

Opening Reflection by the Revd Geoffrey Clarke East Midlands Synod Moderator

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

In one of my all-time favourite prayers, **Giles & Melville Harcourt** speak for many of us when they pray:

*God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down:
when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies grey and threatening:*

when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage.

(Short Prayers for the Long Day, compiled by Giles & Melville Harcourt, 1978)

The burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down. Certainly, ministry and church life can feel like a burden – heavy, weighty, worrisome. And, rather like that children's game, Buckaroo – in which players are challenged to stack as much as they can on to the mule until it starts kicking – many of us can be excused for concluding that, in the words of this prayer, *there are days* – and these current days are such days – *when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders, weigh us down* and that we are dangerously close to collapsing under their weight. Compliance, safeguarding, health and safety, financial commitments soaring through the roof... these and so much more are responsibilities so heavy we can feel utterly weighed down.

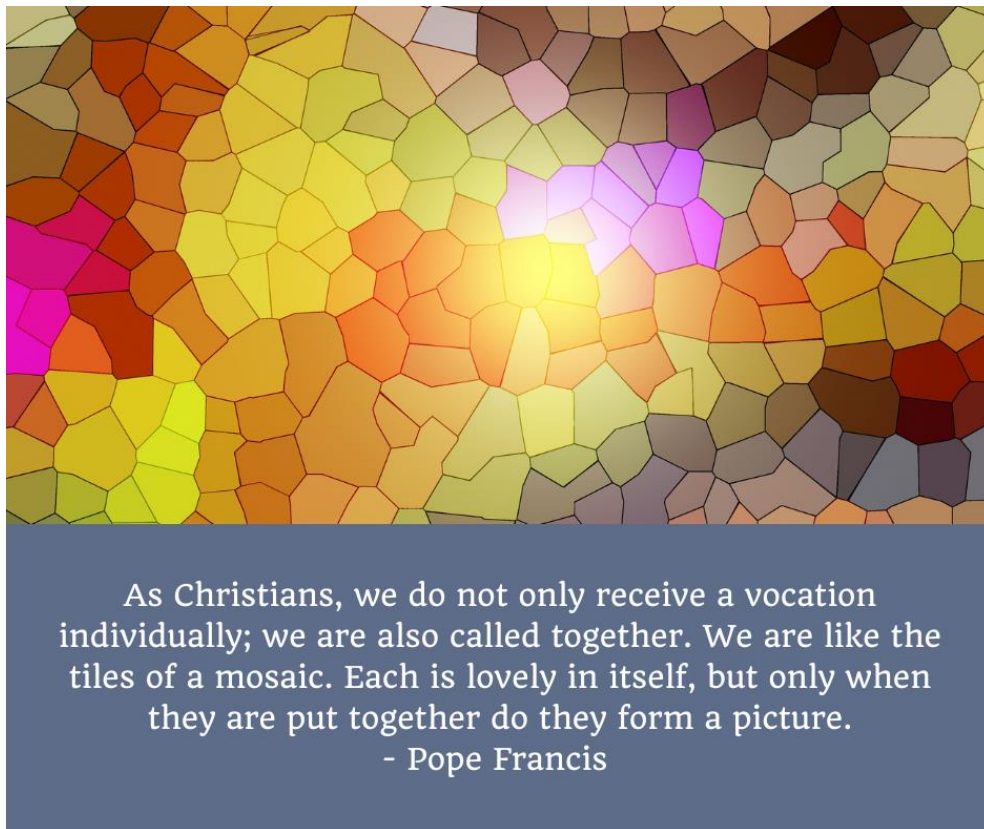
St Paul urges the members of the church at Galatia both to *bear one another's burdens* (v2) ... and to *carry their own loads* (v5). In short: to bear one another's burdens and also to take responsibility for their own.

A cursory search for words associated with "burden" results in a daunting list of challenges: anxiety, concern, difficulty, duty, hardship, load, onus, responsibility, strain, task, tax, trouble, worry, afflict, bother, depress, encumber, hamper, handicap, hinder. It doesn't matter whether "burden" is a noun or a verb: it is still heavy!

Beyond any impact that might be made by the most brilliant of sermons and the finest of words, people will be touched and blessed most as and when they see and know the followers of Christ to be committed to burden-bearing and load-carrying. All the more so as we all face the crushing burden of the eye-watering sums of money being demanded of us for heat and light. We may, some of us, find church to be a place where burdens are placed upon us but we must never become so self-absorbed as ministers, elders and members that we lose sight of our call to do what we can to assist others – within and without the walls of the church – to avoid being weighed down and crushed by the tough challenges of life.

