

NORTHSTEAD NEWS

The magazine of Northstead Methodist Church.

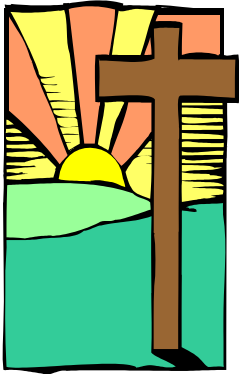
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Lent and Holy Week at Northstead



Why mission? Why here and why now? What does the Bible say about mission and the purpose of the church? What should be the church's response to the needs of the local community? Can we pray about this? There will be an opportunity to explore these and other questions in a unique **Lent course** being run by Churches Together around Barrowcliff, led by the ministers. The course will take place at Northstead on five Thursdays beginning on Thursday, February 21st at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome, and there's still time to join in even if you missed the first one!

Another **Lent group** is meeting on Friday evenings at Ruth's home, 8 Gibson's Court, Queen's Parade, looking at the booklet "Lent for everyone - Luke", a series of daily Bible readings and meditations to take you through Lent. The book is available from Ruth Dale, priced at £ 4, and can be purchased for private use if you can't attend the housegroup meeting.

There will be a **Maundy Thursday Communion service** at Northstead at 7 p.m. on 28th March, when we will be joined by friends from Wreyfield and Scalby.

Our **Good Friday worship** takes place at Wreyfield on March 29th, and will be followed by a **walk and picnic** for those who need some exercise! The programme is as follows:-

9.30 a.m. Good Friday service, led by Rev Clare Stainsby. Coffee will be served after the service.

10.45 a.m. A short circular walk of about 1 hour. This is suitable for all ages, pushchairs and wheelchairs.

12 noon. Picnic lunch - please bring your own lunch.

1 p.m. Longer walk for the more hardy - maybe including a café stop! Please wear sensible shoes - the route is a little muddy.

If you need a lift or more information, please speak to Tracy, tel. 353081 or Clare, tel. 361841.

On Easter Sunday our **Communion service** will be led by Clare and is at **9.45 a.m.** We will be decorating the cross with spring flowers so please bring a few along with you. Should anyone forget to come early, please note that there will be another service at Wreyfield at 11a.m.

Thank You!

Our thanks to all who have brought gifts for the Rainbow Centre food bank and for Homeless Support. Most weeks we've been able to deliver several bags of food as well as clothing and other items. It soon mounts up when a few people bring a few items!

Next News

The next Northstead News will be distributed on or around March 24th. Items to be included should be handed to Ros Maynard by March 17th, please.

Donations toward the cost of the newsletter, which is about 37p per copy, are always welcome. There is a plate at the back of the Church for these gifts, or you can hand them to Ros.

From our Minister

Lent is upon us once again, as we share in Jesus's journey from temptation, to death on the cross, via ministry, teaching, healing and suffering. What is Lent for you, I wonder? Are you a giver-up or a taker-on, or a bit of both?

I remember times in the past when I've given up a whole array of things, sweets, chocolate, biscuits, cakes, puddings, crisps - in some combination, or even all of them! Looking back I wonder if that was more about me and my figure than about Christ's way of suffering! More recently I have given up playing card games on the computer, which are something I enjoy when I need a moment of mindlessness, but they are a bit addictive. That's about me too, and about freeing up time for other things which are more constructive. In the past I've taken things on too: the discipline of getting up early each day to pray; the challenge of reading a book, or several books; the addition of attending a Lent Course; the following of a day-by-day programme designed to open your eyes to the needs of the world. All of these are good things to do.

But what about Jesus? He was a giver-up. He gave up the easy path that he was tempted to take, which would have put him instantly in the limelight through dramatic demonstrations of his power. And which could have addressed issues of hunger for the people. But his time of testing told him this was not the right way. He gave up his stable home in Nazareth to go out on the road, with "no place to lay his head", taking God's message and demonstrating God's love wherever he went. Jesus was also a taker-on. He took on the needs of the people he met, and helped them through difficulties. He took on their pain and suffering, and gave them healing. And he took up his cross, and went to his death, taking on our sin and death, and bringing us salvation.

Lent is about Jesus, and it's about us too. I hope these weeks will be a time when you find new inspiration and hope in Jesus, who walked that road for you.

