



Group News

Minister

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www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

As I write, we have just returned back from a wonderful day out on Lindisfarne, with amazingly glorious weather. Glorious blue skies in the afternoon giving us beautiful views across the island, despite ominous rain clouds building up as we travelled further north on the journey up, *and* rain as we stepped off the bus that evening, home again, in East Cleveland! So Meg's prayers worked and Lindisfarne proved itself once again to be a wonderfully refreshing and uplifting, spiritual place. A very special place indeed!

Lindisfarne is one of those holy places where I feel very close to God from the first moment I put my foot on the tidal island. There is something tangibly there, God is there, it is indeed a place where God comes close. That is not to say that God does not come close to us in our churches back in East Cleveland, for God is alive and active through the Holy Spirit within our churches and, of course, within us. We see God active in our discussions at our church meetings, you know those occasions when we feel we will never come to a united decision – but we do! And when we are supporting one another pastorally, being the arms of Christ as we give that needed hug of support or comfort.

But at times it is important to journey to another place, to leave our comfortable surroundings where we know God abides and seek out other places where God is also active today, and be challenged by how God is working in those places; to take time out from our busy lives, to simply be with God.

On the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, God is surely a source of peace to those who come on pilgrimage, for a retreat, or just for the day. There is a wonderful sense of peace on the island, made even more special when the tide is in, like it was for us, wrapping the shores of the island with the sea, ensuring we stay yet a little while longer to soak up that peace, the peace of God.

For those who didn't come, you missed a wonderful experience - a beautiful island swept by the grace of God, some thoughtful and thought provoking prayers led by Rev Barry Hutchinson in the comfort of St. Cuthbert's URC Centre on the island, and a most enjoyable time of fellowship.

Well – you can always come next time!

God bless!

Rev Catey Morrison

For our Prayers

The Synod Prayers this ask us to pray for County Durham Mission Partnership with weekly prayers for churches within the partnership.

Week beginning 5th October

Durham Waddington Street; St. Andrew`s Crook L.E.P.; St George`s Hartlepool

Week beginning 12th October

North West Durham Group – St. Andrew`s Blackhill, Bethel Chester-le-Street, Christ Church Stanley

Week beginning 19th October

Ministers: Ann Shepherdson (Meth), John Durell, Val Towler, Jan Maxwell, Stephen Orange, Ray Anglesea

Week beginning 26th October

Older people within our churches and communities:

Ecumenical Church Leaders: (Leo Osborn Methodist Chair of Newcastle District).

Group Day Out

Holy Island is a magical place! So, there was no better destination for our group day out yesterday...Sept. 13th. Even the weather was kind... although it did threaten at the beginning. It was good to see a coach full of folk looking forward to spending the day together.

After the journey the first part of the itinerary was a much needed cup of tea or coffee...and a welcome from rev. Barry Hutchinson, who is the minister on the island and runs the St. Cuthbert`s Centre.

Morning worship followed, always a thoughtful and spiritual occasion and led by Barry. Then we were free to do our own thing until lunch at 1.15. Just to wander about the island is a healing experience, and I found my way to the beach... eventually!, - looking for seals and just watching the waves covering the track across to the little St. Cuthbert`s island.

Lunch was a wonderful spread, which was provided by Catey and John...with no doubt some small, willing helpers!!! There was more than enough to go round the 30+ of us who were there...they must have been busy for days!! In

fact Meg told us that if we didn`t eat everything...we wouldn`t be allowed off the island!!!

After lunch Barry led those who wanted to join him on a prayer walk around the island...this was a silent wander following a particular path, with various stops where Barry spoke of some of the history of Lindisfarne, and asked us to reflect on some aspects of Aidan`s work among the early Christians. This involved a bit of scrambling!!! And took about an hour and a half to two hours.

Back at the centre, there was tea...the kettle is always on, Barry said!

The day ended with a short Communion service which was a lovely way to finish what had been a memorable visit.

If you ever get the opportunity to go to Holy Island, I hope you`ll grab it with both hands....it really is a jewel in the Christian crown.

For me...it was a wonderful day...and a big thank you must go to Meg and Catey for arranging things so well.

