



Group News

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** October * 2009 * October **

www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk

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

Dear Friends,

It is harvest time again, and time for us to once again offer up those products and produce that we have had nothing at all to do with making or growing! Yes there may be a few hardened fruit and vegetable growers lurking within our congregations, bringing to the harvest table the produce of their labours, but even so, I am sure you know what I mean! Do any of us actually manage to be self-sufficient enough - through the produce of our gardens and allotments - to be able to say that we are *not* dependant on the labours of others, especially those in poorer countries right around the world?

I have just raided the kitchen cupboard, in fact, to find out where the food that we eat and enjoy as a family actually comes from. Well, there was curry powder from India, tinned tomatoes from Italy, tinned tuna from Thailand, corned beef from Argentina, sugar from Mauritius, sunflower seeds and rice from China, and coffee from Mexico!

For anyone who managed to catch any of the series which was on BBC three a while back now, following a group of young people who went from the UK to some of the countries where the key ingredients that we use in this country, particularly that make up our takeaways, are produced – you will have seen for yourselves the horrors of life on the line-caught tuna boats, at the prawn lakes, on back-breaking rice plantations and in the chicken factories, in countries like Thailand and Indonesia. You will also have seen some of the British young people fainting when attempting to work in the conditions that local workers face, enduring the long hours that they have to do, and all for so little money that the group from the UK struggled to feed themselves on their pay – let own pay for lodgings! And just before we complain that not all factories are this bad, these were all businesses which are considered to be treating their workers quite fairly in comparison to other companies! From the documentary it was clear that many people around the world are quite literally slaving to produce our food!

So take another look at the harvest display at the front of church this year, and go on, dare to look at where it was produced! And then pray for equality and true justice to be fruits of this year's harvest! Will it make you think again about paying for fairly traded products wherever it is an option, all for just a few pence more?

God bless! Revd. Catey Morrison



Vision4Life

October Word Search

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

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| SMYRNA | SPIRIT |
| PERGAMUM | ANGEL |
| THYATIRA | SEVEN |
| SARDIS | ASIA |
| PHILADELPHIA | CHURCHES |
| LAODICEA | JOHN |

Find the words which are all connected with the seven churches of REVELATION. See *Book Club section*

October Quiz

1. Which King put Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in a burning fiery furnace?
2. Which gospel ends with the words, 'I am with you always to the close of the age'?
3. Where is the verse: 'Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!'?

Modern

What Jesus showed us is how to do theology with people daily involved in the joys and sorrows of life.

Choan-Seng Song Theologian from Taiwan (Late 20th Century)

Answers from the September edition

1. Which Christian missionary was the son of Eunice? Timothy (2 Timothy, chapter 1, verse 5)
2. What was the name of Ruth's mother-in-law? Naomi (Ruth, chapter 1 ff)
3. What herb did the Israelites use to smear lambs' blood on their houses? Hyssop (Exodus, chapter 12, verse 22)

PLEASE NOTE: *There is to be a bible quiz at St. Andrew's, Marton on Saturday, 24th October @ 7:00pm. There will be a bring and share supper.*

Vision4life: Bible Book Club

For **October** you are invited to read **chapters 2 and 3** of the book of **REVELATION** and here is some background information along with some guidelines for your reading.

These two chapters of John's Revelation speak of the seven churches of Asia. They were actual churches in the province of Asia and churches which presumably John, the author of Revelation, knew quite well. John penned Revelation whilst in prison on the island of Patmos for it was here that he had the visions on which the book is based. The Revelation of John is a hard book to understand and often we are left wondering what the imagery within the writing actually means. But for Book Club purposes we are

not going to concern ourselves with any more than the messages to the seven churches.

The number seven is significant as are individual churches for this shows that John is speaking to local churches and, since seven is the perfect number, also to the whole Church. There is a question within all seven messages in that they are about the condition of the churches. Is the Church as it should be and doing what it ought? And that is a question that can be asked of the Church of today? Are we, as the Church, displaying the love of God and obedience to God that as Christian we ought? Are we listening to what God is saying to us and our churches in these days?

Book Club Sunday for this month will be 25th October.

