



The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 273 – 19th JULY 2018

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD LESLEY MOSELEY

Lord of all,
as you walked this earth sharing love, grace and mercy,
we pray that we will place our footsteps in yours
and walk where you lead
as we live out your life in our daily living
for Jesus' sake.

Amen

The prayer for Walking the Way makes a good place to begin a reflection on General Assembly 2018. The emphasis on discipleship permeated every corner of both the worship and the business of Assembly. The morning Bible studies had us accompanying Abram and Moses and walking through the desert with Isaiah's words. Our own Revd Jenny Mills walked with an umbrella to present the Youth and Children's work report and there was the usual mix of people who reluctantly walked to the microphone and those who were eager to contribute to debate and ensuring that our wording was grammatical.

I was proud of the young people who helpfully contributed to many of the debates and of the many East Midlands church members who gave time and energy to act as stewards ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

The weekend wasn't the most promising for debating the issues we had before us. I resisted the temptation to check the exact figure on a thermometer but the provision of water fountains was more than necessary and fresh-air breaks were absolutely necessary. To set against the heat and the intensity of the programme we heard positive reflections and encouragement from the immediate past moderators and our new team of moderators too. John Proctor's preaching on Sunday morning was inspiring, as well as the read reflection which preceded it. I could list the business but you can check that on the website if you'd like to see what was discussed. For me one of the high spots was the interfaith conversation that took place on Sunday afternoon. It was a joy to listen to a rabbi, a vicar and a sparky Muslim woman seeking common ground and being disciples in their own traditions, walking in authentic yet different ways.

May discipleship be for you an exciting, fulfilling, authentic journey.

Lesley

PEOPLE

- Following the sad news of the death of Revd Kim Fabricius, we have been advised of the funeral details as follows: Wednesday 25th July 2018, 10.30am at Uniting Church Sketty, Dillwyn Street, Sketty Swansea SA2 9AQ.

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT INFORMATION

Jane Henderson, our CYDO & safeguarding officer is on sick leave. If you have any urgent safeguarding queries please contact Nicola Grieves, Eastern Synod Safeguarding Officer, cydo@urceasten.org.uk on 07515 721172 or Ioannis Athanasiou, URC Safeguarding Adviser, 020 7520 2729 ioannis.athanasiou@urc.org.uk
Any queries relating to DBS checks need to be directed as normal to DDC, 01162 603055
General questions relating to policy and training can be directed to Jane who will respond when she is back.

DERBYSHIRE

The congregation at **Melbourne United Reformed Church** were treated to a summer surprise on Sunday 1st July when their Minister, Revd Marcus Hargis, set up a pop-up one-day art gallery. Featuring fourteen ceramic sculptures by Marcus himself, the exhibition gave people a taste of his work in fine Parian porcelain.

At the morning and evening services, Marcus spoke about his sense of calling in creating ceramics and how he got started, saying: "About five years back, I was living near the Potteries area of Stoke-on-Trent and I ministered to a church almost opposite Josiah Wedgwood's house. I thought that it would be a good idea to learn more about pottery. So I did a short course and was hooked!"

After much experimentation, Marcus has arrived at his style in which he hand-forms each piece; shaping, cutting and joining pieces together. He continued, "Life is full of fractures: it's what we make of them that matters. Beauty can be born in brokenness, imperfection can be interesting, and asymmetry can lead to unity."

Each ceramic is untitled so that people can see what they want to. Geraldine was asked about a piece that caught her eye and she said: "I was drawn to this one in particular. It reminds me of the seaside: it's the shape of a shell, blue like the sea, with the white of the waves."

The exhibition has been packed away now. But you can see more of Marcus' ceramics at his recently launched website: www.marcuspaulhargis.com

GETTING IN GEAR WITH HOLY HABITS

The Group for Evangelism and Renewal are keen to encourage local congregations to engage with discipleship and mission through Walking the Way. They are focusing on Holy Habits, based on Andrew Roberts excellent book, over the next few editions of their magazine, In GEAR. The summer edition just published explores the theme of Gladness and Generosity - If you would like a copy please email the GEAR Secretary Sheila Coop at secretary@gear.org.uk

This can also be read on line at <https://app.box.com/s/oqegcx1wqan7ptb1rtrnIntvtvohlee5>

You may also like to look at issues for prayer at: www.praytheway.org.uk

ELDERS GATHERING

East Midlands Synod are holding an Elders Gathering on Saturday 1st September from 11am – 2pm at The Headlands URC, Northants.

This is an opportunity for Elders to meet together to share experiences and be led in Bible study by our TDO, Revd Dr Deborah Baird.

To book your place please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office, Email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241. Refreshments will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

GERMINATE LEADERSHIP: OCTOBER 2018

Every part of the Germinate Leadership programme is rooted in the opportunities and challenges of ministry in rural contexts and fosters a collaborative, ecumenical approach and a culture of continuing personal and professional development. It is expected that all participants, both lay and ordained, will leave as creative, entrepreneurial and strategic leaders, better equipped to engage effectively with local communities and encourage churches to be an effective Christian presence.

The 18-month programme includes two residentials, programme days, a leadership style review, mentoring and work shadowing. A variety of learning styles are used and teaching incorporates wisdom and experience drawn from secular and church leadership spheres. The programme builds on lay and ordained ministry experience from across the denominations.

For more information, visit our website: <http://germinate.net/>

Email leadership@germinate.net or phone 024 7485 3060



BELONGING ONLINE CONFERENCE

Belonging are holding an online conference, which is being streamed on Thursday 13th September 2018 with the Methodist Church, who are organising the event.

'Belonging' supports churches to have a welcoming and accessible ministry with children and young people who have additional needs. This day event is happening in partnership with The Additional Needs Alliance, Pete and Christine Winmill from Count Everyone In and Mark Arnold, Director of Additional Needs with Urban Saints. It promises to be an engaging and informative day with lots of opportunities to discuss and reflect on the key issues.

You can join in from anywhere there's an internet connection and we're keen to encourage lots of local events that make it accessible for as many folk as possible to get together. Do take a look at the website for details of how to register these and be kept updated on future developments with the programme and speakers:

www.methodist.org.uk/belongingconference

We are happy to announce that East Midlands Synod will be streaming the conference from the Synod Meeting Room. To join us on Thursday 13th September 2018 from 9.30am – 2.30pm, please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office to book your place. Bring a packed lunch. Email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241



THE DALES – INDOOR YOUTH CAMP 2018

Indoor Youth Camp @ The Dales URC, £15 young per person, open to all Churches!

Leaders welcome to come to support their young people. Lots of fun, competitions, games, games consoles, craft, worship and possibly not a lot of sleep.

Start time: 10pm Friday 5th October, Finish: 11:30am Sunday 7th October

Email to book or for more details: youth@thedalesurc.co.uk

Web: <http://thedalesurc.co.uk/youthcamp2018>

AND FINALLY: - This E letter is sent on behalf of The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA. Telephone: 0115 9609241

Email address for E-Letter Editor: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

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