These are tough times – a marathon rather than a leisurely stroll – but we are urged to bear the burdens *together*. Our Roman Catholic partners are currently engaged in a Synod process at the invitation of **Pope Francis** – reflecting on what the Church needs to become in these changed days. I conclude by sharing a

quote from Pope Francis that sits well with our own expectations of our own Synod family dispersed across East Midlands:



Visual created by Brenda Drumm of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. By courtesy of www.synod.ie

Around the East Midlands

Induction of the Revd Cecil White



L-R: **Revd Dr Gillian Poucher** (North Lincolnshire Area Minister), **Revd Cecil White**, **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** (East Midlands Synod Moderator), **Revd Louise Gee** (Interim Moderator). Photo courtesy of Ray Ricketts.

On Saturday 3 October, **Trinity United Reformed Church** in Lincoln hosted the Induction of the **Revd Cecil White** as Minister of the **North Lincolnshire Area**, with Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** presiding and preaching. The new Resource Area comprises **Trinity, Ermine, Gainsborough** and **Grimsby URCS** alongside **St Columba's Local Ecumenical Partnership**.

We warmly welcome Cecil into the East Midlands Synod and pray he will enjoy a fruitful and fulfilling ministry among us.

Ordination and Induction of the Revd Solomon Aryee-Brown



L-R: Revd Geoffrey Clarke (Synod Moderator), Revd Camilla Veitch (Synod Clerk), Alex Norris MP (Civic Representative), Revd Sally Martin (Interim Moderator), Revd Solomon Aryee-Brown, Revd Dr Rosalind Selby, Revd John Danso, Revd Andrew Mudharara and Revd Nigel Adkinson.

On Sunday 4 October, **Bulwell United Reformed Church** hosted the Ordination and Induction of the **Revd Solomon Aryee-Brown** as Minister of the **North Nottinghamshire Area Churches Partnership**. The Presiding Minister was the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**, Synod Moderator, with the sermon delivered by the **Revd Dr Rosalind Selby**, Principal of Northern College. The new Resource Area comprises **Bulwell, Hucknall, Sherwood, Arnold** and **Sutton-in-Ashfield URCS**.

We extend an equally warm welcome to Solomon, rejoicing in his Ordination, and praying that he too will enjoy a fruitful and fulfilling ministry here in the East Midlands.

Induction of the Revd Clare Davison

St Andrew's URC, Peterborough

Sunday 11 September 3.00pm

The Induction of the **Revd Clare Davison** as Minister of the **South Lincolnshire Resource Area** takes place at St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Peterborough this **Sunday, 11 September** at 3.00pm. The Resource Area comprises **Spalding URC, Wisbech URC and Eastgate URC, Bourne** with **St Andrew's** as the Resource Church.

All are welcome to attend. If you would like to stay for the reception it would assist the caterers to know numbers: please contact **Yvonne Laws** by emailing yvonnelaws.stamford@gmail.com .

Derby A2C Service of Celebration



L-R: Christine Lillie (Ashbourne Road Church), Revd Robert Bushby (Mission Development Officer), Ali Stacey-Chapman, Steve Summers (CRCW & SCM Development Worker), Revd Geoffrey Clarke (Synod Moderator) and Anne Lockett (Mackworth URC)

On Saturday 30 July, Mackworth URC hosted a **Service of Celebration** to bless the **A2C Church Related Community Work project** as it embarked upon its second 5-year term. **Ashbourne Road Church** and **Mackworth URC** are the Churches-in-Community and **Vicky Longbone** is the CRCW. The service was conducted by Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**, with **Miss Ali Stacey-Chapman** as preacher.

We pray for every success for Vicky and the two churches in this new phase of vital work in the community. For an example of her recent work, read on.

A voice for the voiceless

Of all the groups run by **Derby A2C**, perhaps the most exciting is the **School Holiday Food Project**. Started four years ago, this service runs three days a week in every school break, offering hot meals, breakfast parcels and a variety of activities to support families who are struggling with children at home full-time.



This summer the Project supported 25 families. As well as providing food parcels through its foodbank, it tries to ensure that every child gets a day out and will have something to write about should teachers ask them what they did in their summer holidays. This year, the Project laid on a coach trip to an animal sanctuary, with lunch and £5 spending money provided. After brushing the horses and taking the ferrets and llamas for a walk, the children enjoyed a couple of hours on the beach at Skegness beach – all paid for through the generosity of listeners to **BBC Radio Derby**.