Synod Prayers

Week beginning 4th October

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

Week beginning 11th October

Ryton; Winlaton LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership, Methodist/URC)

Rev Elaine Brown

Week beginning 18th October

Stockton Road, Sunderland; Grindon, Sunderland:

Helen Stephenson, CRCW (Church Related Community Worker at Grindon)

Week beginning 25th October

Boldon; Roker; St. Bede, Sunderland

Rev Peter Jordan

Tom Wright – (Anglican Bishop of Durham)

Credit Crisis Hits Japan

Following the problems in the sub-prime lending markets in America and the run on Northern Rock in the UK, uncertainty has now hit Japan.

In the last 7 days the Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches.

Yesterday, it was announced that Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will go for a song while today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived.

Furthermore, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

The thoughts of one retired

Over the past year I have been influenced by two books written by Jonathon Sachs, the Chief Rabbi. The second of the two books has the title "The Home we Build Together". The book begins by looking at the world now, which is a broken and fragmented one. In recognising this, it then goes on to talk about and share possible solutions to how the world might become a closer world in the future for nations and individuals.

The world of my own teenage years has changed in so many different ways, and I know that I am not the person I was at twenty or forty or even at fifty. My own faith in God has been challenged in both my life before I was an ordained minister, and even afterwards. My work, particularly as a chaplain in industry, has brought me in contact with people of many different faiths, as well as people who were nonbelievers. It is through these different influences and different beliefs in God, that I found my own faith was being questioned and tested.

I learned very quickly that working with a team of chaplains made up of people (both male and female), from all the denominations, called for understanding and appreciation of other's views on God and the building of God's Kingdom. Sharing in and listening to an individual's life journey was most important in the world of work, community and family.

My first major challenge was the privatisation of the electricity industry, and what was involved for every person from manager to tea lady, as overnight each power station became a profit making centre for its shareholders. Then came the decline of ship-building in our island nation, which proved to be a disaster to so many communities. We are now in a situation where the total manufacturing base that was one of the real strengths of our country has almost disappeared – to the detriment of the working lives of so many people.

Alongside these events, the decline within the Christian Church continues, while at the same time

we are facing up to living alongside people of the world's major faiths. We cannot build a house which keeps people apart, within a community, within a nation, and also within the world that the Creator God has given. This God given world is for people of all faiths, all nationalities, and all languages. And now as a minister and chaplain exactly like the Chief Rabbi, I must begin to look at my faith, my life in the way that God, through Jesus Christ, challenges us all to build a kingdom for God.

I invite people on this journey with me to examine their own faith and be challenged by the other major religions and the present state of our world as I was challenged in Manchester earlier this year.

Ken Harris

Childrens' Sleepover

Starts - Saturday 28th November

Ends - Sunday 29th November (after Church)

An important date for your young people,
and a date for their parents' diaries.

Forms, details and venue available shortly.

Prepare for the best start to advent EVER!!!

Advent is not just about chocolate advent calendars - BEWARE!!

Manse Prayers

Manse Prayers are held every Tuesday at 8:45am and everyone is welcome to attend. Venues are as follows:

Tue 6 th Oct	Marton	<i>(prayers for St. Andrew`s, Marton)</i>
Tue 13 th Oct	Redcar	<i>(prayers for Lingdale)</i>
Tue 20 th Oct	Guisborough	<i>(prayers for Linthorpe)</i>
Tue 27 th Oct	Marton	<i>(prayers for Redcar)</i>
Tue 4 th Nov	Redcar	<i>(prayers for Guisborough)</i>

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

Holiday Forum

Betty and I went to holiday Forum this year. Holiday Forum lasts for almost a week (Before Afternoon Tea on Saturday to after Breakfast on the following Friday).

