

Opening Reflection by Ella Lemon Synod Youth Representative

There's a worship song called "[I'm coming back to the heart of worship](#)" that I'll listen to if I feel lost. I'm not talking about being geographically lost; I'm blessed in having quite a good sense of direction. I'm talking about being lost in my faith and overwhelmed with everything that's happening in my life or the world instead of focusing in on God.

In today's world there's a lot that can easily be a distraction from God, both in and outside of a church community. Being an Elder and on Youth Executive can sometimes mean I'm thinking more about how to encourage others to believe and interact with church than looking at my own interactions. The song helps me to remember that even though church meetings are important the more important thing is Jesus: "I'm coming back to the heart of worship and it's all about you".



This is such an important message but sometimes I find it one of the easiest to forget. My Granny recently told me a story about how she led prayers in her church. She was telling how the news was difficult to listen to and there wasn't much to be thankful for in the world, so after praying for hope and peace she told the congregation to open their eyes and say all the things that they could see to be thankful for and to thank God for giving them to us.

Now, when I feel lost or confused at the world or my faith, or even if I've just had a stressful day, I'll put my worship music on and pray for what I can be thankful for. I'm incredibly lucky living in the countryside because it means that I can look at the scenery and, with it being spring, all the new life I can see everywhere and be thankful that God put it all here for me. Saying thank you to God for creating the smallest lambs and watching them run across the field helps me to reset and regain my focus on what the important things are.

Online Book Group: The Radical Disciple

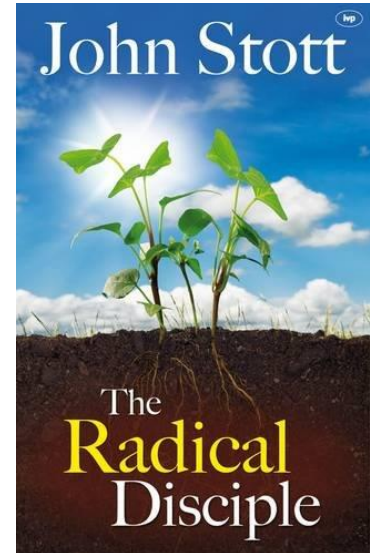
Beginning on Tuesday 24 May at 7.30pm

It's not too late to enrol for our new Synod **book group**, live on Zoom, and dig down deeper into what it means to follow Jesus. Beginning on 24 May, we look forward to exploring **The Radical Disciple** over four successive Tuesday evenings, each led by the **Revd Matt Rigden**.

The final book by **John Stott**, one of the UK's most celebrated Christian teachers, **The Radical Disciple** describes eight key aspects of Christian discipleship in eight short and easy-to-read chapters. Discussing it together should prove an enjoyable way to explore discipleship, combining challenge with fellowship and encouragement.

Matt, who is Community Minister for the Heath Christian Partnership in Lincoln, will lead us in four weekly sessions, exploring two chapters at a time. The sessions will each last around 90 minutes and conclude in a time of prayer.

The Radical Disciple (RRP £9.99) is available new from online sellers such as www.aslanchristianbooks.com/ (which offers an 11% discount and free shipping), while second-hand copies are available from www.wob.com and similar sites.



To join our exploration of **The Radical Disciple**, simply email training@urc5.org.uk to receive the Zoom codes. The first session, on **Tuesday 24 May** at 7.30pm, will explore chapters 1 (Non-conformity) and 2 (Christlikeness) – so there is still good time to order a copy and get reading.

"This is John Stott at his thoughtful, reflective best. His thinking is succinct, incisive and truly describes how authentic followers of Jesus live."

Dominic Smart, Church of Scotland minister

Around the East Midlands Synod

Melton Mowbray United Reformed Church Celebrates 200 Years



Over the weekend of 7-8 May, **Melton Mowbray United Reformed Church** celebrated 200 years of Christian worship in the town. The church held an Open Day on the Saturday, when displays of the church's history, its activities and present-day work and worship were available for visitors to see, and teas and cakes were available throughout the day. About 60 people came to the church that day.

