

With our prayers and best wishes for Easter



May the promise of new life and the abiding presence of the Risen One be a source of comfort and hope in our churches and communities.

*The Synod Officers and Staff Team members*

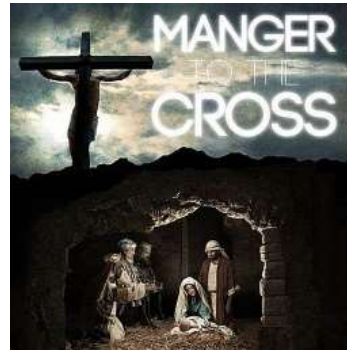
### Opening Reflection by the Revd Jane Wade Deputy Moderator of the East Midlands Synod

As non-conformists, most of us don't usually, as congregations, share Communion weekly. With notable exceptions, the majority of our **United Reformed Churches** choose to share Communion as part of the morning service once a month. There are of course occasions that transcend this 'rule', including for many, the midnight Communion of **Christmas Eve** and remembering the Lord's Supper on **Maundy Thursday**.

For me the words of our simple Communion service become even more poignant (if that's possible) on these two occasions. Sharing communion on the night of our dear Lord's birth, we remember how he came to live our common life, to show us the Father's love and compassion for us, and ultimately to go to the cross to take upon himself the sins of the world.

*"From heav'n You came helpless babe  
Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live"*

Verse 1 of The Servant King CCLI Song # 78897 Graham Kendrick© 1983  
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And sharing Communion on **Maundy Thursday**, we remember the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. Remembering Jesus' humility as he washes the disciples' feet so they could comfortably dine together.



*"Kneels at the feet of His friends  
Silently washes their feet  
Master who acts as a slave to them"*

*"Jesu Jesu  
Fill us with Your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbours we have from You"*

Verse 1 and chorus of Jesu, Jesu, CCLI Song # 3049039 Tom Colvin© 1969, 1989 Hope  
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Remembering the institution of the Lord's Supper: how Jesus took the ordinary food of everyday life - bread and wine - and gave them new symbolic meaning, that becomes a reminder for his disciples and the generations of his disciples to come...



*As they were eating Jesus held their attention. He took bread in his hands, offered a prayer of thanks to God, broke the bread, and said "This bread is broken - as my body is broken."  
He offered it to them and invited them to eat ... "Remember," he said, "all that I have done for you."  
Then a little later, when their meal was complete, he took a cup of wine, lifted it high and offered a prayer of thanks to God, and said, "This wine is a sign of my blood, poured out in the world. The wrongs done to me will spill my blood. And this wine is for you a sign of my love and forgiveness for the world."  
Then he offered it to them and invited them to drink. "Give thanks," he said, "for all I have done."  
Here in bread and wine God speaks to us of Christ's life laid down and love declared.  
Each time we share bread and wine in this way, this is what we remember.*

And remembering his new commandment to 'love one another'. Actually, the name 'Maundy Thursday' comes from the Latin **mandatum novum**, referring to the 'new commandment' Jesus taught his disciples.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35*

Jesus' actions and words of the Last Supper remind us of the sacrifice he made for us, the beautiful exchange that is made on the cross as Jesus dies, so that we may become the righteousness of God – *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

How he set an example of what it means to imitate him with our lives; and how we are called to be the servant of others, to live with humility, and love in every situation.

*“So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him.  
Each other's needs to prefer  
For it is Christ we're serving.”*

*“This is our God the Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him.  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.”*



Verse 4 and chorus of The Servant King CCLI Song # 78897 Graham Kendrick© 1983 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd)For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCL1067405

God bless and Happy Easter.

## Around the East Midlands Synod

### Church gives quake appeal a £1K boost

**Melbourne URC** was recently featured in a local paper, [Village Voice](#), sharing news of their latest fundraising initiative. We are very happy to share some of the article with you:

Congregation members from one of Melbourne's churches, along with visitors from far and wide, have helped raise more than £1,000 for victims of terrible earthquakes this year.

Leaders at the United Reformed Church decided they must try to help those affected by devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in February. In a few weeks the church has raised £1,100 for the Disasters Emergency Committee's **Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal**.

Funds have been raised from a coffee morning, a lent lunch, donations, and the second-hand book and jigsaw sale that takes place in the church hall every Thursday.

**Margaret Loydall**, who has been secretary of the United Reformed Church for the past 61 years, said that fellow congregation members had been so appalled by scenes of devastation from Turkey and Syria that a fund-raising appeal was quickly organised. "The pictures we have seen on the television, it was really almost unbelievable to think that people are going through that," she said. "You couldn't find words to describe it really, and we decided we wanted to do something about it- and that's what we did. We arranged it very quickly, and gave it out on our church notices, and our church responded in a big way."

# Training to be an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher

## Encouragement and inspiration

Could you become an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher?

