

trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

From: East Midlands Synod <trainingpa@urc5.org.uk>
Sent: 25 January 2024 10:50
To: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk
Subject: [Test] News from the East Midlands Synod

[View this email in your browser](#)



25 January 2024 - No. 404

In this edition:

- [Richard Knott](#) invites you to pray for the young people in your life
- [Opportunities](#) to help shape the future of the URC - and your local church
- A prayer to mark [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) this Saturday

- Events to celebrate the role of [women](#) in faith and society

To download a printable PDF version of this E-letter please [click here](#):

Visit our website



URC East Midlands Synod Facebook Page

Opening Reflection by Richard Knott

Children and Youth Development Officer

This weekend the **URC Youth Assembly** takes place at Whitemoor Lakes. The Youth Assembly is a community that is always a buzz of excitement, meeting up with friends, being away for the weekend, being able to discuss and debate issues on your own agenda, young adults leading the event at every stage and together worshipping God and growing in faith.

Being a young person following Christ can be a difficult experience: there is much cynicism in society today about the claims of the Christian faith, much suspicion about institutions such as the Church, and many pressures that young people cope with every day. It is to be celebrated then that over 100 young people will gather at URC Youth



Assembly to share much-needed fellowship, to debate and discuss issues and to worship together as members of URC Youth.

This year we have a smaller group from the Synod attending than last year. Some have grown beyond the age bracket, others who are eligible felt unable to attend due to exam pressures and so perhaps, in a way, like many local churches have experienced we have fewer young people attending from the Synod than may have been hoped. It is a reminder if ever we needed it, of the challenges we face in reaching a generation with the good news.

What can I do, you might be asking? I encourage you to pray: to pray for the young people that you might be connected with in some way. If you are blessed to have them as participants in your worshipping community pray for them, or for those in your wider family, those who live, work or study in your community. Perhaps ask God to show you and to place on your heart one or two young people that you can pray for regularly.



For this weekend I invite you to pray:

- for the young people and the support team involved
- for our own Synod Youth Rep **Billy** as he is welcomed into the URC Youth Executive and for all the Executive members
- that everyone experiences fun, laughter and enjoyment
- that everyone is safe in all aspects

- that everyone would experience a warm welcome and friendship
- that God's presence would be known and experienced by all
- for the **Youth Leaders' Gathering** that takes place alongside Youth Assembly, that each leader will be encouraged, inspired and supported.

Thank you!

If in your prayer you are inspired to be active in engaging with young people then perhaps you would like to attend the **Youthscape Essentials** training weekend in March? This is a weekend suitable for those with no experience in working with young people and those who might benefit from a refresher - more information below.

Youthscape Weekend for Youth Leaders

Friday 22 - Sunday 24 March

Kings Park Conference Centre, Northamptonshire




22 - 24 MARCH
KINGS PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE
NORTHANTS




YOUTHSCAPE
ESSENTIALS

22 - 24 March 2024

[YOUTHSCAPE.CO.UK/YSESSENTIAL](https://youthscape.co.uk/yseessential)

Youthscape Essentials is an innovative course for volunteer youth leaders that increases your skills and understanding alongside young people today. Whether you're running a project, a church youth group, or occasionally helping out in the morning, the course is designed with you in mind! It's not just about the numbers of young people attending, it's about putting God at the heart of your youth ministry.

Organised by Richard Knight, CYDCC, at East Midlands Conference Centre

Around the East Midlands

Double Celebration in Daventry



(L-R) Mark Hodgson, the Revd Andrew Mudharara, new AALP Rae Morrall, Hilary Crane (Rae's Mentor), Derek Graham

Lay leadership was doubly marked at **Daventry United Reformed Church** on Sunday 14 January. Firstly, **Rae Morrall** was commissioned as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher following two years of study through Northern College. Lay Preaching Commissioner **Mark Hodgson** and Training & Development Officer **Derek Graham** visited to conduct Rae's commissioning and present her certificate. Meanwhile, the same service saw the **Revd Andrew Mudharara** conduct the Ordination of a new Elder in **Joyce Boon**.



We wish Rae and Joyce every blessing in their continued service to the Church.

Nottingham celebrates Consecration of Bishop Paulina



Last weekend, Nottingham played host to the Consecration of the **Rt Revd Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman** as Bishop of the **Lutheran Church in Great Britain**. The Choral Eucharist and Consecration took place at the city church St Mary's in the Lace Market on Saturday 20 January.



