



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 267 – 26th APRIL 2018

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: DUNCAN SMITH

Like a good number of Churches, Marlpool URC (Heanor, Derbyshire) has seen a decline in the number of persons attending Sunday Services over the last few years. We average about 30 to 40 attendees at the moment.

However, the concept of Church can be quite a narrow interpretation if it is dependent on those attending on Sunday mornings. We have various Church Groups that meet during the week:

PME (standing for a pleasant Monday experience!) which consists of ladies connected with the Church.

They have a range of activities which they find worthwhile and challenging.

The Theatre Company consisting of Church and non-Church members who interact with a variety of Church activities, their next challenge being a concert and a performance of Saints Alive, a musical written by Roger Jones, and this will be linked with a Flower Festival organised by Church members.

The weekly Lunch Club organised by Church members and friends for a group of about 40 Elderly people with transport provided.

A Knit and Natter group consisting of a group of ladies who do produce some goods for sending to those in need.

The Brownies who occasionally take part in Sunday worship.

The Dance Classes run twice a week with some links to the Church Community.

The Noah's Ark Playgroup on a Friday morning, run by Church members and it usually attracts up to 30 children plus accompanying adults.

So, we consider all of the above as part of our Church and we seek to ensure we have good contacts with those who attend and we are there in times of need. Many of those attending the Groups say they feel part of the Church Community.

Naturally we work to ensure Sunday Services are child and adult friendly and we believe we still have work to do for the surrounding community.

I know when I gain information on other Churches in the Synod they have a similar approach and have considerable success in working with their local communities.

May we all take every opportunity to spread the Good News in many different ways.

Duncan Smith, Derbyshire Lay Pastoral Consultant

PEOPLE

- We regret to inform you that the **Revd Douglas Tunbridge**, retired minister in Louth, Lincolnshire, passed away peacefully on Monday 9 April. Douglas's ministries were: Louth and Alford 1966-76; Louth, Alford & Horncastle 1976-78; Westgate, Peterborough & Yaxley 1978-80; Westgate, Peterborough 1980-88; Corby 1989-91. The funeral service will be taking place in the Parish Church of Louth St James at 12.30pm on Thursday 10th May, followed by a committal at Alford Crematorium.
- It is with much sadness that we announce the death of **Mr James (Jim) McGill** on 21st April at the Royal Derby Hospital. Jim was Elder & Treasurer both at Central URC & Little Eaton URC for many years until taken over by ill health some 9 years ago. Many will remember him for his tireless work for the District & Synod and in the role of Property Officer. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday 9th May 3.00pm at the Woodlands Chapel, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby, following a family committal at Markeaton.

- It is with sadness that we inform you that the **Revd Philip Bruce Stewart** died on 16 April 2018. His Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday 1 May, 1:00 pm, at: Union Church, Northiam, London, N12 7ET. Philip was ordained as a Non Stipendiary Minister in 1986 and served in the Central and North London District (and its successors) with pastoral charge for Cockfosters URC 1986-2003 and Totteridge Union 2003-09. Upon retirement he continued to lead worship and offer pastoral ministry, and also served as Interim Moderator.

Synod Structures and Processes Review Group (SSPRG)

The SSPRG presentation at the Synod Meeting in March received considerable support. Some Synod Members requested a detailed paper to enable discussion at local church level. The detailed paper and an accompanying explanatory letter will be circulated during the course of this week (w/c) 23rd April. It will be sent to all Ministers, members of Synod and Church Secretaries. We hope that all churches will take this opportunity to review and comment on the proposals contained in the report.

Geoff Shaw, Convenor -SSPRG



DERBYSHIRE

WHY IS HOMELESSNESS RISING? – A presentation by Pam Orchard at West Derbyshire URC on Sunday 20th May at 3pm. Official figures show a rise in rough sleeping in the UK every year for the past 7 years. In fact across the UK, all types of homelessness is increasing including numbers of people in temporary accommodation such as B and Bs and hostels. Pam has worked in homelessness for 15 years and is the CEO at The Connection at St Martins in central London. She will outline what are the main causes of homelessness, different types of homelessness, why homelessness is rising and some of the responses required which would tackle the problem.

The session will include a combination of presentation and discussion.

MARLPOOL URC THEATRE COMPANY – presents ‘Saints Alive! and songs of New Beginnings’ in the Community Hall, Chapel Street, Marlpool from 17th – 19th May 2018 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £6 each and are available from the box office by calling: 01332 986082 or online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/murctc with no booking fee. This event is in partnership with Marlpool URC Flower Festival which can be visited from 6pm on performance nights.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

THE DALES URC - You are invited to attend our “Spring Fair” on Saturday 12th May at the Dales 2.15pm - 4pm.