The two-year **Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers course** is currently offered through Northern College in Manchester, one of the URC's Resource Centres for Learning. First and second-year AALP students recently met together on the weekend of 18-19 March to explore themes like Finding God in Difficult Times, the Spirituality of Older People, Technology in Worship, and Worship Choices in Challenging Times.



Five of the current AALP students hail from the East Midlands Synod. One of them, **Mark Renshaw** of Sutton-in-Ashfield URC, offers this recommendation:

The privilege to preach is one I am always humbled by, and having nearly completed my first year of training at Northern College, one I would call others to try. Preaching in our pulpits needs people with varying experience and across ages and identities. The Word is to all who hear and should not be limited to only old white men like myself to give.

Northern College has some very good lecturers who can offer knowledge and insight in plain English. They are supportive and encouraging, offering advice and knowledge for the times you are taken by surprise, the times it seems difficult, and ways of interpreting our traditions for the modern Church. They equip for all occasions and situations.

You will have five weekends at Manchester over the two years and the rest on Zoom about every five weeks. You will be able to put what you learn in to practice in front of the regular Church family, who always want to be supportive. So I appeal to young and old, however you identify yourself, to look at giving us your experience and allow the Lord to give you the words to preach.

If you would like to know more about becoming an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher, or alternatively a Locally Recognised Worship Leader, please email [training@urc5.org.uk](mailto:training@urc5.org.uk) – or come along to our Enquirers' Day on Saturday 24 June (details below). More information about the AALP course is also available by emailing the Ministries Department at [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) or visiting: <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/developing-your-faith/become-a-worship-leader-lay-preacher/>



## Enquirers' Day

**Saturday 24 June 10.00am – 12.30pm**  
at the **Synod Meeting Room**, Sherwood, Nottingham



Do **you** feel God is calling you to serve in some way, but you are not sure what? Or how? Then here is an opportunity to come along and hear people share stories and answer questions about a whole range of vocations in the United Reformed Church:

- Elder
- Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher
- Locally Recognised Worship Leader
- Children and Youth Worker
- Pioneer
- Minister of Word and Sacraments
- Church Related Community Worker
- Chaplain

Beginning and ending in prayer, this morning offers a relaxed, no-pressure space to explore what your own calling might be. For more information email [training@urc5.org.uk](mailto:training@urc5.org.uk) to book email [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)



**Saturday 24 June 1.30pm – 2.30pm**  
at the **Synod Meeting Room**, Sherwood, Nottingham

The same day, here's a great opportunity to find out how the URC's discipleship programme **Stepwise** can help you take your next steps in faith and to enjoy a short sample of the introductory stream **Faith Filled Life**.

Come to one or make a day of it by trying both. To book, please email: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

## The Newbiggin Pioneering Hub

- Are you looking for support to step out in new ways of connecting with people beyond the church?
- Have you heard about the **Newbiggin Pioneering Hub** and want to find out more?
- Would you like to know more about a course focused on enabling lay pioneers in local contexts?



Then come along on **Wednesday 10 May** at 7.00pm on Zoom and meet the **Revd Ash Barker** who heads up the Hub for the URC. Hear stories, find out more about the content of the training, and find space to listen for God's call in new and exciting ways.

For any questions beforehand, please contact [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)  
Otherwise, simply drop in on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2844925967> (Meeting ID: 284 492 5967)



This item, and part of the above article about AALP Training, are extracted from the new [eletter](#) from the URC's **Education & Learning** team.

To enjoy the newsletter in full, please [click here](#) . To receive future editions, please subscribe by emailing [learninghub@urc.org.uk](mailto:learninghub@urc.org.uk) .

## Personal News

**It is with great sadness that we bring news of the deaths of the following servants of the Church. We give thanks to God for all that has been achieved through their lives and ministries.**

In the **East Midlands Synod**, we regret to inform you of the death of the **Revd Stanley Crane** on Sunday 2 April. Stanley served at: Wigston & Kilby 1984-87; Saffron Lane 1985-87; South Leicester Group 1988-95; and as Ecumenical Officer, East Midlands Province 1996-98. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who hold Stanley dear.

# Quiet Days 2023



**Quiet Days** give you an opportunity to pause, to contemplate your faith and to be refreshed.



In a tranquil setting, a leader offers a simple scriptural starter, then gives you the gift of time to meditate, wander, listen and pray as you choose. The day finishes with a short time of sharing. A quiet Day offers a respite from pressure and a space to rest in God.

For 2023, **East Midlands Synod** is offering two Quiet Days with different locations, lengths and on different days of the week so that as many as possible may take part. If these prove valuable, we will offer others around the Synod in future years.

**Who's it for?** Our Quiet Days are open to all. We especially hope they will offer overstretched lay leaders time out to reconnect with their spirituality.

