

## PEWS NEWS .306.

### *Guisborough United Reformed Church*

1811

Ministers: *Rev Catey Morrison Rev Margaret Robb*

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>, January, 2009 - Service at 9.30am.**

#### **Epiphany.1.**

Worship is led this morning by the Rev. Meg Robb.

**Northern Synod's Prayer Cycle for 2009.** Each day we are asked to pray for specific people, activities and fellowships within the Northern Province. *Thought for the month: 'The present moment always reveals the presence and the power of God. Jean Pierre de Caussade. (from Abandonment to Divine Providence)* Today we pray for the fellowships of: **North Northumberland Mission Partnership and the Moderator, Rev'd Rowena Francis**

**Bob McDonald: 1912 – 2009:** It is with sadness that we announce the death of Bob McDonald – our much loved former member, elder and church secretary. Bob passed away on Thursday morning, 8<sup>th</sup>, January. Catey will be leading the funeral service at the crematorium near his home in Newark and there will be a memorial service in our church later in the year. Our thoughts and prayers will be with his family as they mourn theirs and our loss.

**Tuesday: Bible Study Group** – the meeting time is at noon and details are by arrangement. See Maureen, Ernest, Donna or Dorothy Harris for information on venues.

**Thursday:** Quiet Time at 11.30am, with *Catey, Meg, Ken* and others.

#### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Services will be held in Churches during the week: Mon 19th Jan - 12noon - Salvation Army. Tue 20th Jan - 7.00pm - St Paulinus. Wed 21st Jan - 12noon – Methodist. Thu 22nd Jan - 12noon – URC. Fri 23rd Jan - 12noon St Nicholas'. Sun 25th Jan - 6.15pm - St Nicholas' Parish Church

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Dedication Service will be led by the Guisborough Christian Fellowship.

**Synod January E-News:** Printed copies of the E-News for members who are not online can be found on the table at the back of the church.

**Social Events for spring and summer 2009:** Last year we managed to organise a number of social events for the autumn. This was done at an informal meeting of members during the coffee time after morning service. It seemed to work well, so today the elders are asking members to come together to talk about a few ideas, get some dates agreed and, hopefully, have volunteers come forward to take on the roles of coordinators of the various events.

**Vision 4Life - East Cleveland Group Planning:** A small working party is to be created by the EC Group to plan for the development of ideas for the Vision 4Life in the Bible Year 2009. This will involve a meeting later this month to work out how we can integrate the material, provided by the national church, into the services held by various fellowships of the Group during the course of this year. The elders are asking for volunteers to come forward to take on this important but 'short term' role. If you are able to help with this project please speak to Meg or Ray **today.**  
**Meg's Sabbatical –Part 2.** The second part of Meg's Sabbatical will run from 26<sup>th</sup>, January until the 9<sup>th</sup>, March during which she will be studying the children's developing understanding of faith.

#### **Gaza - A message from the Moderator of General Assembly, the Revd John Marsh.**

There are lots of voices rightly condemning the present situation in Gaza. We cannot imagine how people can endure conditions like those we are witnessing on our television screens. Yet we also need to look further ahead and keep hold of a longer, deeper focus.

Three major world religions regard Israel/Palestine as a 'holy land'. Jews, Christians and Muslims cannot understand their spiritual traditions without some appreciation of the long history that has unfolded in Palestine/Israel and the wider region.

The deeper theological perspectives of the three faiths include the wisdom that all people have their place in God's purposes, and that people of each faith have a fundamental responsibility to safeguard the common interest. Muslims, Christians and Jews are all people of a robust peace that is rooted in God's unconditional love for us all. This is where hope and future lie.

It is not right that the rich spirituality of our traditions is corrupted into hatred and violence, demeaned into a narrow stridency seeking political or military advantage for one interest - at the cost of the well-being of others or of the common good.

It is scandalous that the wise traditions of our historic faiths should be subverted by powerful secular interests to justify defending any one community at any price. Such manipulation can never be for the common good or the wider peace. Political and military power, disconnected from the lively spiritual God-centred peace at the heart of our three religions, offers no prospect of healing or justice for anyone.

Yet our three faiths are also the means by which these precious gifts may be offered to Palestine/Israel - and to the wider world. If Islam, Judaism and Christianity fail in this, our faiths will be roundly condemned and rightly consigned to the dustbin of history.

**LATE NOTICES: Your notes** (*Only late notices - for events in the following week - and urgent matters will be announced*)

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>, January at 9.30am:** Rev. Meg Robb - *Guiz Kids at 10.00am in the Prior Pursglove Sports Centre. No Junior Church.*

*Ray T. Sec.*

#### **Coffee after the service in the hall.**

**Any news to Ray T on 01287 637318 or email: [raytunncliffe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:raytunncliffe@yahoo.co.uk) by Thursdays.**

East Cleveland website at: [www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk) Message board at: [www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk/message\\_boards.htm](http://www.eastclevelandurc.org.uk/message_boards.htm)