

## Opening Reflection by Derek Graham Training and Development Officer

### Fruitful Ends and Fresh Beginnings



A new year – a moment to look forward. Like Skegness in the old railway poster, it's so bracing. Time to lever ourselves out of the warm bath of Christmas tradition and step out into the icy showers of January.

Christmas can be a bit backward-looking if we let it: 'tis the season to recreate childhood rituals, give another airing to old songs and old movies, bask in the cathode-ray glow of *The Snowman* or Morecambe and Wise. In church, too, there's a danger that our manger scenes descend into mere commemoration, cosily swaddled in Victorian verse. (How long, do you think, before our repertoire is joined by a carol that's Carolean?)

I let Christmas go reluctantly, clinging to the fairy lights all the way to Twelfth Night, the last holdout on the street. But even I had to pull the tree down in the end.

Over the twelve days of Christmas, two much more significant trees also came down. First to fall was the "[Hardy tree](#)", a treasured landmark in Old St Pancras churchyard. Back in the 1860s an apprentice architect, charged with disinterring the graves to make way for the railway lines into King's Cross and St Pancras stations, decided to stand the discarded gravestones in serried rings around the trunk of an ash. The architect was **Thomas Hardy**, future novelist, and the striking image he fashioned of life emerging from death endured until this Christmas past.



Then, a few days after the demise of the Hardy tree, down came the venerable [wych elm](#) – thought to be Europe's oldest – that had guarded the gateway to **Beaulieu Priory** in Inverness-shire for a staggering 800 years, witness to centuries of human history.

In the Bible and elsewhere, trees are often metaphors for fruitfulness and longevity, flourishing well beyond the bounds of a human lifespan. Planting a tree is an act of faith in the future. We do it for our children's children. So when a beloved old tree crashes to earth, it tells an uncomfortable truth: even these symbols of permanence are not immune to death. Dear ones and dynasties, places and institutions (up to and including churches,

denominations and nations) – all are finite. However much we might love them, however much we might define ourselves by them, someday they must end.

Perhaps that's why the Hardy tree and the Beaulieu elm have been so lamented. Knowing their tree's days to be numbered, the villagers of Beaulieu last year held a festival in its honour and memorialised it in a stunning [3D scan](#). They can look back in style.

But a case from the East Midlands points to a healthier perspective: look ahead, and every end is a beginning. In Bramcote Hills Park, pride of place was long held by a glorious beech, over two centuries old – a living link to the long-gone mansion whose estate this once was. I used to admire it every day as I wheeled my children to nursery. Then, one blustery morning in 2012, its mighty trunk lay flat on the grass.

However, the park keepers had anticipated this, building an enclosure carefully calibrated to contain its fall. And it has lain within ever since, resplendent in its natural afterlife as a haven of biodiversity. Even the owl and squirrel which were carved by chainsaw into its broken limbs are weathering away now, but the decaying trunk remains a thriving hub of new growth and wildlife, surrounded by native plants and flowers. Better even than Hardy's ash, Bramcote's beech has become an emblem of death and rebirth.



This is God's way of working. Sometimes it means we have to let go of something we cherish if something new is to flourish in its place; at the very least, to prune and to pollard as well as to plant. Bracingly, that might apply to our lives and our churches as well as our parks and gardens. God is forever making things new – and in the process transforming broken people into “oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3).

Even Christmas can point us forward if we let it. The myrrh of Epiphany is a foretaste of Good Friday, when for our sake Christ, “the shoot of the stump of Jesse”, will himself hang on a tree. Then onward to Easter Day, when he will break death's hold on us in the miracle of resurrection. Then we can claim our places in the one Kingdom that never ends.

So: out with the old year. In with the new. What planting and what uprooting will we do in 2023, so that God may work new wonders?

## URC Ministry Enquirers' Event



What is God  
asking of  
YOU?

**Saturday 11 February 2023**  
**10am-3pm online**



An 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.