Community Related Project Worker **Vicky Longbone** was initially asked to appear on **BBC News 24**, at one hour's notice, to discuss the work of the **Derby Food4Thought Alliance**. This led to an invitation from Radio Derby's Sunday breakfast show to outline the struggles of working families. She appeared again at her own request when news broke of the increase in the energy price cap, challenging the Prime Minister to try living in the "real world", where parents are already going without in order to keep their children fed.

She explained why taking families out for the day was so important – and within 24 hours, listeners raised £1000 to pay for the coach trip.

Vicky says:

"Whilst raising the money was fantastic, it's getting the voice of the voiceless out there that's most important. From people who have contacted me since being on the radio, many seem to live in a bubble, or think they've got it bad, without knowing how bad others have it. That this is often happening to low paid workers, not people on benefits, not people who abuse the system. I hear and see some horrendous situations through the foodbank and the general public need to know how bad it really is. I feel blessed that I was in the right place at the right time for this opportunity. I will not stop."

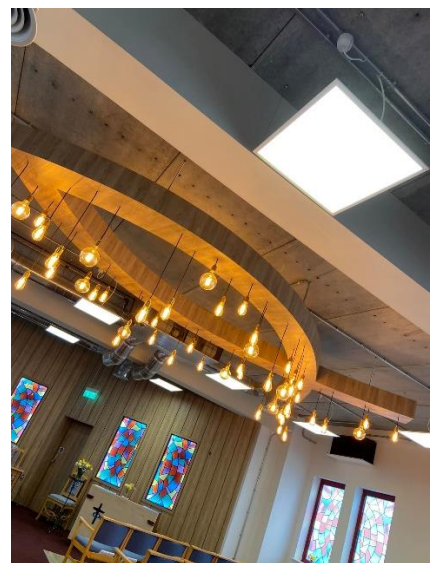
Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at Derby Central URC



On Saturday 3 September, **Derby Central URC** dedicated its brand-new building with a special Service of Thanksgiving. The service was led by **Jim Gould**, with the East Midlands Synod's Deputy Moderator the **Revd Jane Wade** also taking part.

The new **Stuart House** premises, in the city's Green Lane, feature a beautiful modern sanctuary whose many smart features include a stunning new light fitting forming an **Ichthys** symbol. The building also contains numerous other rooms where the inclusive and welcoming congregation offers such activities as Tuesday Tots, Friday Café and Fitness Fellowship and Fun. The church also continues to host among others the Brownies and Guides, Boys' Brigade and Derby's Street Pastors. We pray that the congregation will go from strength to strength in its new home.

L-R: **Christine Fielding** (Church Secretary), **Revd Jane Wade** (Deputy Moderator) and **Jim Gould** (Church Life & Management Convenor)



Synod Jubilee Celebration – last chance!

Saturday 10 September 10.00am-3.30pm
De Vere Jubilee Conference Centre, Nottingham



There's still time to register for the East Midlands Synod's **Jubilee Celebration** this Saturday (10 September) – but only just!

It's a feast of discovery and creativity for people of every age, with chances to take part in craftwork, music, poetry or drama. You can meet representatives of other faiths and sample their foods, enjoy a lakeside prayer trail, look to the future with A Rocha (the Eco Church People), run around daft in our Family Fun Zone or cool down in the Chill-Out Zone. And at the heart of it is a lively act of family worship, featuring music for everyone, short talks from Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** and the **Revd Fiona Bennett**, Moderator of General Assembly, Communion and a birthday cupcake for everybody.

It takes place in the lovely **De Vere Jubilee Conference Centre** in Nottingham and best of all, it's **free of charge**. But act quickly if you want to secure one of the final places: email jubilee@urc5.org.uk or send us the form on the Synod website no later than **noon on Friday** (9 September):

<https://urc5.org.uk/content/join-our-jubilee-celebration-saturday-10th-september-2022>



Illustration by Mark Beech

Invitation to Worship with Moderator of General Assembly

Following on from Saturday's celebration of the **URC's 50th Anniversary** in Nottingham, the **Revd Fiona Bennett**, Moderator of General Assembly will be leading worship at **Christ Church, Leicester** on **Sunday 11 September** at 10.45am.

This is a joint service for the **West Leicestershire Resource Area**, but a warm invitation is extended to members of all churches in the East Midlands Synod. All will be made very welcome at Christ Church URC. (Barbara Road, Rowley Fields, Leicester LE3 2EB).

Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration

Saturday 1 October 2.30pm
Central Hall, Westminster



Invitation to take part in the national Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration

If you have not already reserved your place for this commemorative event marking the 50th Jubilee of the United Reformed Church, tickets are still available: please visit www.bit.ly/urc50.