Jan Harper

Mission Partnership Prayer Day

Saturday, 29th October

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

Manse Prayers

Tue 7th Oct Guisborough (Prayers for St. Andrew's)

Tue 14th Oct Redcar (Prayers for Lingdale)

Tue 21st Oct Guisborough (Prayers for Linthorpe)

Tue 28th Oct Guisborough (Prayers for Redcar)

Manse Prayers are open to all. They begin at 8.45am at:

Marion - 10 Farington Drive
Guisborough - 31 Oakley Close
Redcar - 31 Torcross Way

From the Wider Church

News of the death of Arthur Macarthur on September 1st at the age of 94 was received with sorrow throughout our Church and beyond. He was one of those who was instrumental in bringing about the formation of the URC in 1972, and served jointly with his Congregational counterpart John Huxtable as its first general secretary. Ordained in 1937, his first ministry was at Alnwick; and after some years in London he returned to the North East in 1950 and ministered for ten years in North Shields before leaving to become General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. He was Moderator of General Assembly in 1974-75 and continued to serve as General Secretary until his retirement in 1980. He is survived by his wife, Esme; they had been married for 58 years. In retirement they lived at Cirencester. There are three sons and one daughter and six grandchildren.

World Orthodox leader says irrational use of resources is sinful.

More and more people know that the irrational use of natural resources and unchecked energy consumption contribute to climate change, and that this impacts on life and the survival of humanity created in the image of God. It is therefore tantamount to sin, says the man considered by many to be the leader of Orthodox Christians. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos I of Constantinople, who is based in Istanbul, Turkey, made his remarks in a letter released in Geneva and sent to all churches ahead of the day of prayer for God's creation, on 1 September.

The RSPCA is calling upon clergy to celebrate animal services with renewed focus this October following a new initiative to make 'Time for God's Creation'. Launched in June, the Archbishop of Canterbury and leaders of other denominations called upon Christians throughout England to put the environment at the heart of their worship this autumn. The initiative presents a perfect opportunity for congregations to re-examine their duties towards living creatures. It is vital that Christians remember their specific responsibilities towards animals during this welcome renewal of environmental concern. What we call 'the environment' comprises individual creatures, many of them sentient, who need our care. Animal Welfare Sunday (5th October) provides a real opportunity for clergy to organise services that both celebrate God's creatures and underline the importance of behaving responsibly towards them."

Noah's rainbow worries Tuvalu church leaders

Some residents of one of the world's smallest nations fear that what they call a strange "flood theology" - imported from U.S. fundamentalist Christians - could help sink Tuvalu. Located in the South Pacific, Tuvalu is on the frontline of the climate change debate as recent scientific research shows that all nine islands that make up the country could be flooded within 30 years due to rising sea levels. This highly religious nation says it is being inundated with a quirky, climate change-denying theology, based on the story of Noah and the biblical flood.

Redcar

Commitment for Life

On 12th and 19th October you are invited to donate to our Commitment for Life partners, the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Envelopes will be available.

Elders Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who helped in raising over £70.00 at the Elders Coffee Morning last month.

Evelyn Robertson

Redcar Calendar

Weekly

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

Lingdale

Joy Scarth

Following Joy's resignation this summer we would like to express our thanks and gratitude for all her hard work over the years. Joy first became a Deacon in 1957 and has held many posts, including Church Secretary, over the years. Thank you Joy.

Flower Rota

5th October – Mrs P Green
12th October – Mr A Thompson
19th October – Mrs H Dunstan
26th October – Mrs P Griffiths
2nd November – Miss S Griffiths

August Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our late summer coffee morning – over £80 was raised!

Operation Christmas Child

There should be a leaflet with this Group News for the annual shoebox appeal – please help if you can. Boxes have to be at Church no later than the 16th November.

Harvest Supper and Quiz

Friday 10th October - 6.30pm

Don't forget this will be held on Friday 10th October starting at 6.30pm with a pie and pea supper. Admission is £3.

Lingdale Calendar

Weekly

3rd Sunday of month 4.00pm Messy Church followed by Kids Praise at 6pm.
4th Wednesday of month 2.00pm Worship at Prospect Place

Linthorpe

Harvest

Sunday, 12th October

Please bring donations of non-perishable food (tins, dried goods, etc) as your Harvest Offering.

Thank you

Thanks

Many thanks too, to those who volunteered to help on various rotas after Helen's appeal last month....the door is still open!!