Please register with [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) to receive Zoom details.

## Around the East Midlands

### Ordination Anniversary Celebrations for Revd John Reardon



East Midlands Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** was among those who joined the congregation at **Newport Pagnell URC** to celebrate the **Revd John Reardon's 60<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary**. The congregation also included members of John and Molly's family, members of West End United Church and representatives of Trinity, St Alban's (where John ministered and lived during his Church House and Council of Churches in Britain & Ireland days).

The service was conducted by Newport Pagnell and West End minister the **Revd Jo Clare-Young** with the Moderator as preacher. During the service John was presented with his 60<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary certificate and John and Molly received a gift and flowers from the church. Lunch followed in the Mead Centre and included a **celebration cake**, duly cut by John and Molly, and a further gift of a framed copy of a newspaper from the date of John's Ordination: 12 December 1962.



John's Year Book entry states that his ministry began in 1961, a year before his ordination. This was due, he explained, to having to sit and pass a final exam before Ordination a year after commencing in ministry. The congregation, therefore, celebrated **sixty-one years of ministry**. John and Molly's partnership preceded his ministry so throughout she has been his support. John paid tribute to Newport Pagnell church members for the welcome and support extended to him and Molly throughout their 23 years living there in retirement.

John's local church ministries were at Horsham (1961-68) and Trinity, St Alban's (1968-72); at Church House as the United Reformed Church's first Departmental Secretary for Church and Society (1972-90); and as Deputy General Secretary (1983-90). The denomination's respect and affection for John was reflected in his election to serve as Moderator of General Assembly (1995-96) and his ecumenical conviction was recognised in his appointment as General Secretary of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (1990-99).

Also present in the congregation was another of the Synod's retired ministers, the **Revd John Chisholm**, who worships at Newport Pagnell. John served in Japan before training for ministry. His local church ministries were at Grange, Bebington and St George's, Hemel Hempstead.

## On the Death of His Holiness, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Following the death of His Holiness, **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**, the **Revd Dr John Bradbury**, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church said:

“The papacy has been one of the causes of deep division within the western churches but the fruits of the ecumenical movement are many. Today we mourn the loss of a baptised brother in Christ.

We lament the remaining divisions between the churches as we respond to Christ’s call to seek unity. We also celebrate moments when the Bishop of Rome speaks with a voice on the world stage out of our common faith for justice, peace, and the flourishing of all creation. In such moments we catch a glimpse of what it means that the Bishop of Rome is a focus of unity of the whole Church.

We give thanks for the faithful way **Benedict XVI** exercised that ministry and uphold all who mourn him in our prayers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory”.

Further reflection and prayer from the URC on the death of Benedict XVI can be found at:

<https://urc.org.uk/urc-gives-thanks-for-the-ministry-of-pope-emeritus-benedict-xvi/>

## Exploring Membership: Helpful Resources

Are you helping someone prepare to join your church, or learn more about what membership means?

A list of resources which may be useful is now available on the East Midlands Synod website at:

<https://urc5.org.uk/content/exploring-membership-helpful-resources>

These range from the short pamphlet [Join the Family](#) to a [five-session course](#) based on the URC’s **Statement of Nature, Faith and Order** – and more besides. Whether the person considering membership is a young person who has grown up in the church, an adult coming to faith later in life or someone coming into the URC from a different faith tradition, you should find something appropriate among these resources.



## 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.

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The **Thames North Synod** brings us the news of the death of the **Revd (George) Derek Gill** on Tuesday 20 December 2022, at the age of 90 years. He served in: Malaya (1960-65); Plymouth (1965-73), St Andrew's, Southampton (1973-79); St John's, Kenton (1979-89) and Princes Street, Norwich (1989-97) before retiring to Harpenden. Derek's funeral will be held on Thursday 19 January at 12:30pm at St Nicholas' Church of England in Harpenden. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

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The **Southern Synod** brings us the news of the death, on Friday 23 December 2022, of **Kay McIntosh**. Kay is thought to have been the last recognised Deaconess within the United Reformed Church, and was also the widow of the **Revd Peter McIntosh**, former Moderator of General Assembly. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

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The **Northern Synod** brings us news of the death of the **Revd Alan Smith**, formerly of our own Synod, on Tuesday 3 January 2023. Alan served in the North Nottingham Group from 1985-77, then at Sedbergh and Dent (1987-97), and in retirement was a member at Waddington Street URC, Durham. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alan's family and friends.