Amongst the multi-national, multi-denominational congregation were East Midlands Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**, Synod Clerk **Dr Graham Jennings** (pictured) and Training & Development Officer **Derek Graham**, alongside numerous other friends from **St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church**. Bishop Paulina has a long-standing relationship with Nottingham's city-centre URC and members of **Trinity Lutheran Church** regularly join in its worship and fellowship, as well as holding their own monthly service there.

The day following her Consecration, Sunday 21 January, Bishop Paulina led morning worship at St Andrew's with Castle Gate at the invitation of the church and its minister, the **Revd Chris Ford**. Honoured guests present to hear her preach her first sermon as a Bishop included Lutheran dignitaries from across Europe and members of her own family from Poland, where her election has excited great media interest.



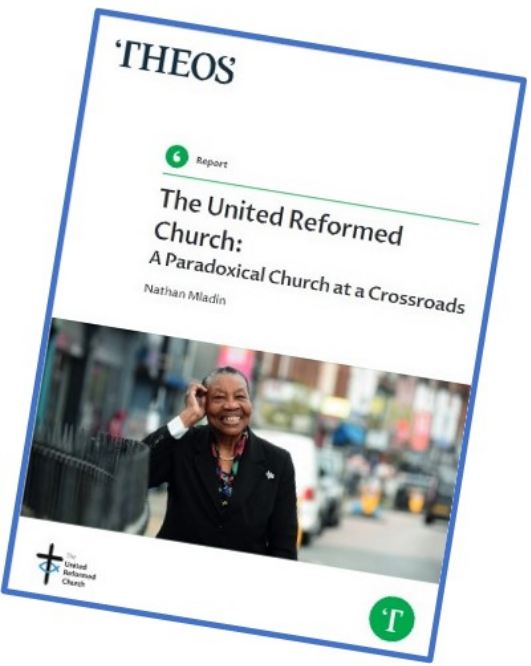
We share our congratulations and blessings with Bishop Paulina. To watch highlights of the Consecration service, [click here](#). For the full morning service from St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC, [click here](#).



(L-R) the Rt Revd Dr Martin Lind (Bishop Emeritus, Lutheran Church in Great Britain), the Revd Geoffrey Clarke (Moderator of the East Midlands Synod), the Rt Revd Jāna Jēruma-Grīnberga (Bishop Emerita, LCiGB), the Rt Revd Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman (Bishop of the LCiGB), the Rt Revd Tor Berger Jørgensen (Bishop Emeritus, LCiGB) and the Revd Chris Ford (Minister of St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC and the South Nottingham Area).

The Theos Report - What Next?

Tuesday 27 February 7.30-8.30pm via Zoom



Join **Tom Donoghue** (Mission Development Officer) and **Derek Graham** (Training & Development Officer) on Zoom on Tuesday 27 February from 7:30-8:30pm to explore and discuss the findings of the **Theos Report** into the URC, as we try to think in particular about how as local churches we can develop our mission and help our churches to flourish. To receive the Zoom link please email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk .

A short and frequently encouraging read, the report can be downloaded here: [The United Reformed Church: A Paradoxical Church at a Crossroads](#) .

Could you help shape the URC's future?



The **United Reformed Church** is undergoing a process of change - and needs volunteers who are keen to help forge the path ahead.

Following the resolutions of General Assembly 2023, the **Church Life Review** will continue with three special **task groups** to work on more effective resource sharing, supporting local churches with governance matters and developing new models for employed lay workers. A new, streamlined Nominations Committee is also being formed. Together, these groups will bring new proposals designed to help churches concentrate on their mission to their local communities.

Enthusiastic group members and Convenors are sought with the gifts, graces and skills to make lasting change for the future of our denomination and enable Christ's work through local churches into the future. Could you play a part in this rewarding work, or can you think of someone with the right qualities whom you might nominate? Please act quickly: the deadline for applications and nominations is noon on **Monday 12 February**.

For full details of these opportunities and the recruitment process, please visit: www.urc.org.uk/church-life-review-task-group-opportunities/ . A recording of the special Zoom event held on Wednesday 24 January will also be available on the website shortly.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Saturday 27 January

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2



Communities across the country will be commemorating **Holocaust Memorial Day** this Saturday, 27 January. This year's theme is 'the fragility of freedom' and material can be found on the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's website [here](#).

As always, the **Council of Christians and Jews** is encouraging all Christians to observe this day and has developed a short prayer based on the theme for use in Christian contexts:

Eternal God, we come before you, conscious of the fragility of freedom, to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of all genocides.

Remembering the past, help us today to use what freedom we have to stand up for those whose freedom is denied.

We pray for a day when all shall be free to live in peace, unity and love. Amen.