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch
Oct 5 th	R Harris	G Dodds
Oct 12 th	J Haverson	S Mapplebeck & G Kettlewell
Oct 19 th	J Harper	M Tilley
Oct 26 th	H Kettlewell	A Piercy

Scripture Readers

Oct 5 th	S Mapplebeck
Oct 12 th	Parade
Oct 19 th	B Potter
Oct 26 th	V Walker

Coffee/Tea After Worship

Oct 5 th	Helen Kettlewell Macmillan Nurses
Oct 12 th	Val Walker Brownies
Oct 19 th	Stuart & Dorothy Knox Children With Liver Disease Foundation
Oct 26 th	John & Peggy Horbury Guide Dogs For The Blind

Scout Report

At the end of June, 32 group members attended the groups annual 'Fred Lappin Memorial Outing'. For this year we spent the day at York. The Explorer Scouts went to look up relations in the museums dungeons, the Beavers Cubs and Scouts visited the railway museum

Group members sold £220 worth of Summer Draw tickets over June and July. Many thanks to the Group Executive for organizing this years Summer draw when £182 (£40 printing costs) was raised towards group funds.

Scouts had the first meeting back from the summer break with an evening designing and making rockets. Small prizes were awarded for the best design and the rocket that went the furthest.

Mick Mead from the Cleveland Fire brigade gave the Beavers & Cub scouts a talk and presentation on the dangers of fire in the home. Mike is also an assistant Cub Scout Leader at the 46th Middlesbrough Scout Group and covered all the aspects of what Cubs and beavers should know. How to prevent fires! What to do in the event of a fire and making sure your house has a fire alarm.

Fire alarms are fitted free from the Fire Brigade and now have a 10 year battery fitted.

District 'Olympic' Camp - 14 group members will be taking part in the Camp at the from 26th to 28th September.

Ivor Huskinson (Group Scout Leader)

Linthorpe Calendar

Wednesdays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th October

7.00pm 'Explorations' with Rev. Dr. David Peel (Queen's Park, Stockton)

Sat 11th Oct Synod Day, at St. Columba, N. Shields.

Tue 14th Oct 7.30pm Elder's Meeting, Venue to be arranged.

Fri 17th – Sun 19th 'Faith And Feathers' on Holy Island with Rev Dr David Peel - a weekend of bird watching, prayer and discussion.

Coffee After Morning Worship

10th July & 14th Aug ~ S & D Knox
£24.00 ~ *Children With Liver Disease Found'n*

17th Aug ~ H Kettlewell
£ 6.00 ~ *Macmillan Nurses*

24th Aug ~ P & J Horbury
£10.30 ~ *Guide Dogs For The Blind*

Sept 7th ~ H Kettlewell
£16.10 ~ *Macmillan Nurses*

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

Ancient

For eighty and six years have I been his (Christ's) servant and he has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?

Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna (as he was martyred)
Second Century

Modern

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving

Amy Carmichael Irish-born Missionary in India
(Second half Twentieth Century)

Guisborough

D keeps copies of my old newsletters on the computer. The first was dated February 1996. It was mainly about Ernest's Heart bypass and the huge amount of work the rest of us would have to pick up if anything went wrong. Twelve years on Ernest is still with us; and I find myself writing newsletter number 108.

Like many of you we are not long back and from holiday and I'm still struggling to organize my thoughts.

I have to start with an apology. Bryony was christened way back in May. It was her big day and I should have mentioned it long ago. Sorry, sorry sorry!

Hastily moving on to the recent Church meeting! Of many things discussed, two seemed worth a special mention. We had to make a decision about Vision4Life. It's not like deciding where to go on holiday. The brochure doesn't give us much detail, although we have had a few glimpses. A lot of things will have to be sorted out along the way. But we do know that staying as we are is not really possible. And since we will be in good company it wasn't hard to decide.

Then, while I was sunning myself in the Alps, Ken Harris and friends have achieved a great deal on the property front, and without emptying

the bank balance. His secret is being in Rotary and knowing all sorts of useful people. Some work we have had done for free by people on Community Service Orders, other jobs were done for very modest fees by people learning building skills. I do hope Ken doesn't plan to retire soon. Old buildings take a lot of looking after!

A few days later I was one of thirty seven members of the East Cleveland Group heading for Lindesfarne – Holy Island. The weather did not look promising, grey and misty. The blades of a windmill vanishing into the clouds at the top of their arc. But nobody minded. The chatter of conversation started as soon as we boarded and continued non stop until we arrived. I was going to say 'got home'. But this was something of a pilgrimage in the steps of Saints Aidan and Cuthbert. And as we walked slowly round the sacred spots we were invited to reflect in silence, pausing only for prayer and to learn something of their lives of these Holy men. We almost made it (in silence that is)! Our guide was Rev Barry Hutchinson, URC Minister of the island. He's the sort of person who can make any day something special. And Holy Island is special to start with. Even the weather cooperated. By lunchtime the mist had cleared and I began to feel the magic of the island. I know

God is everywhere, but there are some places where it just seems easy to feel close to him.

