



Group News

Minister

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

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

*** October * 2007 * October ***

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

Dear Friends,

I recently received one of those e-mails with some humorous messages, one of them being 'When I close the door on reality it comes in through the windows!' The whole gist of the e-mail was about how we cope or rather don't cope with the ageing process. And as human beings often we do go to great lengths to hold on to our youthful looks, when perhaps we should just let the process take its course and accept the changes that life brings.

You know, there is something rather wonderful about elderly folk who have embraced change; change in their bodies, change in their circumstances, change in society and even change in the Church. Often such folk have gained wisdom and also have a tremendously youthful outlook on life. Rather than growing old within, although their bodies have succumbed to wrinkles and creaking joints, they are still youngsters inside.

And the Church of today needs a youthful outlook. We bemoan the lack of young people, many of whom are, by the way, within the kingdom but worshipping in new and lively ways. But it isn't just the youngsters themselves who can liven up the Church. If elderly folk who make up most of our congregations could acquire the twinkle of a six year old in their eyes then the Church would soon liven up.

I'm fairly certain that Jesus had a twinkle in his eye most of the time. And he livened up many a dull dinner party or large gathering. He faced head on the reality of a Judaism which was

sadly lacking in his own day and so he understands and can strengthen us as we open the door on the reality facing the Church in this land today. Facing it head on means we are more aware of what is needed than if we try to block it out and have it creep in behind us. What we have known for so long as Church may need to change but our inner faith and trust in God should keep us twinkling for Him. And God, the great Reality, also has a habit of creeping in through the windows when the door is closed on Him. Wouldn't it be wiser to open the door to welcome Him and any changes He will bring... for with Him change will always be for the better?

Blessings,

Meg

Manse Prayers

Manse Prayers are open to all. They begin at 8.45am on Tuesday mornings

2 Oct	Marton	<i>Prayers for St Andrew's URC</i>
9 Oct	Guisborough	<i>Prayers for Guisborough URC</i>
16 Oct	Redcar	<i>Prayers for Lingdale URC</i>
23 Oct	Guisborough	<i>Prayers for Linthorpe URC</i>
30 Oct	Marton	<i>Prayers for Redcar URC</i>
6 Nov	Guisborough	<i>Prayers for St. Andrew's URC</i>
13 Nov	Marton	<i>Prayers for Guisborough URC</i>
20 Nov	Guisborough	<i>Prayers for Lingdale URC</i>
27 Nov	Redcar	<i>Prayers for Linthorpe URC</i>
4 Dec	Guisborough	<i>Prayers for Redcar URC</i>

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

ADVANCE NOTICE

Regional Christian Aid Service

Friday, 30 November

St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham

The theme is 'Flesh of our Flesh', and is linked with World Aids Day. The preacher will be **John Bell** of the **Iona Community** and the service is being arranged by Judith Sadler, who is the regional Christian Aid Officer and local church folk from the Middlesbrough area. The service is a regional one and therefore people from right across our Group and beyond are invited to attend.

There will be a reception with refreshments before the service which will begin at 7.00pm.

Please look for questions regarding HIV and Aids elsewhere in this magazine and test your knowledge.

From Holiday Forum

The main speaker was Sheila Maxey (Moderator of General Assembly 2004-2005) and she gave the following quotation:

'We have grown accustomed to hearing about the 'people of the book' meaning Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, all three faiths regard the Old Testament as one of their holy books.

There is one significant difference. Both Judaism and Islam teach their children the necessity of reading their scriptures in the original language. Thus Jewish children are taught Hebrew and Moslem children are taught Arabic.

At no time have Christians seen the need for us to read the New Testament in the original Greek nor the Old Testament in Hebrew. We appreciate that our faith hinges on the character of one person, the book that describes his activities is a means to an end and therefore translations are needed to fully understand what is written about him'.

Richard Harris

The United Reformed Church Northern Synod
Silence & Retreats Group

SYNOD QUIET DAY

you are invited to a quiet day at

HAUXLEY METHODIST CHURCH
near Amble, Northumberland

An opportunity to relax and
APPRECIATE CREATION

Saturday 20th October
10.00am for 10.30am to 3.30pm

Cost: £5

Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks provided

Anyone interested in going to this, please see Meg or Dorothy Harris. For directions to Hauxley Methodist Church, please see posters.