This will be preceded by a free **Open Day** at Church House, Tavistock Place (10.00am-1.00pm) and a Walk to Westminster, where the service will begin at 2.30pm at the **Methodist Central Hall**. For full details, see: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/>

Volunteers Wanted

There is an opportunity for those attending the service to help with serving **Communion** – many stewards are needed. If you are going and would like to volunteer, please email louise.ault@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.

The **National Synod of Scotland** informs us of the death of the **Revd Roderick MacFarlane**, on **Wednesday 13 July 2022**.

Roddy served at: Stewarton (1996-97); Fraserburgh (1997-2001); and Thornbury, Holy Trinity, Bradley Stoke and as Development Officer, Bristol District (2006-07). We hold Roddy's family and friends in our prayers.

The **West Midlands Synod** has informed us of the death of the **Revd John Donald Waller**, former East Midlands minister and a past Moderator of General Assembly, who died on **Saturday 16 July 2022**. His funeral was held on Tuesday 9 August at Hythe URC.

John served at: Richmond (1965-66); Bracknell (1966-72); Green Lane, Derby (1972-76); Derby Central (1976-77); Purley (1977-85); and as Moderator, West Midlands Province (1985-95); Deputy General Secretary (1995-2002); and Moderator, General Assembly (2002-03). He also served as temporary treasurer for Southern Synod. We hold John's wife and family in our prayers.

In our own Synod, it is with deep regret that we report the death of **Roy Dunkley**, on **Thursday 11 August 2022**. Roy has served for many years as Church Secretary, Church Treasurer and Children & Youth Elder at **Great Doddington United Reformed Church**. We hold all Roy's family and friends in our prayers.

The Mersey Synod informs us of the death of the **Revd Peter Beaman MBE**, on **Monday 15 August 2022**.

Peter served at Mill Hill, Blackburn (1962-69); Woolton, Liverpool (1974-77); and Oakvale, Liverpool (1969 - 2001). In 2021, Peter was awarded the Police and Crime Commissioner's award for his service as a volunteer for Merseyside's Independent Custody Visiting scheme, which he had chaired since its inception in 1984. He was previously awarded an MBE for voluntary service to the Merseyside community in the Queen's 2008 birthday honours list.

A **Celebration & Thanksgiving Service** for Peter's life will be held at Christ Church URC, Port Sunlight at 1.30pm on **Tuesday 13 September**. The service will be streamed online: for details, please call Mark Beaman on 07801 335 992. We hold Peter's wife and family in our prayers.

The Wessex Synod informs us of the death of the **Revd Richard Wiggins**, on **Sunday 28 August 2022**.

Richard served at: South Somerset Group (1981-85); Banbury (1985-2001); and Bernwode Forest Local Mission Partnership (2006-10). We hold Richard's wife and family in our prayers.

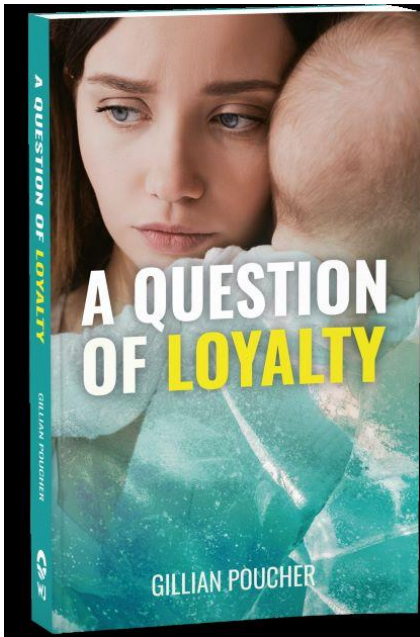
There will be a memorial service for the late **John Shaw** at Christ Church URC, Leicester on **Wednesday 28 September** at 11.00am, following his death on Thursday 27 January 2022.

John was an active preacher, known to many churches in Leicestershire and beyond, and was leader at Westcotes URC for several years up to the end of his life. He had previously served as an elder at Christ Church, and was a keen member of the Chantry Choir.

Change of Contact Details: please note

The **Revd Dr Gillian Poucher**, North Lincolnshire Area Minister, Pastoral Consultant for Lincolnshire and Convenor of Training & Development, asks us to note a change of telephone number. Her new number is: **01673 847847**.

Book Launch: A Question of Loyalty



Saturday 17 September 11.00am
Gainsborough United Reformed Church

Gillian Poucher will be holding the book launch for her new novel, 'A Question of Loyalty' at 11.00am on **Saturday 17 September** at Gainsborough URC, Church Street, Gainsborough DN21 2JR.