On Sunday our service was taken by the Synod Moderator, the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**, who led a congregation of around 100 in a service of thanksgiving, with a reminder of God's love for the people over those 200 years. Geoffrey

described how His Love is ever present, not just then, not just for us now, but in all our futures as well, and reminded all of us to listen to His Voice as He leads us to the future.



It was good to have so many people in Church, and to have such wonderful singing! Thanks to Geoffrey for his words, and to all who made the weekend's celebrations a success. Here's to another 200 years!

Geoff Milnes

Elder at Melton Mowbray URC & Lay Preacher



A Cross of Remembrance for Ukraine



At **Rose Hill URC**, Chesterfield, we usually celebrate Easter Sunday by displaying a cross outside our Church, adorned with fresh spring flowers.

This year we decided to display flowers knitted in the colours blue and yellow as a dedication and remembrance to the people of war-torn Ukraine. As Jesus died on the cross, so we remember our neighbours in the Ukraine who have lost their lives in the country they love.

The flowers are knitted carefully by ladies and friends of our church, some at home, on holiday, or at our new **Coffee & Chat** sessions.

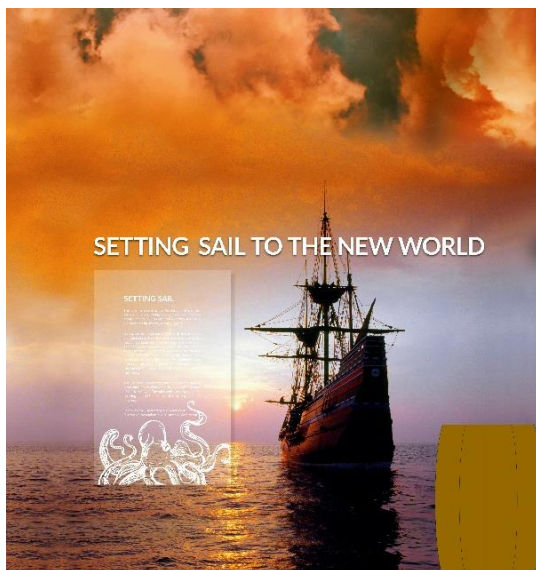
Our cross is a “work-in-progress” and many people have stopped to chat and commented how relevant it is.

Elizabeth Lenthall

Elder



West Lindsey Churches Festival Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 May



Gainsborough United Reformed Church will open for the **West Lindsey Churches Festival** over the weekend of **14-15 May 2022**, from 10.00am-2.00pm on Saturday and 2.00-4.00pm on Sunday. This is the first **West Lindsey Churches Festival** since the pandemic, and many churches in the district will welcome visitors.

For further information, visit www.churchesfestival.info.

Gainsborough URC is the only United Reformed Church in West Lindsey. It was built as a memorial to **John Robinson**, 'pastor of the Pilgrim Fathers' in 1897. There is a permanent Pilgrim exhibition in the Mayflower Room and light refreshments will be served during the festival.

A New Resource – Worship Notes



The United Reformed Church is pleased to announce a new resource for elders, lay preachers, and ministers as they prepare worship. Starting from Pentecost, **Sunday 5 June**, a set of notes will be offered to help with planning worship. The notes will contain all the prayers needed, some thoughts on the readings which could be

built into a sermon, and suggestions for hymns taken from the main hymnbooks our congregations use. Each month there will be at least one Holy Communion prayer and an Affirmation of Faith.

These notes are designed to help everyone who plans worship and will be found on the URC website at: www.urb.org.uk/worship-notes. They are, of course, in digital format but can be downloaded for churches who might struggle to use the digital PowerPoint resources. They will help an Eldership which has to plan worship (in these days of rapid Covid infection often at the last minute), they will give refreshment to hard pressed lay preachers and ministers, and can either be used as they are or adapted for local use. Worship leaders might want to use some but not all of the resources - that's fine! They are offered as a smorgasbord from which you can choose.

Our first crop of writers, for services in June, include the **Revd Ruth Whitehead**, Moderator of the South Western Synod, the **Revd Dr Susan Durber**, Moderator of the Faith and Order Committee of the World Council of Churches, and the **Revd Sarah Moore**, Transition Champion in the Synod of Scotland.