Cut the Carbon March

The Cut the Carbon March passed through our region at the beginning of August, with our own Moderator, Rowena Francis, joining the marchers for a sixteen mile session leading into Newcastle. Celebrities supporting the Christian Aid March include filmstars Leonardo DiCaprio and Greta Scacchi, and singers Lemar and Amy Macdonald, who have been helping to focus media attention on the thousand-mile enterprise stretched over the summer months. The core group of 18 marchers set out from Northern Ireland at the end of July, and are due to finish the journey in London on October 2nd. Paul Brannen, head of campaigns at Christian Aid, said: 'Climate change is the most serious threat to humanity. Poor people in the least developed countries are already dying as a result of floods, droughts and conflict over already scarce resources, such as water, that are becoming scarcer as the planet heats up. They need our help to tackle climate change by reducing emissions, through individual action and by putting pressure on the UK government to pursue climate friendly national and international policies.'

Psalms from East Cleveland

At a recent synod committee meeting our Moderator led the opening devotions with committee members writing psalms! They can be accessed on the synod website www.urb-northsynod.org.uk.

Some of those attending our midweek prayer times/services within the East Cleveland have also written psalms. No one person produces a finished psalm on his/her own but they are written collaboratively along the lines of the game 'consequences'. Over the next few months I intend to include a few in 'Group News'. Those involved surprised themselves at their creativity.

Here are two to begin with.

You, O God, are with me every day.

I praise you because you are all knowing, all seeing and all loving and you care for everyone whether good or bad.

The fruits of your creation feed us; the earth and all its creatures are in your care.

You sort out my messes and guide me into righteousness.

Thank you, Jesus, for showing us the Father and for being an example to us.

Therefore I will always bless your holy name and follow you for ever.

Lord, I praise you with my whole heart and being

because you are always with me and your love is great.

Your creation is wonderful beyond measure and belief; the colours of nature blend together beautifully.

We know you are always around whether things are good or bad and you have made us part of your plan.

Thank you, Jesus, for making my salvation possible.

Therefore I will sing your praise for ever.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Churches in our Group are again involved with this appeal; boxes will need to be ready for collection in early November so that they can make the journey to eastern Europe. If there are any queries about this appeal please see your church organiser but below is a list of what is acceptable and what is not. Each box needs to include a £2.00 donation for expenses to get it to its destination, preferably included in an envelope on the top of box. Please close the box with an elastic band but do not seal to allow for checking and inspection.

Acceptable Items – cuddly toy, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of wrapped soap and flannel, notepad colouring book, picture books, pencils, pencil sharpener, pens, paper, crayons, felt pens. hat, scarf, gloves, small ball, puzzle (jigsaw), toy car, hair accessories. Sweets (no chocolate) must be at least March of next year sell-by date

Unacceptable Items – chocolate, edible items e.g. crisps, biscuits, tinned food or cake, war related items eg toy guns or knives or soldiers, clothing other than listed, glass containers, mirrors, liquids of any type eg blow bubbles, bubble bath, shampoos. aerosols, marbles or sharp objects, medicines, novels.

Further information is available at www.samaritanspurse.uk.com

Prayer Page

- 1 Waddington Street United Reformed Church, Durham
- 2 St Andrew's Dawson Street, Crook LEP
- 3 St George's United Reformed Church, Hartlepool
- 4 Blackhill United Reformed Church, Consett. Revd Barry Welch's birthday
- 5 Chester-le-Street United Reformed Church. Revd Meg Robb's birthday.
Inauguration of the United Reformed Church, 1972
- 6 Stanley United Reformed Church
- 7 Revd Steven Orange's ordination anniversary
- 8 Revd David Bedford's ordination anniversary. Revd James Breslin's ordination anniversary
- 9 Lay preachers – Mr A Dobie, Mr KJ Dilley, Mrs C Eddowes, Mr B Lee, Mr D Mackay
- 10 Give thanks for those who are able to accept responsibility for handling church finances
- 11 For all who offer their homes to be used in various ways. We give thanks for their hospitality
- 12 That more people may make use of our Synod's Music Bank
- 13 Pray for the Northern Synod's October meeting
- 14 The Silence and Retreats Group offer opportunities to take time out for our spiritual health
- 15 That we are always mindful of how we can improve our welcome to newcomers to church
- 16 Pray for imaginative ways of welcoming newcomers to our surrounding communities
- 17 For more involvement and participation in the leading of our worship
- 18 For all who partner and who organise ministers in their self-appraisal
- 19 Revd Catey Morrison's ordination anniversary
- 20 We give thanks for the work of the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee
- 21 May we put our money where our theology is
- 22 That more people may consider becoming Accredited Lay Preachers
- 23 The Church and World Committee has a huge agenda to keep before us
- 24 Revd Catey Morrison's birthday. United Nations Day
- 25 For all involved in post-ordination education, training, and support
- 26 Pray for all involved in children's work across the Synod and in our local churches
- 27 Revd Peter Heckels's birthday
- 28 For members of FURY as they explore fellowship across the wider United Reformed Church
- 29 St Cuthbert's, Holy Island is a tremendous resource, we pray for its continuing ministry
- 30 Majors Suzanne and Melvin Fincham, Salvation Army
- 31 The County Durham Mission Partnership