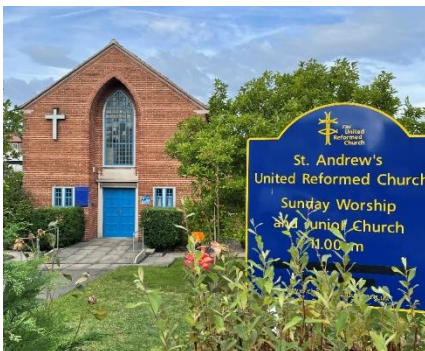
The book signing will be accompanied by readings and a question and answer session. Tea/coffee will be available.

'A Question of Loyalty', published by Onwards & Upwards Publishers, is now available to pre-order from online retailers and all good bookshops. The sale price at the book launch will be **£10** (cash only please).

Return of the Chesterfield Schools Art Exhibition

St Andrew's URC, Chesterfield
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October

St Andrew's United Reformed Church Chesterfield and **Chesterfield Rotary Club** are working together with local Secondary School art teachers to put on the fabulous **Schools Art Exhibition** once again. This comes after a three-year break due to the pandemic and will be held on **Saturday 8** and **Sunday 9 October**.



There will be new works of art to see and experience, from nine schools across Chesterfield. The mayor and civic leaders will attend the opening awards ceremony at 10.00am on the Saturday when certificates will be given to all the students presenting their work. On Sunday morning at 11.00am, St Andrew's will hold a *Songs of Praise* service celebrating the United Reformed Church's Jubilee.

The exhibition will be open from **10.00am – 4.00pm** on **Saturday 8 October** and **1.00pm – 4.00pm** on **Sunday 9 October**. St Andrew's URC can be found at 187 Newbold Road Chesterfield S41 7BE, with

plenty of roadside parking nearby. Everyone is welcome!

Spirit of the Jaguar: Talk & Slide Show

Wednesday 19 October 7.30pm
The Dales United Reformed Church, Nottingham



The Dales URC extends an invitation to attend **Spirit of the Jaguar**, a talk and slide show presented by **Anna-Louise Pickering** and featuring her photography alongside the paintings of wildlife artist **Pollyanna Pickering**. The talk takes place at the Dales URC, Parkdale Road, Nottingham NG3 7GL on Wednesday 19 October at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced £6 for adults, £2 for children, with all proceeds providing much-needed funds for Pollyanna's foundation for wildlife projects.

A Request from the URC Church Life Review Group



As we celebrate our 50th Jubilee, the **URC Church Life Review Group** would like to hear your perceptions by discussing the questions below. You may do so at any convenient gathering, and we encourage you to think about reflecting on the questions during worship on Sunday 30 October. Supporting worship material will be available via the **Daily Devotions** and **Worship Notes** accessed at www.urb.org.uk.

1. **The Jubilee year was a time of great joy. Reflect quietly on a time when you have felt most joyful in your church life.**
2. **The Jubilee year was a time of celebration. What would you like to celebrate about the United Reformed Church?**
3. **The Jubilee year was a time of liberation. Are there any church burdens that, if freed of, would liberate you to flourish?**
4. **The Jubilee year was a time of economic transformation and big dreams. If money was no object, what would you invest in to make your local church more effective?**

Responses are requested by **Monday 28 November**. Please upload your response to <https://tinyurl.com/URCJubilee> or email churchlifereview@urc.org.uk or send by post to: **Church Life Review**, 21 Crawford Gardens, Rutherglen G73 4JP.

Important: New Regulations on Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The Regulations regarding the fitting of **smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms** in rented property are changing as from Saturday 1 October. Please see the article below, received from one of our letting agents.

The **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (Amendment) Regulations 2022** will come into force on the 1st October 2022. From that date, all relevant Landlords must:

1. Ensure at least one smoke alarm is fitted on each storey of their homes where there is a room used as living accommodation. This has been a legal requirement in the private rented sector since 2015.
2. Ensure a carbon monoxide alarm is fitted in any room used as living accommodation which contains a fixed combustion appliance (excluding gas cookers).
3. Ensure smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are repaired or replaced once informed and found that they are faulty.

As we have a duty of care towards ministers and CRCWs living in manses, please make sure that manses under your care are fitted with the appropriate alarms **and that they are checked at least once a month!**

The cost of fitting these alarms is not significant, but in any event they could save lives. Please make sure that our ministers and CRCWs are living in safer properties by making sure these alarms are installed as soon as possible.