At a time of raised sensitivities it is especially important to work for reconciliation between faiths and communities. The text of a recent talk by **Dr James Roberts** on "Why Christians should remember the Shoah" is available on CCJ's website at: www.ccj.org.uk/blog/HMD24 .

Retreat Day at Cliff College

Saturday 10 February 2024

Retreat Day

Join us for a quiet day as we prepare for Lent.
A mix of prayer and art, music and movement.

Saturday 10th February

10am-5:30pm

£40 including lunch, dinner and materials.

Bookings and further information at
www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/lent-retreat

Hosted at and by Cliff College

Calver, Hope Valley

S32 3XG

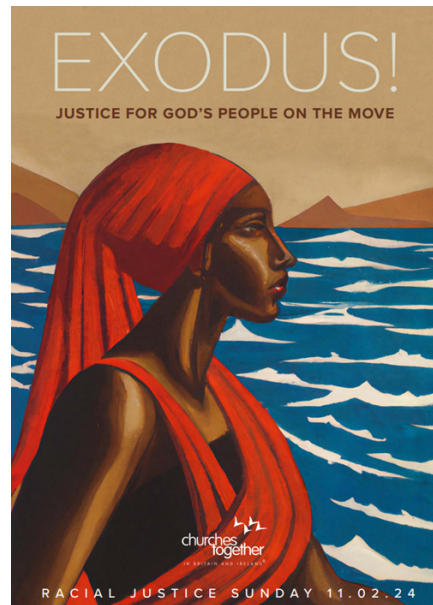
reception@cliffcollege.ac.uk

01246 584200

CLIFF
COLLEGE

Racial Justice Sunday 2024

Sunday 11 February



[Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#) has published its resources for **Racial Justice Sunday 2024**, to be marked on **Sunday 11 February**. This year's focus is the movement of people from their homelands to the places they now call home, and the motivations behind this movement – the journeys made, and the reception or welcome received on arrival.

Richard Reddie, CTBI's Director of Justice and Inclusion and Coordinator of the Churches' Refugee Network, writes: "This resource aims to inform, challenge and inspire everyone to pray and take action, so that hospitality and not hostility becomes our overall approach to those fleeing persecution, peril, poverty and war."

To download your copy visit: [Racial Justice Sunday 2024 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](https://ctbi.org.uk)

Ministry Enquirers' Event

Saturday 17 February 2024

9.30am-1.00pm (online)

What is God asking of YOU?



Ministry Enquirers' Event

to help you think about God's call to Stepwise, Worship Leading,
Lay Preaching, Lay Pioneering, Ministry with children and young people, the
Ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work.

Enquirers' Event

Saturday 17th February 2024

9.30am – 1pm online

Register with ministries@urc.org.uk

to receive Zoom details

Register with: ministries@urc.org.uk

In case you cannot make the above date, please note that the **East Midlands Synod** will also hold an **Enquirers' Event** again this year, which will take place online on **Saturday 27 April** (details to follow).

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.

The **Wessex Synod** brings us the news of the death of retired minister the **Revd Chris Mellor** on Sunday 14 January 2024.

Chris served at: Highbury Quadrant 1963-68; Poole 1968-89; and Revidge Fold, Blackburn 1989-96. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who hold Chris dear.

The **South Western Synod** brings us the news of the death of retired minister the **Revd Geoffrey Harmer** on Saturday 13 January 2024.

Geoffrey lived in retirement at Cricklade, Wiltshire. He served at: Walton-on-the-Hill 1971-75; Hythe, Southampton 1975-84; Sion, St John, Jersey & St Saviour's, Guernsey 1984-92. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who hold Geoffrey dear.

We are sorry to convey news of the death of **Andy Buxton** on 2 January 2024. Andy was a retired lay preacher and the widower of Church Related Community Worker **Rosie Buxton**, who died last year. His funeral is to be held on Friday 2 February 2024 at 12.30pm at Litchfield and District Crematorium, followed by a service at Lichfield Methodist Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all who held Andy dear.

Christian Women's Fellowship

- last chance to book!

Friday 23 - Sunday 25 February 2024



Christian Women's Fellowship

The Hayes
Conference Centre
Swanwick,
Derbyshire,
DE55 1AU

23rd – 25th Feb
2024

£200 for Full Board
including
Ensuite Room

2024 Conference Theme!!

Caring in our society today

GUEST SPEAKER:

Tarn Bright
(Home for Good)



**home
for good**

Calling all Christian Women, and
Non-binary (assigned female at birth)

We would like to invite you to join us for a weekend away in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside staying at the Hayes Conference Centre. We meet every year for a great weekend of fellowship, meeting old friends and new, we explore themes with the help of guest speakers, we enjoy Bible study and worship together

Website:
<https://cwfmmarketing1927.wixsite.com/website>

Fun & Fellowship

Activities!!