**How to book?** The Quiet Days are **free of charge**. Simply email Hannah Holmes – [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)



## When and Where?

**Dale Abbey, Derbyshire**  
**Saturday 27 May** 10.00am – 12.30pm  
Led by the **Revd Ruth Allen**

**Heckington Fen, Lincolnshire**  
**Tuesday 5 September** 10.30am – 3.30pm  
Led by the **Revd Jane Weedon**



# Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery Roadshow

Saturday 22 April 11.00am-3.00pm  
The Salvation Army, 7 King Edward Street, Nottingham

## #ATMS-ROADSHOW

*The ATMS Team are on the road! In 2023, we are visiting 9 different cities across the country! We are doing this to help raise awareness of Modern Slavery, to connect our current volunteers and to create a space for change.*



To book tickets visit: [ATMS Roadshow Events | Eventbrite](#)  
Tickets are free!



## ATMS-ROADSHOW

The ATMS Team are on the road! In 2023, we are visiting 9 different cities across the country! We are doing this to champion our volunteers, raise awareness of Modern Slavery and to create a space for change. Check out our dates below and book your ticket on our eventbrite page

<b>Nottingham: 22 APRIL</b>	<b>Newcastle: 24 JUNE</b>	<b>Southampton: 4 NOV</b>
<b>London: 13 MAY</b>	<b>Birmingham: 23 SEPT</b>	<b>Leeds: 18 NOV</b>
<b>Liverpool: 3 JUNE</b>	<b>Bristol: 7 OCT</b>	<b>Peterborough: 25 NOV</b>

Our sessions include a volunteer celebration & a light lunch followed by a workshop looking at 'What is Modern Slavery?' more information to follow, tickets open now!

BOOK TICKETS



**JOIN US & BOOK NOW**

ATMSINTEGRATEDMISSION@SALVATIONARMY.ORG.UK



# Situations Vacant



**MK Christian Foundation**  
Growing people and community through social enterprise

## **Sector Minister – Director of MK Christian Foundation**

**Salary Package: £43,000 plus pension**

A unique and exciting opportunity to explore and develop new approaches to mission and church through social enterprise. The appointee will:

- Hold, with others, the mission, vision and values of the MK Christian Foundation and our particular emphasis on the practical outworking of the gospel;
- Oversee the on-going sustainability and development of our social enterprises and training of young people.

The MK Christian Foundation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check is required for all successful applicants.

We value diversity and welcome applicants from all sections of the community.

For an application pack please go to <https://mkchristianfoundation.co.uk/jobs/>. The deadline for applications will 12.00 mid-day on 2 May 2023, with interviews on Tuesday 9 May 2023.



## **Moderator – South Western Synod**

**Full-time, seven-year termed appointment**

**Minister's Stipend**

General Assembly wishes to appoint a United Reformed Church minister to serve as South Western Synod Moderator from 1 October 2023 (or an alternative by agreement).

South Western Synod is seeking a prayerful, discerning and inspirational Moderator to guide the Synod as looks to fulfil God's mission. The Moderator will help us build on strengths and develop our response to the challenges which are faced both by churches and those who live in our cities, towns and villages.

You will bring to the role your enthusiasm for mission and outreach, desire to promote inclusion and social justice, and advocacy for environmental sustainability. You will have practical experience and an

understanding of leading effective change in complex situations. You will have a vibrant interest in ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

Your interpersonal, management, communication and digital skills will help you to lead a Synod which covers a region of varied communities from rural and seaside villages to towns and cities, with many churches in ecumenical partnerships and some in united areas. The Synod is committed to encouraging and supporting its 110 churches in mission to their local communities and beyond.

You will bring experience in innovative, mission focused ministry in local churches, to support and encourage our churches to be authentic, outward looking, and rooted in their local community. Your consultative and collaborative style of leadership, and ability to relate well to people, will enable you to provide inspirational and pastoral leadership to the Synod staff team, ministers and churches in the South West.

Apply for this role

If you wish to nominate a minister for this role, please write to: Deepti Upadhyaya at [recruitment@urc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@urc.org.uk) by Sunday 23 April 2023.

If you wish to apply for this post, please read the role description and complete the role application form. Details can be found here: [Moderator - South Western Synod - United Reformed Church](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, Monday 22 May 2023

Interview date: Monday 26 June 2023

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church.

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

## Find Us Online



The [East Midlands Synod website](https://www.urc5.org.uk/) is the one-stop shop for all essential information:  
<https://www.urc5.org.uk/>



Our [East Midlands Synod Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/URC-East-Midlands-Synod-102279281444717/) hosts **Evening Prayers** every day at 9.30pm, led by our Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** and our prayer team, along with other posts. 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/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGeZU5SgN95g), the Synod shares special events, training videos, worship resources and more. **Evening Prayers** are also uploaded here. Please subscribe:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGeZU5SgN95g>

## Contacting East Midlands Synod

The **Synod Office** is 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.

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

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Heckington Fen photo: the Revd Jane Weedon  
Enquirers' Day: photo by Hannah Busing on Unsplash

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***Next edition: Thursday 20 April 2023***

Please send all material for this E-Letter to both:

[trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk) and [training@urc5.org.uk](mailto:training@urc5.org.uk)

Copy deadline for next edition: 12 noon on **Monday 17 April 2023**