The next day Ray organized a walk after morning service. Time was when we really could walk. Old Mrs. Dale talked of walks from Guisborough to Marske, along the sands to Saltburn, and then home again. Ray decided a few miles round Great Ayton was more our style. And so nine intrepid souls set out. The sun shone and it seemed summer had finally arrived. If doing things together builds a community this walk certainly helped. We picnicked in the shade by the stream and then wandered to the old parish church. Captain Cook's parents are buried there. But what Ray wanted to find was the grave of the Rev William Hinners, who founded the community that became Guisborough URC some two hundred years later. He was obviously highly thought of. His gravestone of dark polished granite is by far the most impressive in the churchyard. Finding it made Ray's day. What tickled my historical interest

Guisborough Choral Society
 Conductor - Olwen Comeron
 Presents

Petite Messe Solennelle by Rossini

Saturday 11th October - 7.30pm

St Nicholas Parish Church

The concert will provide a rare opportunity to hear the music with Harmonium and piano accompaniment as in the original score

Tickets £9 (cons £8, under 19 £1)

From Guisborough Bookshop, Greensleeves or on the door.

was that Hinners was trained in Edinburgh to be a missionary in India. The East India Company then banned missionaries so he came here instead. India's loss was our gain.

The mention of two hundred years reminds me that people are starting to wonder how to mark the bicentenary of our church building in 2011. Ray tells me the community itself is fifteen years older.

Maureen Houston

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
5 th Oct	M Houston	M Burrows	D Houston	D Collins
12 th Oct	D Beattie		R Tunnicliffe	J McGregor
19 th Oct	J Reynolds		J Bulmer	M Ward
26 th Oct	M Baird		B Ward	D Harris

Guisborough Calendar

Wed 1 Oct	7.30pm	David Peel's Explorations course starts at Queen's Park, Stockton.
Sat 4 Oct	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast - for the Bridge Association- at the Salvation Army Citadel.
Thu 9 Oct	7.15pm	Elders Meeting.
Sat 11 Oct	10 – 12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Tue 14 Oct	2.30pm	Service in the Belmont Care Home, Rectory Lane. All friends welcome.
Sun 19 Oct	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purseglove Sports Centre.
Thu 23 Oct	7.30pm	Guisborough Bridge Association AGM.

Weekly

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

St Andrew's

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jessie's family, Neil and James, at this sad time.

Family News

It was lovely to see Jean and Bob's new grandson, Oscar, at church recently with his mischievous brother Joshua and of course Suzanne too.

Una and Joan's Coffee Morning

8 Towthorpe, Nunthorpe

Thursday 9th October 2008

10.30am till noon

Raffle and Bring & Buy Stall

in aid of church funds

Tickets £1.00 available from Una and Joan Swan.

Ladies Fellowship

At our meeting on Wednesday 1st October 2008 we will be hearing a talk from Ann Carr on her recent holiday to Canada.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Sunday Service will take place on Sunday 12th October at 9.30am.

Teesside South East Mission Partnership

Children's Sleepover

Saturday 4th to Sunday 5th October 2008
St Andrew's URC, Marton.

There will be fun and games and maybe a little sleep for children of all ages, with activities for the under ten's and ten's and over, concluding with morning worship at St Andrew's on the Sunday morning. The children will be taking part and sharing about what they have been doing!

Speak to Catey (01642 471778) or Jacquie (01287 678696) for more information.

This year our harvest gifts are going to the Mary Thomson Fund. This is a charity which supplies packs of food and toiletries to refused asylum seekers who are homeless and destitute. We would be grateful if your gifts this year could be non-perishable goods eg tinned goods, pasta, rice, tea, coffee, biscuits etc. and toiletries for both men and women.

Shoe Box Appeal

Junior Church are once again taking part in the Shoe Box Appeal this year and would be grateful for any donations. There are leaflets explaining what is required and Shona will be delighted to provide anyone with one.

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 6 th Oct	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed 15 th Oct	2.30pm	Informal worship at Kirkley Lodge

Weekly

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

Jessie Smith

Jim and I have been overwhelmed by the support and affection we've received due to Mum's passing. I'd like now to say some words on behalf of us both.

Firstly to say how glad we are to be holding the service here at St Andrew's, Mum's church for the last 45 years. As well as being a long time member of the church, Mum was a Sunday School teacher for many years, and even taught Jim and me for a short time. Of course, Margaret Taylor was our minister in those days and we're really pleased that Margaret has been able to join us today. Some of you may know that I was the first child to be baptised by Margaret and (I am reliably informed) managed to pull off her spectacles in mid-ceremony.