Notes will be published at least a month before the Sundays to which they relate to facilitate good planning and available on the URC website so you can always find them at short notice. You can also sign up to receive an email reminder each month to say when the PowerPoint files, audio and printed versions are available. [You can sign up for these emails here.](#)

The URC @ Greenbelt 2022

Friday 26 – Monday 29 August 2022
Boughton House, near Kettering

Greenbelt Festival is set for a jubilant return this year with a long weekend of artistry, activism and belief right here in the East Midlands in the beautiful grounds of Boughton House.

Musicians **Brian Eno**, **Martyn Joseph** and **The Magic Numbers** and speakers **Simon Armitage**, **John Bell**, **Caroline Lucas**, **Renni Eddo-Lodge** and **Rowan Williams** are just a fraction of the lineup already announced, with more to follow.



REVOLTING CHRISTIANS

The **United Reformed Church** is playing a key part, taking “Revoluting Christians” as its theme. **Revoluting Christians** stand up to injustice, confront oppression and seek lasting change for good, following the

example of Jesus. Alongside delicious drinks, treats and affordable meals, the **URC café** will host worship, discussion, music, bedtime stories and superb crafts, all celebrating revoluting Christians from history and encouraging and equipping us to be revoluting Christians now!

There will also be a special service on **Sunday 28 August** to mark our **50th Jubilee**, celebrating the rich diversity of the URC with a memorable birthday party. You can come alone, in families or in groups, for a day or for the duration: the programme promises an unforgettable time for everyone.



The [URC website](https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/) details lots of ways to get involved:

- **Bring your church group** or congregation: <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/bring-your-church-group/>
- **Volunteer** to help run the URC’s activities at Greenbelt and receive a free ticket (please apply by Tuesday 31 May): <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/volunteer-at-greenbelt/>
- **Play your part** even if you can’t attend by crafting paper beads or bunting: <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/be-part-of-greenbelt-from-home/>
- **Share photographs** for the URC collage and help show off the vastness of the URC: <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/wanted-photos-for-the-urc-collage/>
- Come along for the special **anniversary service** on Sunday 28 August: <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/come-to-church-at-greenbelt/>

For details of all the above, visit: <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/>

URC Buildings Forum – Online Event

Living the life of Jesus through our buildings Wednesday 25 May 7:30-9.00pm

The **URC Buildings Forum Online** shares an invitation to an online event on **Wednesday 25 May**, entitled “**Living the life of Jesus through our buildings**”.

If God is present in every aspect of our lives, calling us to engage in God’s Mission, what role should our buildings play in our discipleship?

Join **Simon Peters**, project manager for *Walking the living the life of Jesus today*, to explore differing examples of how buildings can be used to support in recognising God in everyday life, not just in on a Sunday.



us to

Way:

people
worship

To register for this event please contact mission@urc.org.uk.

Singers needed for URC Choir

If you love singing, why not join the URC's **50th anniversary choir**?

The URC is looking for voices in a variety of styles, to reflect the diversity of the denomination, to sing at the **Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving** on **Saturday 1 October**, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster.



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972



Members of the choir will receive the music in advance and have a rehearsal day in central London and then a final rehearsal on the day at the hall ahead of the service. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please register your interest [here](#). For further information, please email the team at: 50@urc.org.uk.

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

The United Reformed Church has produced its own act of worship to help churches mark the 70th anniversary of the reign of **Her Majesty the Queen**, including prayers, hymns, children's activities, readings, quotes for sermons, Psalms, poems and additional ideas.

Read more and download the files [here](#)



Resources for Children and Youth

Richard Knott, who continues to serve one day a week as our interim Children and Youth Development Officer, shares details of useful resources for working with children and young people:

Families on Faith Adventures @ Home

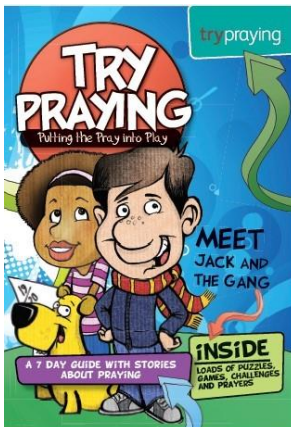


Families on Faith Adventures at Home, a free weekly resource from the United Reformed Church to help families worship and pray together and develop their faith, has been so well received that it continues beyond pandemic restrictions.

