaining its focus for worship, which is so central to our whole building. While we have made the decision, and have accepted the necessity, of removing the pews and having chairs instead, we still have a very long journey ahead of us and would value everyone's prayers.

Flat tide Spirit

Flat tide Spirit
roving softly
through harbours of the mind;
barely moving,
almost still,
powerful;
seeking the damaged detritus
of early days
(not completely wasted!)
amongst the kelpy accretions of time,
bringing with you healing
from the great,
burning ocean of divinity.

*Barry Hutchinson
Director of St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island*

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

St Andrew's

Congratulations

Congratulations and our best wishes go to Andrew Wheeler and Victoria Milne who were married in Manchester on 5th October. The weather behaved and an enjoyable day was had by all.

Thank You

Una and Joan's Coffee Morning on Thurs. 9th October raised £195.00 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this such an enjoyable morning.

Ladies Fellowship

At our last two meetings we had a slide show and talk from Sue Oxlade on "Pilgrim's Way-Safe Way" and a talk and photos on Ann Carr's trip of a lifetime to Canada. Many thanks ladies. We thoroughly enjoyed our evenings.

On Wednesday 5th November at 7.30pm J Anderson will be giving a slide show and talk on "Chile and Easter Island"

Please note our St. Andrew's Lunch is to be held on *Thursday* 27th November 2008 at The Haven at noon. Sheila Morris requires the money for this lunch in advance and will collect it at our meeting on 5th November.

From Zambia

Asked about his home church in Zambia our visiting minister spoke of five preaching stations, a congregation of 1,300 a distance of 200Km and no car!!

Bazaar

Our annual Bazaar will take place on Saturday 15th November 2008 11.30a.m. - 1.30p.m. There will be a raffle, tombola, bric a brac, cake stall etc. plus coffee, teas and soup. Donations for any of these stalls will be gratefully received. Please see Shona - tombola, Sheila - cakes, Grace - raffle, Angela - bric a brac. Please do come along and support us.

Christmas Card

A large Christmas card will be available in church from 1st December for the congregation to sign to send each other seasonal greetings, A contribution to Christian Aid is requested for each signature. Apart from benefitting the charity, this system reduces the number of trees that are felled to manufacture individual cards.

Thank you for supporting Christian Aid and for caring for the environment.

St Andrew's Calendar

Sun 9 Nov	2.30pm	Remembrance Day Service at Kirkley Lodge
Mon 17 Nov	3.00pm	Informal Worship at Elmridge
Wed 19 Nov	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

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a movement of ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Its purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied. Every year Amnesty supporters send cards with messages of goodwill and solidarity directly to people unjustly imprisoned or facing the death penalty, or in personal danger for seeking justice for themselves and others. The messages boost the spirits of people at the sharp end of the struggle for human rights and are a signal to the authorities that the world is watching.

We will be meeting at St Andrews to support the "Greeting Card Campaign" on Wednesday 19th November at 10.00am and again the same evening at 7.00pm. Others from across the Group will be most welcome to join us. Look out for more information nearer the time.

Toy and Parade Service

Toy and Parade Service is to be on Sunday 14th December at 9.30a.m. Unwrapped gifts for all ages up to and including teenagers will be gladly received. Also wrapping paper would be much appreciated. Thanking you in anticipation.

Advance Notices

Our Christmas Concert will be held on Wednesday 10th December, 2008 at 7.30pm. Please come along and join in the carol singing. There will also be a raffle.

Ancient

Just as the sun, God's creature, is one and the same the whole world over, so also the church's preaching shines every where, giving light to all who want to come to a knowledge of truth

Irenaeus Bishop of Lyons a theologian (2nd Century)

Preachers

	2-Nov	9-Nov	16-Nov	23-Nov	30-Nov
Marton	9.30am MartonWT	M Robb Parade	R Francis	M Robb	C Morrison Communion
	6.30pm				
Lintho	11.00am J Harper	M Robb Parade	R Francis Communion	M Robb	C Morrison
Guisbo	9.30am K Harris Communion	D Harris	M Robb	K Harris	M Robb
Redcar	11.00am C Morrison Communion	C Morrison	C Morrison	J Harper	C Morrison
Lingdale	6.00pm C Morrison	M Robb Communion	R Francis Messy Church	K Harris	Gp Service

Material for the December/January Magazine to church editors by Sunday 16th November please

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