Sitting down to write this was not easy. It was not easy for many reasons but one of them is that it forced me to answer a question I haven't had to think about too much before – what was Mum like as a person? I'm not sure if it's always the same with parents, but to me it was always a case of 'Mum is just Mum', always there for us, always a loving presence, always putting tea on the table. It's only with hindsight that we realise everything that Mum did for us especially when she was left on her own after Dad died. So, rarely did I stop to think about what type of person Mum was.

One characteristic is clear, though, perhaps because it's something I've inherited. Mum was competitive. I'm sure Mum's fellow bridge players would recognise the glint in the eye as a winning hand was studied and the giving of no quarter if victory was scented.

Jim did a great thing by encouraging Mum to play Knockout Whist in Southampton at a time when Mum was otherwise struggling. Jim and I played a game with her a couple of months ago and of course she was the only winner! It took me right back to games of table tennis when we were children and the thrill of finally being big enough to beat Mum with a head start.

As well as playing sport mum loved watching it.

It was mum who took me to my first Leeds game at Ayresome Park, thereby inflicting 35 years of mostly misery! I can remember to this day queuing for tickets and Mum giving one of her steely looks as the man behind the ticket office window assured her that although it was the front row there was no danger of getting wet if it rained. Needless to say it poured with rain and we were soaked but also needless to say Mum may have had some words with the man in the ticket office but it was without malice and no question of letting spoil her enjoyment of the football.

Of course mum's love of sport was all the greater if anyone Scottish was involved. Colin Montgomery in particular was a constant source of frustration and disappointment followed more lately by Andy Murray.

And of course, Scotland itself remained in Mum's heart for her whole life. Jim and I were taught from an early age to cheer when we crossed the border into Scotland at the start of one of our many holidays there. I still do it today. But Mum was certainly not a Scottish Nationalist. And I think that reflect another characteristic of Mum. – That she didn't take an extreme view about anything. Tolerance and an ability to see both sides of the issue were important values for her. Although Mum would sometimes say that she wished she had the certainty others appeared to have, more often she would rail against the intolerance and inability to understand that she saw in public life and in particular in the media.

Having said that Mum was a great reader of the papers and a fan of two papers in particular. She read The Independent from its launch and was quite protective of it, viewing it as beacon of reason and decency. There was a special place also for The Sunday Post. More recently she would marvel at just how much there was to read in the Sunday Post from Francis Gay to The Broons and Oor Wullie, and how it would keep her going for most of the week. Deep down she always took it with a pinch of salt.

I mentioned earlier that the church has been an important part of Mum's life for 45 years. Of course the Nunthorpe and surrounding community more generally has been as well. Mum made a great contribution to the community and she was involved for many years through Save the Children, Meals on Wheels and as an enthusiastic member of clubs and societies.

Mum was a great listener. She was one of those people whose nature seems to invite people to open up to them and so was a great support to others. She was always happy to lend an ear.

This approach to others has been repaid in the help and support she received back from everyone, especially in more recent times. Jim and I would like to thank everyone for this tremendous support.

So mum was a wonderful person, certainly a wonderful mother to Jim and me. We'll miss her greatly. As most of you know her house has been sold and going through that process stirred a flood of memories. It's almost impossible to think of never seeing Mum sitting in her favourite armchair, or at her chair in the kitchen looking out at her favourite view of the garden. But the memories will remain. It's 27 years since Dad died and sometimes when I remember him I'm not sure whether it's the photos I've kept that I'm really remembering. Well, in Mum's case, there is a photo of her in the foyer that I'll happily keep as part of my special memories of Mum – and that's because in it you can see her smile – the special smile that almost seems to define who mum was, a smile that is understated but good humoured and full of warmth.

Neil Smith

Preachers

	5-Oct	12-Oct	19-Oct	26-Oct	2-Nov
Marton	9.30am K Harris	C Morrison Parade	C Morrison	K Harris	MartonWT
	6.30pm			K Harris Communion	
Lintho	11.00am K Harris	J Lamplugh Parade	C Morrison	K Harris	J Harper
	6.30pm				
Guisbo	9.30am C Morrison Communion	D Harris	K Harris	Guis Folk	C Morrison Communion
Redcar	11.00am J Harper	C Morrison	K Harris	J Harper	K Harris Communion
Lingdale	6.00pm C Morrison	K Harris Communion	C Morrison Kids Praise	C Price	C Morrison

Material for the November Magazine to church editors by Sunday 12th October please

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