Geoff Milnes

Synod Property Officer

Funerals Workshop Day

led by **Revd Dr Rosalind Selby, Principal of Northern College**

Saturday 5 November 10.00am-3.30pm
at Hinckley United Reformed Church

Do you receive requests to take funerals in your church but don't always have an experienced celebrant available? Would you like to learn how to lead memorial services or discuss your practice with others?

We have joined forces with Northern College and the West Midlands Synod to offer a **Funerals Workshop Day**. Facilitated by **Revd Dr Rosalind Selby** of Northern College, the URC's Resource Centre for Learning in the north of England, this training opportunity takes place on **Saturday 5 November**. The Workshop Day will be hosted at **Hinckley URC**, which is well situated to reach by road or rail from both East and West Midlands.



The topics to be covered include all the basics, such as arranging an appropriate service, liaising with funeral directors and the different options available to families. Most importantly, it will also explore the grieving process, equipping you to provide sensitive pastoral care to the bereaved, to be prepared for any hard situations and not least, to take good care of yourself throughout.

The day is perfect for **Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders** who are sometimes called upon to lead a funeral, but all ministers, elders and church members who want to learn more about this important ministry are equally welcome to attend.

To register for the Funerals Workshop Day, simply email **Hannah Holmes**: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk.

75th Anniversary of the Church of South India

Sunday 25 September from 4.00pm
at Bishop Street Methodist Church, Leicester



Churches Together in Leicestershire



invite you to join in celebrating the

75th Anniversary of the Church of South India
at Bishop Street Methodist Church, Leicester on Sunday 25 September

4.00pm **Panel Discussion** – reflections on CSI and our links past and present
4.45pm **Light refreshments**
5.30pm **Celebration Service** – preacher **Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam**

Everyone welcome!

For more information, contact: jonathan.kerry@leicestercofe.org or vic.churchestogether@gmail.com

Legacies of Slavery: a Webinar from the Urban Theology Forum

Wednesday 28 September 4.00-5.30pm via Zoom



City Wires & Networks: How Christians Navigate Them

Join us by Zoom at 4-5.30pm on Wednesday: 28 September 2022 for a rich conversation between:

Lord David Blunkett, former MP for Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough;
Councilmember Kristerfer Burnett of Baltimore, Maryland (USA);
and **Rev Zaidie Orr**, Team Ministry member for the United Reformed Churches in Sheffield.

Our conversation will be moderated by the Rev. Dr Rob Hoch, UTU's Director of Theological Exploration.

Our topics will include questions arising from the legacies of slavery in the United States and United Kingdom. We will ask our guests to think with us about the challenges we face and “what works” – we intend to go beyond “diagnosis” to think about approaches that foster the kind of society where all peoples have an opportunity to flourish in work and life.

Visit us for more information (and the Zoom link) at [UTU's Public Forum for City Wires](https://www.utu.org.uk/public-forum-for-city-wires) or email at office@utusheffield.org.uk



Former Home Secretary **David Blunkett** and URC minister **Zaidie Orr** are among the panellists in an online conversation about the legacies of slavery on both sides of the Atlantic and how to address them in practical terms. The webinar is offered by **Urban Theology Union**. For further information and for the Zoom link please visit: <https://utusheffield.org.uk/2022/08/02/new-date-postponed-city-wires-and-networks-session/>

Introduction to Makaton for churches

Five dates available online from Wednesday 12 October

 **Introduction to Makaton for churches**

Help make church and children/youth work more accessible for all

URC Children's and Youth Work and Education and Learning are pleased to offer a free online introduction to Makaton, led by Makaton tutor Laura Netley. Learn how to support your communication with simple signs which will make your meaning clearer. Places are limited to fifteen but the session is repeated on five different occasions:

Wednesday 12 October 19:00 - 21:00
Saturday 5 November 9:00 - 11:00
Monday 7 November 9:30 - 11:30
Thursday 17 November 19:00 - 21:00
Monday 16 January 19:00 - 21:00

Book on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-makaton-tickets-394966865527>

URC **Children's and Youth Work** has teamed up with **Education and Learning** to provide online training for all in the United Reformed Church in **Makaton**. To further the URC's aim to encourage churches to become increasingly accessible and inclusive, the URC hopes to apply for **Makaton-Friendly** status from the Makaton charity.

Makaton is an easy-to-learn system of symbols and signs used alongside spoken language to aid communication. It's valuable not only for those with additional needs, but also very small children, children and adults with English as a second or foreign language, and many more. In a two-hour session you will learn the signs for some common words, including faith words, and hopefully be inspired to learn more.

Places are limited – 15 people per session – and the sessions are being offered on five different dates and times. See: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/makaton-sessions-tickets-394966865527> for details or else contact children.youth@urc.org.uk.