Ancient

He who is filled with love is filled with God himself

Augustine of Hippo North African Church Father (5th Century)

Linthorpe

Donations For Coffee

17th Jun – £15.00:

22nd Jul – Children's Liver Disease
£16.00 – Stuart & Dorothy Knox

26th Aug – £12.00

2nd Sep – Macmillan Nurses
£8.00 – Helen Kettlewell

16th Sep – £9.00

Many thanks to those who give so generously to these and other worthy charities.

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
7 th Oct	M Gilmour	MTilley
14 th Oct	J Haverson	S Mapplebeck & G Kettlewell
21 st Oct	H Kettlewell	S & D Knox
28 th Oct	R Harris	H Kettlewell

Scripture Readers

7 th Oct	M Warren
14 th Oct	Parade (Harvest)
21 st Oct	B Potter
28 th Oct	J Haverson

Church Flowers

7 th Oct	TBA:
14 th Oct	Bill Scott.
21 st Oct	Mary Potter.
28 th Oct	Joan Patrick.

Group Scout Report

We now have more than twelve regular attendees at the Scout meetings for the first time in nearly two years and are starting to run the troop in patrols once again. Matthew Dent and Jack Wilson have been promoted to Patrol Leaders with assistant patrol leaders still to be arranged.

FWL memorial outing this year was a day at Beamish on Saturday 7th July. 31 members of the Group took part in the trip. Unfortunately with out knowing 1600 members of the Yorkshire Guides also decided to have their outing on the same day!! Fortunately the museum is much larger than the last time I was there and only caused a bit of a problem when leaving. Having nearly 1000 young girl's spending money in the gift show was a bit daunting. The day itself was fine to hot with just one 15 minute shower. Most visited the sweet making and sweet shop (unfortunately the prices on the window displays was not the price the charged even if you had pre decimal money), the farm, going down the drift mine and riding on the trams. The Scouts spent quite a long time in the Masonic lodge enacting out the voting and rolls

of the members with the aid of the museum staff.

Six scouts and nine explorer scouts took part in the county Sun Rise Camp at Raven Gill, celebrating 100 years since the first scout camp on Brown-sea Island. Around 100 were involved with a campfire and getting a little sleep before getting up at 05.15hrs to see the sun rise on the 1st of August 2007. Five members of our explorer unit attended the 100 year celebration Scout Jamboree at Chelmsford. Over 40,000 scouts from 160 countries/territories took part.

Thanks to all that supported the Group summer draw when £170 was raised for group funds. We will be holding our Autumn Fair on Thursday 18th October with fun and games for all the family.

Ivor Huskinson (Group Scout Leader)

Linthorpe Calendar

Tue	9 Oct	7.30pm	elder's Meeting
Sat	13 Oct		Synod

Guisborough

As autumn approaches I don't think the plants know what season it is. In our garden the wych hazel is flowering six months early and our contorted hazel is developing new leaves and catkins. After that long cold wet summer, finally in mid August it turned warm and beautiful. I don't remember the heather so lovely (or so late). The moors positively glowed purple. Even in Guisborough, summer fashions and happiness returned to the shopping centre.

Like you I read about Catey's holiday problems in the last newsletter. What could easily have been an utter disaster turned into a happy experience by the kindness of complete strangers. It restores your faith in ordinary people. I experienced similar kindness when I ended up in hospital with a broken wrist last year. But I really felt for John and Catey. I at least was in a country where I knew many of the local people already, and I didn't have four small children to cope with. Don't you envy the resilience of the young?