These materials are a 'pick and mix' selection of activities, prayers and challenges based around a different Bible reading each and every week. No matter what the make-up of your family, you will find something useful and engaging in these materials. Many churches have also reported adapting them for use with groups too.

Find the back catalogue and most recent editions at: <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people/families-on-faith-adventures-at-home/>

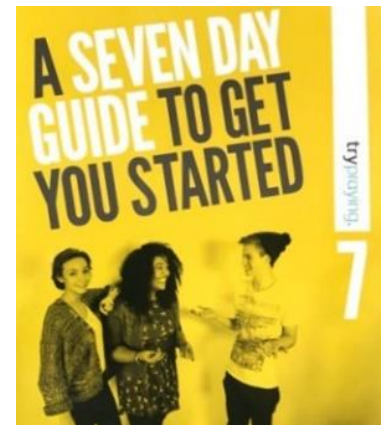
Try Praying



Try Praying is an initiative which in my home city of Edinburgh has been displayed on buses, advertising boards and by many local churches in recent years.

They offer a range of resources carrying the challenge to all ages to try praying. There are booklets for both children and youth.

Check them out here:



Children's Booklet - <https://thereishope.co.uk/product/childrens-booklet/>

Youth Booklet - <https://thereishope.co.uk/product/youth-booklets/>

Children and Youth Pinterest Page



I have also begun a new **Pinterest** page as a place to hold links to resources that might be of interest and support to churches in their engagement with children and young people. This is a work in progress and will grow over time.

Have a look [here](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/cydo0555/created/) (https://www.pinterest.co.uk/cydo0555/created/) or search for **@cydo0555** on Pinterest. Do let me have links to any resources that you would like to see added for the benefit of others, too. I would love for this to become a collaborative effort.

The Return of Crossfire



Wednesday 1 – Saturday 4 June
Stathern Lodge, Melton Mowbray



A Christian camp for young people aged 12+ years, **Crossfire** is back next month. Hosted here in the East Midlands at **Stathern Lodge Farm**, outside Melton Mowbray, it runs from **Wednesday 1 to Saturday 4 June**.

Organised by **GEAR** (the Group for Evangelism and Renewal in the URC) in partnership with **URC Youth**, it's a fun weekend of talks, small group sessions, sung worship led by the Crossfire worship band and fantastic cooked food. Expect a great weekend of learning more about Jesus, fun activities and meeting new people.

To find out more and book to attend, visit www.crossfirecamp.org.uk .



Crossfire is a GEAR Event



In Conjunction with URC Youth

From the Ground Up – JPIT Conference

Saturday 11 June 10.00am-4.00pm

from the **GROUND UP**
unearting hope and seeking justice

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

11 JUNE 2022

HOSTED BY THE JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM

IN LONDON AND ONLINE

JPIT

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) day conference **From the Ground Up: Unearting Hope and Seeking Justice** is fast approaching.

You can choose which way to take part: either attend sessions online or go along in person to London's Oasis Hub Waterloo, where the conference will be hosted on **Saturday 11 June** from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Challenges before our communities are ever on the rise, and national politics and international events might leave us feeling dispirited and powerless. Yet **From the Ground Up** will encourage us to find hope in starting where we are, in unearthing how the Spirit is at work in our neighbourhoods, and using this as a renewed springboard for our work for justice and peace. The conference features a [full programme](#) of excellent speakers and empowering workshops, touching on key current issues including the cost of living crisis, community mission, refugees and politics – all beginning with the local.

Tickets are now on sale and full details are available on the [JPIT website](#).

Job Opportunities

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Mersey Synod United Reformed Church
37.5 hours pw. Office based.

Salary: £37,000
Lay appointment or URC Minister's Stipend

Are you passionate about facilitating and developing the gifts and competencies of the whole people of God?

Mersey Synod is looking for a committed **Training and Development Officer** who will proactively consult, guide, advise and provide training in order to assist the development and delivery of the Mersey Synod training and development strategy.