Youthscape Essentials: Course for Youth Leaders

Monday 12 September - Monday 14 November 7.00pm to 9.00pm via Zoom



**All-round training
for every volunteer
youth leader.**

Upcoming Course:

Monday 12 September to Monday 14 November
7pm to 9pm

Contact cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk for the zoom code

Youthscape Essentials is an innovative new course for volunteer youth leaders that increases your skills and confidence about work alongside young people – whether that’s running a community project, church youth group, or helping out from time to time on a Sunday morning.

The course will run from Monday 12 September to Monday 14 November from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Zoom.

Offered by **Mersey Synod**, the course comprises ten sessions covering 30 topics, divided into: Insights into Young People, Skills for Youth Work and Developing Character. You’ll listen to young people, learn from professionals, participate in practical exercises and take time to deepen your own faith. It makes no assumptions about your experience, age or background. It’s accessible to those starting out as volunteers, but deep enough to stretch those who have been working alongside young people for longer.

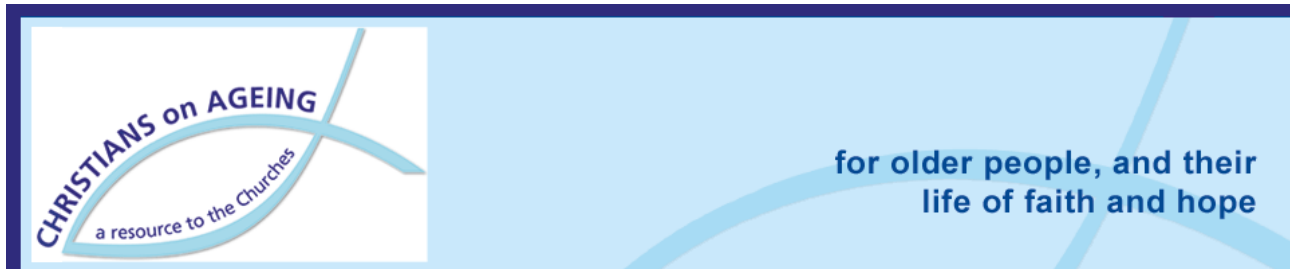
More information about the topics covered can be found at: <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse>

There is no cost to attending the course, but the participants’ handbook can be purchased at: <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/store/product/yse-handbook>

To book a place, please contact Steven Mitchell: cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk

Christians on Ageing Conference

Wednesday 21 September



Christians on Ageing holds annual Conference on **Wednesday 21 September**, entitled:
"Older people need the best: supporting faith and care"

Training for our ministry and work
Later life spiritual learning
Being a blessing to residents in care homes
Rights and quality of life in care homes

The Conference will include presentations by these well-known practitioners:

- **Dr Keith Albans**
Preparing faith leaders to work with older people
Keith has had long experience in the field including ministry as the Pastoral Director at Methodist Homes (MHA Group)
- **Dr Joanna Walker**
Older Christians and their later life spiritual learning
Joanna is an Educational Gerontologist and co-author Spiritual Dimensions of Ageing
- **Tina English**
Being a blessing to care home residents
Tina is Director of the charity Embracing Age, and author of A Great Place to Grow Old: Reimagining Ministry Among Older People
- **Marion Shoard**
Rights for care home residents
Marion is the author of How to Handle Later life. She will argue that the lives of older and disabled people living in care homes would be much enriched by greater attention to their existing human rights and the introduction of new ones.

The Conference is being held at: **Central URC**, 60 Norfolk St, Sheffield S1 2JB

You will be given a welcome at 10 am with refreshments and the day will conclude at 4 pm

The Conference fee is £30 (£25 for members) which will include preparatory papers and the conference report plus refreshments and a buffet lunch.

Booking is through Eventbrite. Click [here](#) to register and make payment:

You can ask for more information or enquire about other methods of payment by e-mailing:

info@coa.org.uk

Enquirers' Day



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.

Come and chat in person with those in ministry
and find out what God is calling you to!

Enquirers' Event

Saturday 1st October 2022

10am-1pm at Church House

Register your interest with ministries@urc.org.uk

East Africa Humanitarian Disaster

East Africa faces a humanitarian disaster – but it's not too late to act!

The heatwave that impacted several parts of the UK recently was a stark reminder to many that climate change is warming the world and creating, in some countries, huge problems.

In **Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia**, communities are experiencing the worst drought in 40 years with four consecutive failed rainy seasons, causing a hunger crisis for millions of vulnerable people. According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 18.4m people across the three countries are missing meals.