Clare

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Our Mission

We are called to be a worshipping, welcoming, praying and caring Christian presence within our community.

Our mission is to serve God and our neighbour by :-

- enabling people of all ages and abilities to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus through worship, teaching and example
- raising awareness of poverty, cruelty and injustice, and taking appropriate action to relieve them
- and promoting peace between all God's people.

Welcome to our Wreyfield friends!

After 12 years of fund raising and grant applications, Wreyfield Drive church members are looking forward to their redevelopment plans coming to fruition this year. Work is expected to start in April, and when it does, they won't be able to use the premises for about 5 months, so we are looking forward to them joining us in worship each week from April until September.

Their Sunday School will be meeting with our Sunday Club, all-age Parade services will include their Boys and Girls Brigades, as well as our Rainbows and Brownies, and the Boys Brigade band will be rehearsing in church on Friday evenings, followed by their Senior section meeting. It'll be good to get to know each other better and share some of our traditions, and it means we'll see Clare more frequently on Sundays!

One or two practical issues - there will be a lot more cars looking for parking spaces, so can we please ask that the area by the gates on Givendale Road is left clear as a drop off zone, and can those who are fit and able to walk short distances leave the car park for those more in need of it - thank you.

We will be trialling a new offertory system. There will be 3 plates by the door, marked Wreyfield envelopes, Northstead envelopes and Cash - the envelopes will go to the appropriate church and the cash will be split 50:50. Please put your offering on the appropriate plate as you go into or come out of church, and it will be brought forward and dedicated during the service. If you aren't part of the envelope scheme, this may be a good time to consider joining. It enables you to commit to giving to the church on a weekly basis, so that if you aren't able to attend worship, money can still go into an envelope to be given the next time. It also helps the church treasurer to budget, as she can rely on regular giving. Peter Disley, our envelope secretary, will be delighted to provide a set of envelopes for you! We've also suspended the readers' rota from April to September, so the steward will ring round and use people from Northstead and Wreyfield whenever readings, drama, prayer etc are needed.

We'll be having a joint notice sheet, and we're told that several people at Wreyfield receive their notices by email to reduce printing costs. If anyone at Northstead wishes to do the same, just give your email address to Ann, who will be happy to oblige!

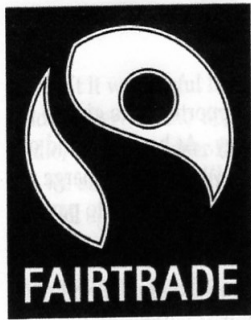
With all this going on, you may be wondering what's going to be happening with the Wreyfield building, and why? So here's a **message from the Wreyfield Family!**

Wreyfield is slightly older than Northstead, and the toilet facilities are pretty much as they were built in the late 50s. We have no disabled toilet, which is illegal. So the main change to Wreyfield's building will be the addition of a new toilet block complete with disabled toilet.

But at the same time we are addressing other issues. There is a lack of space at the front of the building - especially a problem when parents are collecting and delivering children to various youth activities. The entrance is confusing too, with two doors. The new entrance will be a single entrance, opening into a wide area, which will be partly set out as a café. This will be used in a variety of ways, to support existing activities, and will open the way to new possibilities.

The flat roof over the central section of the building will be replaced by a pitched roof. The Boys Brigade own a minibus, currently housed off-site. At the back a garage will be constructed for this, and also a large storage area which is also greatly needed. There will be some improvements to the very temperamental heating system. The rest of the work is more cosmetic - new floors, decoration and furnishings, to make this very thoroughly used building fit for purpose.

These are exciting times for Wreyfield, and very long awaited. We are grateful to Northstead for giving us a roof over our heads this summer. We look forward to welcoming you into our new building!



Fairtrade Fortnight 2013

from Ros Maynard

By the time you read this, Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 will be well underway – a time to remind ourselves of the importance of buying, using and promoting Fairtrade goods whenever possible. During Fairtrade Fortnight, Scarborough Borough Council will be receiving renewal of its Fairtrade Certificate, the result of much hard work by the local Fairtrade Group, so well done to them!

The slogan of FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2013 (February 25th to March 10th) is “Go Further for Fairtrade!” So why not look out for any Fairtrade products you haven’t tried before, and go that bit further! Many local shops, cafés and restaurants now offer Fairtrade products, and we are all aware of the benefit of Fairtrade to growers, producers and craft workers in some of the world’s poorest countries. As Christians, we know that these people are our brothers and sisters in God’s family, and we all like to support our family, don’t we?