Our own holiday was everything we could have asked for. Blue skies, high mountains all around and if some-

times it got a little too hot, at least there were cable cars to whisk us up another two or three thousand feet to the start of the real mountains. And everywhere flowers. Not just the exotic ones you see in the guide books. Even very ordinary ones such as red Campion acquire a special brilliance. It's very easy to believe in God in such surroundings. It's obvious the local people feel it too. Every village, no matter how small, has a church which is an absolute gem. But they have to face the real world too. Where we stay the church has to raise half a million pounds for restoration (it buys a lot more there than it would here). Another village is campaigning to have a planned logging road moved to protect the pilgrimage route to their local 'mini Lourdes'

When we arrived home we found Mr. Mole had been busy in the garden making not hay,

Guisborough Rotas

Date	Vestry	Communion Door	Flowers	
Oct 7th	D Beattie	D Moore	R Tunnicliffe	D Collins
Oct 14th	J Reynolds		J Bulmer	M Ward
Oct 21st	G Jordan		B Ward	J Bulmer
Oct 28th	M Burrows		M Baird	D Harris

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	6 Oct	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast – at the Salvation Army, Westgate.
Sun	7 Oct	2.00pm	Churches Together in Guisborough - Harvest Service at Court Green Farm – <i>transport by shuttle bus – see notices</i>
Sat	13 Oct	10am – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Thu	18 Oct	7.15pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	21 Oct	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purselove Sports Centre.

Weekly

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

but hills all over the place. I got a brief glimpse of him when he surfaced for a look round. For such a small creature he moves an impressive amount of earth and his tunnels do good job of aerating the soil. But I just wish it hadn't been in my lawn. He's moved on and I have some restoration work of my own to do. But it makes you think; if each person in the church worked as hard as that little mole, what a difference it would make.

I'm writing this having just returned from Meg and Catey's open-house and barbecue at the Redcar Manse. They had obviously made a real effort. And I thoroughly enjoyed myself eating too much and catching up with old friends; and making one or two new ones. D, I noticed was closeted with John at the barbecue; as ever attracted to fire and food. There were plenty of people there. But I was sad to find D and I were the only ones from Guisborough. As our numbers decline we need to support events like this to build a wider sense of community and avoid turning in on ourselves.

I almost forgot, we visited Newby Hall near Ripon a week or so back. We go for the wonderful gardens and the rather good restaurant. They often exhibit the work of local sculptors. This year there were several young men from Zimbabwe exhibiting some really very good sculptures. They have a wonderful sense of style, part African, not afraid to be modern and at prices even I could afford. I ordered a piece to be delivered next year and took a metal stork made from bits of old oil drum, home with me. Knowing how poor they are, I felt a bit mean paying a tenth of what local artists were asking for work I didn't think was as good. But at least it was something I like, can afford, and as they say 'Trade is better than Aid'. Their families back home desperately need the money.

Finally, by the time you read this we will have had our Harvest Festival followed as always by a faith lunch which is a friendly way of getting together.

Maureen Houston

Guisborough Choral Society presents
St Nicholas Parish Church

Guisborough

7.30pm Saturday 13th October 2006

CP Bach – Magnificat

Poulenc – Gloria

Pergolesi – Stabat Mater

Guest Soloists, Organist & Priory String Quartet
Conductor – Stuart Buckton

Tickets – £9.00 (Concessions £8.00 Under 19 £1.00)
from Greensleeves & Guisborough Bookshop

Can You Help with our Church History?

I am currently writing a history of the United Reformed Church Guisborough, to be published as part of our Bi-Centenary celebrations in 2011, and wish to ask the readers of *the Group News Magazine* to help me with information about past events, in the life of the church, other than that which can be found in our records or from present members.

The present church building was opened in 1811 under the name of '*The Ebenezer Independent Chapel*'. It was later known as the *Ebenezer Congregational Church* – before becoming the United Reformed Church in 1972.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has memories of the church, or a specific event, about past and present ministers and members, have old photographs, or old event programmes, or Orders of Service – and perhaps even the odd 'memorable' sermon!

I would be most grateful for any such information to help with this project – and can be contacted at:

31 Deepdale, Guisborough, Cleveland,
TS14 8JY

Tel: 01287 637318

E-mail: raytunncliffe@yahoo.co.uk

Raymond Tunncliffe (Church Secretary)

Redcar

Mini Bazaar

Mini Bazaar to be held on Saturday 10th November. If anyone has any prizes for either the raffle or tombola Evelyn Roberston and Norma Creek will be grateful to receive them as soon as possible.