Yitna Tekaligne, Country Director for Christian Aid Ethiopia, warns “millions are taking desperate measures to survive in the face of failed harvests, livestock deaths, water shortages and extreme hunger.”

He adds: “The severe conditions are being made worse by the climate crisis, covid and now Russia’s invasion of Ukraine which has caused global food prices to rocket. A tough situation has now turned into a dire crisis.”

In response to this crisis, **Christian Aid** has just launched an emergency appeal for East Africa. The charity is working through local partners to respond in Ethiopia and Kenya. Together they are helping over 300,000 people by repairing wells, distributing water purification kits, providing cash support, and trucking water to drought affected communities as well as providing fodder and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive.

With money raised from the appeal, **Christian Aid** is also calling for the UK Government to speed up the delivery of funding that has already been promised to the region.

Karimi Kinoti, who is based in Kenya and is **Christian Aid’s interim Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns Director**, says, “The response to humanitarian needs in Ukraine has been remarkable. The UK Government must now live up to its moral responsibility and urgently act in that same spirit for East Africa. Every day that we delay will make it more difficult to avoid tragedy.

“Ministers must speed up the delivery of funding that has already been promised, reverse cuts to international aid and ensure all humanitarian and development funding supports local actors who are best placed to respond quickly.

“Longer term, we must tackle the impact of the climate crisis on global hunger by delivering on climate finance promises, including new money for loss and damage. By taking these steps, we ensure this crisis does not deteriorate into a catastrophe.”

To donate to the appeal, please visit www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/east-africa-hunger-crisis-appeal



*Adoko Hatoro Engang, 76, Dasenech, South Omo, Ethiopia, outside his temporary home
Credit: Christian Aid/Meseret Abiy*

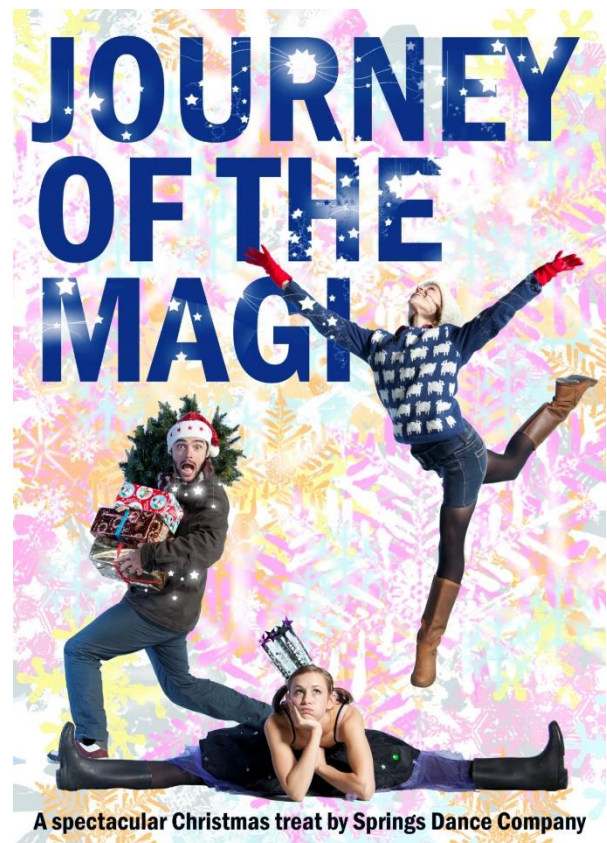
Journey of the Magi: a dance show for Advent 2022

Springs Dance Company invites churches to book a performance of **Journey of the Magi**: a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message.

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your church and local community through this exhilarating, critically acclaimed performance, inspired from T S Eliot's much loved poem. The show offers a bridge between contemporary life and Jesus's birth, comparing our own personal journey to Christmas day with the journey that the wise men took. With sparkle and songs to keep the children entertained and bags of good humour for the grown-ups, **Journey of the Magi** delights audiences of all ages.

"Absolutely fabulous show. Wonderful mix of fun, wit, and meaning. It made me laugh and it made me cry all in a couple of minutes."

Richard, Poynton Methodist Church



Journey of the Magi will be available nationally during Advent 2022. Further information can be found on the **Springs Dance Company** website page <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi/>, by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or by calling 07876 752 910.

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/>



YouTube

On our dedicated [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUjKn8XOGeZU5SgN95g), the Synod shares special events, training videos, worship resources and more. **Evening Prayers** are also uploaded here. Please subscribe:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUjKn8XOGeZU5SgN95g>

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.

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

Church life review Photo by [Rosie Sun](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Next edition: Thursday 22 September 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 19 September 2022**