Last month I wrote about the Real Fairtrade Easter Eggs, which are now available, so see me soon to order yours, as they will sell out quickly!

Fairtrade Fortnight events for 2013

- Thursday, February 28th, 3.30 p.m. Fairtrade Fayre at St Augustine’s RC School.
- Saturday, March 2nd ‘Something Different’ at St Andrews Church.
- Sunday, March 3rd, 10.30 a.m. Fairtrade and Faith Service at Sherburn Methodist Church.
- Saturday, March 9th. Big Brew at St Columba’s Church.
Cakes and Traidcraft Stall.
- Saturday, March 9th. Fairtrade Bake Sale and Coffee morning at Briggswath and Sleights Methodist Church. Please bring baked goods incorporating at least one product bearing the Fairtrade logo, if possible with the recipe including the Fairtrade item.
- Sunday, March 10th, 10.30 a.m. Fairtrade and Faith All-Age worship for Mothering Sunday at Emmanuel St John’s Church.
- Sunday, March 17th, 10.30 a.m. Fairtrade and Faith Service at Northstead.

Women’s World Day of Prayer

This year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer service will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 1st, at Snainton Methodist Church. The preacher will be Rev. Tanya Brosnan and the service, planned by Christian women in France, is on the theme “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”.

Everyone is welcome, men, women and children, and refreshments will be served after the service.

Church Council

Church Council members are reminded that the next meeting is on Tuesday, March 12th at 7 p.m.

A Quiet Space

St Mary's Church, Castle Road, Scarborough and St John's, Staintondale, both offer a quiet space for silent prayer and reflection each morning throughout Lent from 7.30 to 8.30 a.m., excluding Sundays.

Everyone is welcome to drop in. Come and go as you please.

A Prayer for Justice

The Israelite prophet Micah said: "What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

God of mercy and source of justice,
pour on your people such love and compassion that we cannot remain silent, we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.

As your grace fills our hearts, so may we be stirred into action to demonstrate your love for all the world and for all creatures that live and move on this earth.

Forgive us Lord for our apathy, for our lack of courage to speak out.

Forgive us when we walk past and don't offer help.

Forgive us when we get it wrong.

We confess that we are afraid -
we don't want to overcome our hidden doubts and prejudices in order to be alongside those who are different from ourselves.

We ask that you would lead us into action:
give us strength to be a voice crying for justice and peace.

Help us to step into another person's shoes, or if they have no shoes,

then not to be afraid to take off our own,
peel off our preconceptions and assumptions,
uncurl and spread out our toes, and tread in their footprints.

May we be a liberating presence
and offer love, compassion and whatever is needed
to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Amen.

Church Annual meeting

Our **General Church Meeting** will be held on April 21st.

As we did last year, we will be producing a booklet of **Annual Reports** which will be available for circulation to everyone prior to this meeting. Last year's made very interesting reading and it was good to be able to get an overview of the whole life of the Church and its involvement with our community.

We would like to have this year's booklet ready in time for the Easter weekend. To enable this, help is needed from all group leaders/secretaries. Please let Diane Robinson have a copy of your Annual Report as soon as possible but no later than **March 17th**, if possible by e-mail to dianeil@phonecoop.coop

Thank you for your help.

Family News

We welcome into our church family Oscar Jaye Harrison, son of Leanne and Jason. Oscar was baptised on February 3rd, a great-great nephew for Neville and Margaret Barker.

Congratulations to proud grandparents, Liz and Trevor Lowe, following the birth Alice Lucinda and Celeste Rose, twin daughters for Barry and Helen, on February 15th. All are doing well. Our love and best wishes to all the family.

Well done, Harry!

A very big thank you to all who sponsored Harry Purdy in the recent **S n o o k e r M a r a t h o n**, helping him to raise £ 107.50 for Christian Aid.

Spud & Pud lunch

Saturday, March 9th

Coffee from 10.30 a.m.

Lunches from 11.30 a.m.

Cake and

Fairtrade

stalls.



GIFT DAY 2013

from Elizabeth Somerville

Gift Day this year is on Saturday 9th March. Coffee will be served during the morning and there will be a Spud and Pud lunch, as well as the usual Cake and Fairtrade stalls. This is an opportunity to give to our church, and last year's Gift Day raised £2,680, which was vital to our finances.

