

## Location

The Church is located on the north side of Westgate about sixty metres to the west of the Southside Methodist Church – being next to Holly House and Holly Garth – and set back from the high street with several mature trees in the foreground.

Guisborough is a market town situated in the valley between the Eston Hills to the north and the edge of the North York Moors National Park to the south. The coastal towns of Redcar, Saltburn and Whitby are all a short car journey away and - beyond that - the cities of York, Durham and Newcastle are within daily travelling range. The ruins of a Medieval Priory give a focus to the town's former position as the Ancient Capital of Cleveland and in the high street, Westgate, we have the main shopping centre.

## The Worshipping Fellowship

We have a small committed congregation drawn mostly from Guisborough with others coming from outlying areas to worship here. The fellowship is involved in the community through *Guisborough Churches Together* and the ecumenical organisation known as the *Bridge Association*. As a small congregation we have the tradition of working closely together with each other - from which has naturally emerged a welcoming atmosphere for all visitors to the church.

## Worshipping in the Reformed Tradition.

We believe in God and his love for us as expressed through his son Jesus Christ. Our faith is strengthened and maintained by his word as found in the Bible, through prayer and in and through our personal contact with God's Holy Spirit revealed to us in the actions and experiences of every day life.

As heirs of the Reformed tradition, which goes back to John Calvin and the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, we believe that Christ must reign in his church through all members of every fellowship of believers gathered in his name. This means that the authority for action, within the local church, lies with the members – coming together and seeking to know the mind of Christ. This belief is put into action through a quarterly meeting of members. Here the routine internal affairs of the church are organised and agreed under the chairmanship of the minister - known as the moderator.

More importantly, however, the meeting acts as a forum where people can think about others, the community, the world at large and the Christian's duty in it.

## Our Ministers

Guisborough Church is served by two ministers, the Rev. Catey Morrison and the Rev. Meg Robb, in a Joint Pastorate with three other churches at Lingdale, Marton and Nunthorpe and Redcar. Together these churches are known as the *East Cleveland Group of the United Reformed Church*.



The Rev. Catey Morrison was called to service from Dudley and Langley Green, West Midlands in 2006 and is the pastor for churches at Lingdale and Redcar. In this role the minister acts as leader, spiritual guide and personal helper to members of these congregations – as well as having a wider mission in the local community.



The Rev. Meg Robb was called to service from Forest Hall and Killingworth, Newcastle in 2003 and is the pastor for St Andrew's Church, Marton and Nunthorpe and also Guisborough.

## Elders:

To assist the minister and the congregation, in the work of the church, elders are elected from the membership. They meet with the minister once a month to oversee the spiritual and pastoral welfare of the fellowship and organise the routine administration of the church. In addition, they have duties as officers of the church or as pastoral visitors.

## Church Life

Sunday Service is at 9.30am. Both ministers lead worship at Guisborough and other local churches assisted by lay preachers and other ministers. At the same time we have a Junior Church. We see work with children as a vital part of our mission and their natural enthusiasm and curiosity adds newness and vigour to our worship and the life of the fellowship. They join with the congregation for the first part of the service before going to their classes later. Once a month they meet with children from other churches for faith activities. This event is known as *Guiz Kidz* and is organised by the Ecumenical '*Bridge Association*.'



Music is particularly important to us. We have an organist, Ernest Dale and his assistant Madge Baird - to keep us in tune. We do not have a choir but the congregation sing well, and our soloists can add much to the praise in the services.

In recent years the church has been opened on the second Saturday of each month, when there is a Farmers' Market, giving us an opportunity to meet

with the public in an informal setting. Refreshments are served in the hall and the visitors often make donations, which are given to charity.

A Bible study group meets in members' homes. Part of their activities involves periodically organising and leading worship. This experience helps to deepen those members' commitment to faith.

The Ladies' Fellowship meets jointly with our Methodist friends. They also organise and run a Public Coffee Morning, every Thursday, which is followed by a 'Quiet Time' prayer meeting.



### The Building

The present building was opened in 1811 to replace an earlier meeting house of 1799. The frontage was remodelled in 1905. Also at that time the church hall was built and the organ installed. The original building had a gallery and was designed to seat 200 people so the changes have reduced that figure by about half. A stained glass window was also added as a memorial to Joseph Wright 45 years a member and elder at that time. The church and hall are also, periodically, used by other organisations during the week and the Bridge Association Office is located on the lower floor of our premises adjacent to the church hall.

### History

A separate leaflet gives a short history of the church from 1796 – 2006.

### The Wider Church

In the wider context we work closely with other churches in the town through *Churches Together in Guisborough* and the *Bridge Association*. The Bridge aims to develop Christian outreach into the community through various activities serving the needs of the general public in the local area – and we support this work.

Our church is part of the Teesside South East Mission Partnership which consists of United Reformed Churches in the Cleveland area, the Tees Valley Mission and the Industrial Mission. The wider fellowship, in the North East of England, is known as the Northern Provincial Synod - headed by our Moderator, the Rev. Rowena Francis who is based in Newcastle.

### Services

**Sundays** - at 9.30am.

**Junior Church** – Sunday at 9.30am.

**Junior Church at Guiz Kidz** – on the third Sunday of the month at 10.00am, in Prior Purselove Sports Centre

**Coffee after the service** – 10.30am

*Church open on Sundays from 9.00am – 11.15am*

### Weekly Activities

**Tuesdays:** Bible Study at noon – or by arrangement.

**Thursdays:** 9.30am. – 11.45am Coffee Morning

**Thursdays:** 11.30am – 12noon - Quiet Time – Prayers and reflections with the minister and others.

*On the First Saturday of the month – **Prayer Breakfast at 8.00am** - for the Bridge Association - in a different church each month. Ask at any church for details of times and venues.*

*On the second Saturday of the month – **Farmers Market and Church Open Day** – 10.00 am to 12noon.*

### Church Secretary:

Ray Tunnicliffe.

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East Cleveland website at: [www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk)

# GUISBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



56, Westgate, Guisborough.

## For Visitors to the Church

### Ministers:

**Rev. Catey Morrison,**  
01642 471778

**Rev Meg Robb,**  
01642 326343

2011