Its aim is to enjoy the company of fellow believers on holiday where some learning takes place but in a holiday atmosphere. This year the subject was 'Midrash and Mustard Seeds' with a sub heading of 'The Surprising Stories of Jesus'. In keeping with modern thinking nothing was compulsory but to gain the maximum benefit from the holiday some involvement improves the experience. Each day had a similar format: morning prayers, breakfast, a short time of novel worship followed by the principal speaker, morning coffee, then a large number of so called workshops with such titles as Photography, Computers in the Church, Puppet making, Bible Study, Discussion Groups, Celebration Drama, Needle Work, Instrumental Music and Singing. Lunch followed with the afternoon for relaxation, cricket, archery, canoeing, bouncy castle, a short walk. An afternoon cup of tea with a piece of cake followed, then other activities and later on dinner. The evening was holidayish, usually finishing with dancing of one sort or another;

Ballroom, Line, Folk and Indian. We had a home brewed concert as well as a Healing Service. Because this was the 60th anniversary of Forum there were appropriate celebrations on Wednesday afternoon and evening.

The principal speaker was Revd Dr Susan Durber the principal of our Westminster College at Cambridge. She asked us to look afresh at the many parables we have absorbed perhaps since children. In the Parable of the talents she asked. Whom do we imagine was the man in the parable who had servants and then went on a journey and only returned after a long time? Should we automatically think of him as God? Remember, the man with only one talent said he was a hard man and that he inspired fear in his servants. Is that the Character of God? In the Middle East the parable would result in cheers for the one-talent-man for he had stood by his principles and refused to lend money at interest, even when this would likely result in punishment. Is the one-talent-man the real hero of the parable?

Next year the principal speaker is to be Revd Roberta Rominger our general secretary and the subject is to be 'God is still speaking'.

Why not think of joining us at Forum next year?

Richard Harris

Guisborough

While many of you were enjoying the Group Trip to Fountains' Abbey, I was in Windermere for the first TLS weekend. There were a few showers for all of us but the sun came out when we needed it to.

There was a lot to learn about the course and my fellow students. There was a sound of knees knocking and voices raised in panic, but also in praise and lots of laughter. I am indebted to Emma for her summing up of the weekend as "How to make 25 new Christian friends in 48 hours."

The real work starts now. Thank you to all my supporters, official and informal, and to those

who encouraged me onto this path, please pray for me.

Our Synod Moderator came to preach today. Ray had us all organised, but we seemed rather nervous. We needn't have worried. Once Rowena had us all shouting out in response to a passage from the Psalms we were all laughing and relaxed. The message to listen more and speak less seems very appropriate as we prepare for our church meeting this week. It was a pity our children were all away on holiday but prices drop once everyone is back at school. We miss them when they are not with us.

By the time you read this we will have had our

Church Meeting. Vision 2020 will be high on the agenda as will the Lingdale Project. We are living under that old Chinese curse, 'interesting times'. I thought Meg's words for us in last months Group News were very apposite and meshed neatly with what our Moderator had to say to us. Perhaps God is trying to tell us something about prayer, listening to him a bit more and talking a bit less.

As I embark on the long course to Lay Preacher accreditation, I will bear in mind this story given to me by a church member.

Unanswered prayer?

The preacher's 5-year old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day she asked him why.

"Well honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking God to help me to preach a good sermon."

"How come he doesn't do it?" she asked.

Donna Moore

Guisborough Choral Society Concert

Conductor Michael Summers

Saturday 10th October 2009

7.30pm

St Nicholas Parish Church, Guisborough

Programme includes

Mozart Requiem
Britten Choral dances from Gloriana.

Guests

Soprano - Katherine Bean

Alto - Lucy Appleyard

Tenor - Mark Anyan

Bass - Robert O'Connell

Organist - Keith Brown

Yarm School Chamber Orchestra.

Tickets £10; £8 (concessions), £ 2.50 (under 19yrs)

From Guisborough Bookshop and Greensleeves Music Shop, Chaloner Street Guisborough, and on the door.