We all appreciate how comfortable our Church premises are now, but we are also aware of bills that have to be paid. By far our major cost is in the share amount that we agree to pay to the costs of the circuit, including ministry, the upkeep of the manse etc. In our case, this is £2,000 per month. Our gas costs £320 per month, electricity £150 and water £60 per month. In addition, our insurance costs £125 per month. These are some of the regular bills we have to pay that we can anticipate. As with any older building, other repair and renewal bills can crop up at any time.

To put these amounts in context, our average monthly collection is £1618, and income from our premises and special events is around £1,550 per month.

I thank you in anticipation for your generosity on Gift Day and for your continued support of Northstead. Your support is vital. Please remember, if you are a taxpayer, to Gift Aid your contribution. I look forward to seeing you on 9th March.



Coffee Morning

Our friends at Scalby Chapel invite us to their monthly Coffee Morning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 2nd. This time the proceeds will go to the Parkinson's Disease Society.

As usual, there will be a cake stall, a Fairtrade stall and a very warm welcome!

Attention, Ladies!

All ladies are very welcome at our Ladies' Fellowship and Ladies Circle meetings.

The Ladies' Fellowship meets on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. and their programme for this month is as follows:-

- March 6th - Ruth and Joyce,
A Trip round Iona.
- March 13th - Ron and Malcolm,
Flanders and Swann.
- March 20th - D. Edwards, Tanzania.
- March 27th - Easter Communion,
Rev. C. Stainsby
- April 3rd - AGM and meal.

Our Ladies' Circle meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

- March 5th - Mary Jackman, Tales.
- March 19th - AGM and games evening.
- March 26th - Meal out together.



Praise Midweek

Praise Midweek, a time of informal worship, takes place at 8 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month followed by refreshments and fellowship. Come and join us on March 20th!



News Update

from Anthea Purdy

There has been another development from Smile International, who ask that we now send only very specific knitted items i.e. hats, gloves and scarves for all ages, and blankets for double or single beds.

They will still be grateful for children's school clothing, and school or craft packs, plastic bowls and plates etc. These can be placed in the box in the foyer. Thank you to all who contribute in any way.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday, February 21st, 7.30 p.m.	Lent course starts at Northstead.
Friday, February 22nd, 7.30 p.m.	Lent course starts, 8 Gibson's Court, Queen's Parade.
February 25th to March 10th.	Fairtrade Fortnight, details elsewhere in this newsletter.
Friday, March 1st, 2 p.m.	Women's World Day of Prayer service, Snainton Methodist Church.
Saturday, March 2nd, 10 a.m.	Coffee Morning, Scalby Church.
Sunday, March 3rd, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Rev. C. Kirkman.
Gift Day, March 9th, 10.30 a.m.	Coffee.
11.30 a.m.	Spud and Pud lunch.
Sunday, March 10th, 10.30 a.m.	All-age worship, Rev. C. Stainsby.
Tuesday, March 12th, 7 p.m.	Church Council.
Sunday, March 17th, 10.30 a.m.	Faith and Fairtrade service, Mrs. D. Robinson.
Wednesday, March 20th, 8 p.m.	Praise Midweek.
Sunday, March 24th, 10.30 a.m.	Morning service arranged by our members.
Thursday, March 28th, 7 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Communion service.
Friday, March 29th, 9.30 a.m.	Good Friday service, Wreyfield Drive, followed by walk and picnic.
Easter Sunday, March 31st, 9.45 a.m.	Easter Day worship, Rev. C. Stainsby.
Saturday, April 27th, 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	District Synod, Caedmon School, Whitby.

Weekly Events

Alternate Mondays, 7.30 p.m.	Singing for Fun.
Tuesday, 8.45 to 11.30 a.m.	Pop-in for Coffee.
Alternate Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m.	Ladies' Circle.
Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.	Ladies' Fellowship
6 p.m.	Brownies
7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thursday, 9.30 a.m.	Parents and Tots
1.45 p.m.	Keep-fit group
7.30 p.m.	Badminton club
Friday, 6 p.m.	Rainbows
6.30 p.m.	Brownies.

All of the above events take place at Northstead, unless otherwise stated.
Children's activities take place during term time only.