For more information, please contact:

Ruth Filsak:

Ruth.Filsak@gmail.com

Or Vicky Longbone:

vickylongbone@gmail.com

Bookings close on 31st January

There is still time - just - to claim one of the last few places at this year's **Christian Women's Fellowship** weekend at The Hayes Conference Centre. It is also possible to attend for the Saturday alone: email vickylongbone@gmail.com or Ruth.Filsak@gmail.com for more information.

International Women's Day

Tuesday 5 March 2.00-3.30pm

St Denys Paris Centre, Leicester

Following on from a successful event last year, the St Philip's Centre in Leicester is again holding an afternoon to celebrate **International Women's Day on Tuesday 5 March**, featuring three inspiring speakers. Please contact

Viv Froggatt for further information: nn2@stphilipscentre.co.uk .

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

An afternoon of sharing experiences and conversations with inspirational women on the theme #InspireInclusion

TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2024
2pm until 3.30pm

ST DENYS PARISH CENTRE
Church Road, Evington, Leicester
LE5 6FA



Our afternoon to celebrate International Women's Day will include the opportunity to hear interesting speakers share their experiences.

We'll also have a Q&A session with plenty of time for informal conversations and making new friends. Oh, and there'll be tea & cake!!

Please contact Viv Froggatt for more information
nn2@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Our speakers are:-

Lynda Creber-Davies
Assistant Commissioner, Podcasts & Digital for BBC Radio 4.

Bhandna Bagga
Director of People for RISE Multi Academy Trust

Rukhsana Hussain
Community's Active Women
Co-ordinator at LCFC

#InspireInclusion

**NEAR
NEIGHBOURS**
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



Gaza in Crisis: Join CFL in conversation with Christian Aid

Wednesday 7 February 2.00-3.00pm

Join us for a

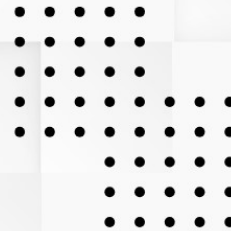
Zoom Event



Commitment for Life

CRISIS IN GAZA

AN UPDATE FROM **CHRISTIAN AID**



○ Julie Mehigan

○ William Bell

○  **WED 7 FEB**
○  **2 PM - 3PM**



REGISTER FOR LINK

commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk



Commitment
for **Life**

Commitment for Life invites you you to join a special Zoom meeting entitled 'Gaza in Crisis: Join CFL in conversation with Christian Aid' on **Wednesday, 7 February from 2.00 to 3.00pm**. The meeting will include an update from **Julie Mehigan** and **William Bell** of Christian Aid about the situation in Gaza and what is happening on the ground. It is intended that there

will also be an opportunity to put questions. To register, email commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk .

Prayers requested for the 2025 URC Prayer Handbook

Your prayers are now invited for the United Reformed Church's **2025 Prayer Handbook**, with the theme *Immersive Joy*. Wherever you are, wherever you have been, whatever the journey which moves you to write, the editors would love to hear from you.

For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/prayersrequested> . Please submit your prayers, or any questions about the handbook or the process, by email to: phb@urc.org.uk . But be quick: the deadline for submissions is **Saturday 24 February**.



Find us Online



The [East Midlands Synod website](https://www.unc5.org.uk/) is the one-stop shop for all essential information:

<https://www.unc5.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 friends every day at 9.30pm. If you are a Facebook user, please consider **Liking** this Page and **Sharing** 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>

To subscribe to our **Synod Children and Youth Newsletter**, for ideas, resources and news of further events please click here:

<https://bit.ly/CandYNews>

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

The inclusion of items in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement by the East Midlands Synod. Any views expressed do not represent the views of the East Midlands Synod or any of its officers or staff except where explicitly stated.

CCL1067405

Consecration of the Rt Revd Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman: photos by Alex Wilkinson courtesy of the Lutheran Church of Great Britain and by Geoffrey Clarke, Derek Graham & Graham Jennings.

Next edition: Thursday 8 February 2024

Please send all material for this E-Letter to both:
trainingpa@urc5.org.uk and training@urc5.org.uk

Copy deadline for next edition: 12 noon on **Monday 5 February 2024**

This email was sent to trainingpa@urc5.org.uk
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
URC EMS · 1 Edwards Lane · Sherwood · Nottingham, NG5 3AA · United Kingdom