TWO CHRISTIAN AID EVENTS – Hosted by Bulwell URC on Saturday May 12th.

10.30am – Spring Fair, various stalls - Fairtrade, bric-a-brac, books, DVDs, home-made cakes

7.00pm – Nottingham Ukulele Orchestra singalong concert raising funds for Christian Aid.

A great night out! Tickets £3 (or can pay on the door) Contact Joy Rice: riced@hotmail.co.uk

Tea/coffee/juice included, home-made cakes to buy.

OTHER

CHANGES COMING TO THE WAY YOU SUBSCRIBE TO AND RECEIVE THE E-LETTER

As part of the changes that the Synod Office are making to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations, we will be changing the way in which we send out the e-letter, requiring you to subscribe if you wish to continue to receive our news. There will be more information available on this soon, so please keep a look out!

EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF BOSTON, THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS AND LINCOLNSHIRE'S GREATEST MONK!

A fascinating local history 'Day Out' by Coach with guided tours

Saturday 2nd June: pick up Worksop (0900) and Retford (0920)

- Guided tour of 'Boston Stump' – one of England's great parish churches and home of John Cotton, one of America's greatest 17th Century Church leaders
- See the home of John Foxe, author of Tudor England's best-selling book
- Visit the cells in which the 'Mayflower' Pilgrims were imprisoned after their first escape attempt
- Visit extraordinary Sempringham – home of St Gilbert and England's only monastic order, where puritan leaders plotted the 'Great Migration' in 1629
- PRICE INCLUDES morning coffee and cake, light lunch, and admissions

Booking information: The all-inclusive price is £32.50 but we are offering an 'early bird' rate of £30 for bookings by 1st May. Book by email (mail@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk), by phone to Maggy on 07724 848958, or to P & P c/o The Well, Hospital Road, Retford including a cheque to Pilgrims & Prophets Christian Heritage Tours and your contact details.

WINDRUSH GENERATION RESOURCES

Should anyone in your churches be affected by the Government's failings in regard to the Windrush generation - themselves, or someone they know or are asked to help - you may wish to let them know of this resource, of which we have been advised by Churches Together in England.

The Home Office has set up a dedicated web page to help Commonwealth citizens confirm their status in the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/undocumented-commonwealth-citizens-resident-in-the-uk>

There is also a freephone number: 0800 678 1925. This line is open Mon-Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 4pm This is a useful link, letter from Home Office Minister to Caribbean High Commissioners laying out action the government is taking

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700533/20180416_CN_LA_letter_pdf.pdf

CHARITY REGISTRATION

Churches with a turnover of £100,000pa or more must register with the Charity Commission. Revised guidance has been produced. It is available on the URC website:

<https://urc.org.uk/images/General/Guidance>

SYNOD STUDY DAY - RADICAL LIVING

A study day looking at the rule of St. Benedict. All Welcome! On **Saturday 14th July 2018** from 10.30am - 3pm (bring a packed lunch) at the Synod Meeting Room, Nottingham, NG5 3AA. Led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird. Booking is essential, to book contact Hannah Holmes: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

LAY PREACHERS GATHERING

Join us for Bible Study, discussion and fellowship. Led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird on **Saturday 23rd June 2018**, 10.30am - 2.30pm at the Synod Meeting Room, Nottingham, NG5 3AA (Please bring your own lunch) To book contact Hannah Holmes: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN
FROM THE SYNOD YOUTH EXECUTIVE**

We need your help!

The Synod Youth Executive have been asked to put together a display of the whole Synod to put up at General Assembly.

We would like photos from local churches showing you as a church, worshipping, or eating together, community activities that you do, anything that sums up your church community in a photo.

We cannot promise to use all the photos that we get sent in and we obviously need to make sure that the people in them have given their permission for their image to be used for a display at General Assembly, which means that we need to have written consent from those in the photos, to obtain a photo consent form please visit: www.urch5.org.uk/photoconsentform

Please email photos to Jane Henderson, cydo@urch5.org.uk by the end of May.

COMING SOON this Summer!!!!

Pilgrimage to Skegness, watch out for further details.

AND FINALLY: - Please send any comments or feedback on this e-letter to: admin@urch5.org.uk
The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA.
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