For More Information visit: [Job Vacancies - URC Mersey \(urcmerseysynod.org.uk\)](http://urcmerseysynod.org.uk)



Administrative Assistant

**Permanent contract
21 hours per week
Salary: £16,334**

Are you interested in being part of a team to help the Church keep people safe?

As part of the Safeguarding and Discipleship teams, in this role you will provide vital administrative support to the Safeguarding Office, responding to initial enquiries from local churches and synods.

Educated to A level or equivalent, with GCSE passes (grades A-C) in English and Maths, you already have experience in general office procedures and administration. You will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to handle information with discretion in a sensitive and confidential manner. You will be organised and thorough with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.

The ability to take accurate and timely minutes would be a distinct advantage.

We can offer you a friendly work environment with the flexibility for hybrid working from United Reformed Church House in London and from home a possibility.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

**Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
020 7691 9871 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urch.org.uk/vacancies**

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 23 May 2022 Interview date: Wednesday 1 June 2022



URC Youth Intern - Communications

**Home based
12 month fixed-term contract, 8-30 hours per month
Living Wage Rate**

Are you passionate about communicating with young people and young adults?

URC Youth is an organisation for all young people aged 11- 25 with a connection to the United Reformed Church. URC Youth elect a Youth Executive each year to run an annual Youth Assembly, to be the voice of young people, enact resolutions, and promote young people's engagement in the life of the church. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion, diversity, mental health, social justice, and environmental issues.

During this Internship you will support the work of URC Youth to increase connection and engagement with young people across England, Scotland and Wales in conjunction with the URC Children's and Youth Work team.

You will work as part of a team; to create and post promotional material, manage a schedule for communication and assist in production of press releases, written resources, and web content.

You will be aged 17-25, educated to at least National Fives & Highers / GCSE level standard, with experience in communication through social media and wider channels. You will have good design and communication skills. You will be able to manage a fluctuating workload and attend meetings online and in person, as required.

We will offer appropriate training and development opportunities to increase your skills and knowledge in communication.

If you are interested in this new opportunity and can meet the above requirements, please provide a CV and covering letter to:

**Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
020 7691 9874 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urch.org.uk/jobs**

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 23 May 2022 Interview date: Thursday 9 June 2022

This post requires an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Find Us Online



The [East Midlands Synod website](https://www.urch5.org.uk/) is the one-stop shop for all essential information:
<https://www.urch5.org.uk/>



Our [East Midlands Synod Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/URC-East-Midlands-Synod-102279281444717/) continues to host the **Evening Prayers** led by our Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** and others during the ongoing pandemic. If you are a Facebook user, please consider **Liking** and **Sharing** this Page and its posts:
<https://www.facebook.com/URC-East-Midlands-Synod-102279281444717/>

Similarly the [Synod Youth and Children's Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/) shares news and ideas related to our work with young people: <https://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/>



On our dedicated [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUjKn8XOGGeZU5SgN95g), the Synod shares special events, training videos, worship resources and more. **Evening Prayers** are also uploaded here. Please subscribe:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUjKn8XOGGeZU5SgN95g>

Contacting East Midlands Synod

The **Synod Office** is now open from **Monday to Thursday** each week. Please contact staff members by email in the first instance, as this will receive a direct response from the person with whom you wish to correspond. The Synod telephone line (**0115 960 9241**) is answered Monday-Thursday, 9.00am-3.00pm.

Arrangements remain under regular review and any update will be posted at: www.urch5.org.uk

This E-letter is produced on behalf of:
The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA.
Telephone: 0115 960 9241

CCL1067405

Opening Refection: photo by [Matt Botsford](#) on [Unsplash](#)
Jubilee Choir: photo by [Omar Flores](#) on [Unsplash](#)
Her Majesty the Queen: photo by Joel Rouse/UK Ministry of Defence on Wikipedia.

Next edition: Thursday 26 May 2022

Please send all material for this E-Letter to both:
trainingpa@urch5.org.uk and training@urch5.org.uk

Copy deadline for next edition: 12 noon on **Monday 23 May 2022**