Date	Vestry	Communion	Door	Flowers
Oct 4th	M Houston	M Burrows	D Houston	S Verrill
Oct 11th	D Beattie		R Tunnicliffe	D Collins
Oct 18th	D Cross		J Bulmer	D Moore
Oct 25th	R Tunnicliffe		B Ward	D Harris

Guisborough Calendar

Sat	3 Oct	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast - for 'The Bridge' – Hosted by the Salvation Army at the Citadel, Westgate.
Sun	4 Oct	11.00am	Harvest Service and Faith Meal. (Please note the later time)
Sat	10 Oct	10-12 noon	Farmers' Market – Church Open Day. Volunteers welcome.
Tue	13 Oct	7.15pm	Elders Meeting.
Sun	18 Oct	10.00am	Guiz Kids – Guisbro' Churches JC's joining together at Prior Purseglove Sports Centre.
Tue	20 Oct	2.30pm	A service of worship in the Belmont Care Home, Rectory Lane. All friends are welcome to join with residents in this time of prayer and praise
Tue	27 Oct	7.30pm	A Musical Evening with Ernest Dale.

Weekly

Tuesdays	12 noon	Bible Study
Thursdays	9.30am - 11.45am	Coffee Morning
Thursdays	11.30am	Quiet Time – prayers and reflections with Catey, Meg, Ken and others.

Linthorpe

Coffee After Morning Worship

2 nd Aug	£13.20	RNLI	G Williams
16 th Aug	£13.00	Children with Liver Disease Foundation	S & D Knox
23 rd Aug	£11.00	Macmillan Nurses	H Kettlewell
30 th Aug	£12.50	RNLI	G Williams
6 th Sep	£12.00	Children With Liver Disease Foundation	S & D Knox

Grateful thanks to all who make time to help out these charities and to those who give so generously to support them

Rotas

	Vestry	Porch	Communion Preparation
4 th Oct	M Gilmour	M Tilley	18 th Oct P Horbury & D Knox
11 ^t Oct	R Harris	S Mapplebeck & C Tovey	Church Flowers
18 th Oct	J Harper	H Kettlewell	4 th Oct TBA
25 th Oct	H Kettlewell	G Dodds	11 th Oct Bill Scott
Scripture Readers			18 th Oct Mary Potter
4 th Oct	S Mapplebeck		25 th Oct TBA
11 th Oct	J Harper		
18 th Oct	R Harris		
25 th Oct	V Walker		

Coffee/Tea After Worship

Oct 4 th	H Kettlewell	Macmillan Nurses
Oct 11 th	G Rathbone	Scouts
Oct 18 th	G Williams	RNLI
Oct 25 th	D & S Knox	Children With Liver Disease Foundation

Linthorpe Calendar

Dates For Your Diary:

3 rd Oct	10.00-10.30am	Prayer Morning - Jameson Lounge
3 rd Oct		Elders' Network Day
13 th Oct	7.00pm	Elders' Meeting at Moyra's house
Sat 24 th Oct	7.00pm	Bible quiz and fun night St Andrew's, Marton

Ancient

Modesty in human beings is praised because it is not a matter of nature but of will.

Lactantius Christian Apologist (3rd Century)

Lingdale

Operation Christmas Child

Once again we will be taking part in the Shoe-box Appeal – further details and leaflets are available from me (654093) or to collect at Church.

Harvest Celebrations

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Harvest Weekend, especially Antony for the quiz. Our Harvest Supper raised over £60 for church funds - thank you!

Lingdale Calendar

Wed 21 Oct	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Weekly		
3 rd Sunday of month	5.00pm	Fun Time Craft Club followed by Worship at 6.00pm.
4 th Wednesday of month	2.00pm	Worship at Prospect Place

Flower Rota

4 th Oct	– Mr A Thompson
11 th Oct	– Mrs H Dunstan
18 th Oct	– Mrs P Griffiths
25 th Oct	– Miss S Griffiths
1 st Nov	– Mrs J Coulthard

St Andrew's

Harvest Festival

Harvest Service and Boys Brigade Parade is to be held on Sunday 11th Oct. at 9.30a.m. at St. Andrew's. Once again this year our gifts will be given to the Mary Thompson Fund which supports asylum seekers and refugees in the Tees Valley who are homeless and destitute.

We would be grateful to receive gifts of tinned goods, pulses (dried beans, rice etc.) sugar, tea bags, coffee etc. Also toiletries and items for children (disposable nappies, baby wipes etc.). Many thanks.