Condolences

Sadly we announce the death of Ray Baurgh, dear husband of Rita. May he rest in peace.

It is also with sadness the death of Bill Tomlie is announced. He was a member of Redcar Church for many years. Our thoughts are with his family.

Thank You

The Coffee Morning held on September 8th raised £150 for Church Funds, many thanks to all who helped.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Jenny Robinson who achieved excellent results in the recent GSCE examinations.

Sunday 21st October

Church meeting after worship.

Please try to attend this important meeting.

Coffee Morning

Saturday 13th October

10am - 12 noon

Tickets 50p ~ Cake Stall

Everyone welcome

Redcar Calendar

Wed 24 Oct	7.00pm	Elders meeting
Sun 21 Oct	6.00pm	Churches Together are having a service on 'Make Poverty History' at Zetland Park Methodist.

Weekly

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

Modern

We are not criticised for being Christians, but for not being Christian enough

Leon Joseph Suenens Belgian cardinal (Late twentieth century)

St Andrew's

From the Moodie Family

Thank you all for your prayers and support during the time since Jade became ill. She is half-way through her "intensive" chemotherapy treatment now and should be back at school in January.

Luckily she likes hats and her "long hair" wigs. The many cards and presents have been a great help. Thank you all again.

Ladies Fellowship

We started our new session with "Stories" from Pat Rutherford. She also had us all doing maths calculations! Many thanks Pat and we look forward to seeing you soon. Our next meeting will be on 3rd October at 7.30pm when Sheila will reminisce about "Childhood Memories".

Harvest Festival

Harvest Service and Boys Brigade Parade will take place on Sunday 14th October at 9.30am. We would appreciate gifts of non-perishable goods, toothbrushes, toiletries, deodorants, washing powder etc. These will be sent to North of England Refugee Service to assist asylum seekers.

In our thoughts

Pam Munkley is currently recovering from major surgery. Please remember both her and her family as well as Jade and the Moodie family, together with all those who are caring for them in your prayers.

Bazaar

Saturday 10th November 2007

11.30am to 1.30pm.

Anybody interested in helping with stalls etc please contact Margaret McGarrell.

Coffee Morning

in aid of church funds

at the Swans'

Thursday 25th October

10.30am - Noon.

Raffle and Bring and Buy

Tickets £1.00 available from Una and Joan

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 1-Oct	7.30pm	Elder's Meeting
Mon 21 Oct	3.00pm	Informal Worship at Elmridge (where Grant Sutherland works)
Wed 23 Oct	2:30pm	Informal Communion at Kirkley Lodge
Weekly		
Wednesday	9.30am	Prayers
Friday	6.15pm	Boys Brigade
Sunday	After Worship	Traid Craft Stall (Last Sunday in month)

Lingdale

Operation Christmas Child

There should be a leaflet for this year Operation Christmas Child with your copy of Group News, if there isn't, and you would like further details, please let me know. I will be taking the boxes on the 10th November so could you make sure your boxes are left at church, or given to me, by Friday 9th November. The charity has asked for us to consider the older age group when filling the boxes as they often lack boxes for the 10 to 14 age group, especially boys.

Susan

Lingdale Calendar

Sun 14 Oct 5.00pm Church Meeting
 Wed 23 Oct 2.00pm Informal worship at Prospect Place at 2.00pm
Weekly
 Wednesday 11.00am - 11.00am Coffee
 1st Wednesday 11.30am - 12.30pm Soup and a Roll

Flower Rota

7th Oct Miss S Griffiths
 14th Oct Mrs J Scott
 21st Oct Mrs P Green
 28th Oct Mr A Thompson
 4th Nov Mrs M Curnow

Preachers

	7-Oct	14-Oct	21-Oct	28-Oct	4-Nov
Marton	9.30am K Harris	M Robb Harv. P'de.	L Bustard	M Robb	J Harper
	6.30pm			M Robb Communion	
Lintho	11.00am J Harper	C Morrison Harv. P'de.	J Harper Communion	K Harris	C Morrison
	6.30pm				
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion	D Harris	Guis Folk	D Whiting	M Robb Communion
Redcar	11.00am M Robb Communion	J Harper	C Morrison	C Eddowes	K Harris
Lingdale	6.00pm M Robb	K Harris Communion	C Price	K Harris	M Robb

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

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