Fun with the Bible Quiz

Come along to the Bible Quiz to be held at St. Andrew's, Marton on Saturday 24th October at 7.00pm. There will be a Bring and Share Supper as well as a raffle and course the quiz.

Ladies Fellowship

Many thanks to Jack Moodie who gave us a most interesting talk on his experiences in working in "Excise". We could have listened all night it was so fascinating. Many thanks Jack. — Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm.

Prayers for Churches Together in Marton & Nunthorpe

Please use the list below in your own prayers to remember our local churches in your prayers.

Week beginning 6 th September:	Marton Methodist Church
Week beginning 13 th September:	St Cuthbert's, Church Of England,
Week beginning 20 th September:	Pioneering Ministry in Coulby Newham
Week beginning 27 th September:	St Mary's, Church of England,
Week beginning 4 th October:	Nunthorpe Methodist Church

Holiday At Home Scheme

From Monday, 31st August until Saturday, 5th September, Churches Together in Marton and Nunthorpe ran a Holiday at Home Scheme which turned out to be an overwhelming success. St Andrew's hosted on the Thursday and many people from within our fellowship worked hard to ensure that the 'holiday makers' were adequately fed and watered, entertained with Holy Beetle and Dingbats in the morning and treated to a variety concert in the afternoon.

On the Friday we lent our premises to St Bernadette's Roman Catholic folk who hosted the day. Due to their kitchen being renovated they needed another venue and were absolutely delighted that we offered to accommodate them. They have not been able to thank us enough!! It was a real joy for people to work together in this way.

Thank You

Grateful thanks to those who sponsored John and Shirley on their 8-mile walk to support refugees and asylum seekers in the Tees Valley. Our combined total was £138.00.

Coffee Morning

Tickets, costing £1.00, are now available from Una or Joan for Coffee Morning at 8, Towthorpe, Nunthorpe on 1st Oct. Thurs. 10.30a.m.-noon. There will be a raffle and bring and buy stall. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Below is a letter from a 'holiday maker' which was passed to Rev Sue Greenwood. (Methodist Minister)

'At the next meeting of Churches Together, please express thanks and appreciation for the holiday at Home scheme.'

It was a wonderful. From arriving until leaving, we were pampered – with entertainment and first class food. Everyone went home with a warm glow inside feeling Christian love. To all of you who worked so hard – thank you very much!

Other comments from those who attended are as follows.

'When can we do it again?'

Not so much food next time!

Can we have an outing nearer Christmas to the garden centre? (Due to heavy rain the Garden Centre was the alternative to planned trip to Redcar)

How great to see the Churches working so well together!

And I think we will all endorse that last comment. Thanks must go to all who helped to make this such a huge success.

Annual Bazaar

Please note the date for our Annual Bazaar to be held here on Saturday 14th November 2009 11.30am to 1.30pm.

Remember those empty shoe boxes need saving for the Shoe Box Appeal.

St Andrew's Calendar

Mon 19 Oct	2.30pm	Worship at Elmridge
Wed 21 Oct	2.30pm	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

Redcar

Bible Sunday

11th and 18th October.

There will be an ecumenical service for all Redcar Churches at 4pm on Sunday 25th October at Zetland Park Methodist Church.

The speaker will be Rev. Malcolm Newman.

You are invited to contribute to our Commitment for Life Partners, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, envelopes will be available.

11th October

Harvest Service

Any gifts of food will be given to Coatham House.

Redcar Calendar

28th October 7.30pm Elders meeting at Rev Catey's

Weekly

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

Preachers

	4-Oct	11-Oct	18-Oct	25-Oct	1-Nov
Marton	9.30am M Robb 6.30pm	M Robb Harvest Parade	C Morrison M Robb Communion	M Robb Family Serv	N Johnson
Lintho	11.00am M Robb	M Robb Harvest Parade	J Harper Communion	M Robb	N Johnson
Guisbo	9.30am K Harris Harv,Comm,11am	C Morrison	M Robb	N Johnson	K Harris
Redcar	11.00am N Johnson	C Morrison	M Robb	K Harris	C Morrison Joint
Lingdale	6.00pm N Johnson	M Robb Communion	C Morrison Craft & Family	N Johnson	M Robb

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

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