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At **East Midlands Synod** we are also sorry to announce the death of the **Revd Betty Chadwick**, our retired Non-Stipendiary Minister, on Tuesday 3 January 2023. Betty served Nottingham District (1992) and Long Eaton (1992-2003). She also served on the Ministries Group for East Midlands Synod. Our thoughts and prayers are with Betty's family at this time. Funeral arrangements will be available from the Synod office once known.

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Following the news from **East Midlands Synod** of the death of the **Revd Douglas Watson**, we now share with you his funeral details. Doug's funeral is to be held on 18 January 2023 at 10.30am at St Helen's Church, Burton Joyce, followed by cremation at Gedling Crematorium at 12 noon (everyone invited). There will be a procession led by a piper, going from Doug's home to St Helen's. We continue to hold Doug's family and friends in prayer.

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## Discipleship Development Fund: Applications Welcome

What initiatives are you or your church adopting to develop discipleship in 2023? Support is available through the **Discipleship Development Fund**: up to **£5000 pa** for churches and groups nationally through the Large Grant scheme, or Small Grants of up to **£200** for individuals and local churches through the Synod.



This short video highlights what it's all about:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQ8ODOW3rA0>

Grants can be put towards any purpose that will contribute to the discipleship development of lay people in or connected with the URC. Around £5,000 per award per year is available to recognised groups within the URC which can apply to the Discipleship Development Fund: Large Grant scheme. Multi-year projects can be supported for up to three years and a tapered approach to funding is encouraged. Read about it here on the URC website: <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/developing-your-faith/discipleship-development-fund/>

For smaller projects, the **Small Grants** scheme offers one-off grants of up to £200, available to individual church members as well as to local churches. For details or to apply, please email [training@urc5.org.uk](mailto:training@urc5.org.uk).

## Pioneering Parishes: Starting Out – Four Session Webinar

**CMS and the South Central Regional Training Partnership** bring a series of four fortnightly webinars entitled **Starting Out** to help parishes start to move their energy outwards, becoming more pioneering and network with others. The four evening webinars are presented by **Tina Hodgett and Greg Bakker**.

The webinars will run fortnightly on the following Monday evenings, from 7.30-9.00pm:

- 16 January
- 30 January
- 13 February
- 27 February



### Who's it for?

Elders, PCC members, ministers, parish clergy, people exploring a pioneer call... anyone searching for tools to help them shift the energy of the parish outwards beyond the church walls.

### How much does it cost?

The basic cost is a total fee of £10 for all four sessions (£2.50 each). If you bring a team from your church the maximum you need to pay is £50, any additional participants are free.

For more information or to book visit: [Eventbrite- Pioneering churches](#)

# Conference for Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders

The Kingdom of God as Holy Anarchy?  
Friday 24th – Saturday 25th February 2023

Northern College bring news of their **Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Conference**, inspired this year by the new book [Holy Anarchy](#) by [Revd Dr Graham Adams](#), their mission tutor, who will be the springboard to explore topics related to worship and preaching. The book includes new hymns and worship resources, but also offers prompts to engage creatively with the challenge of God's kingdom, by looking at:



- **preaching the kingdom**
- **a spirituality of play**
- **conflicts within scripture**
- **the challenge of suffering**
- **community & society**
- **creation-care**

The College offers residential and non-residential booking options to join in with this two-day conference. Places are limited and availability will be offered on a first-come basis when booking. The conference will take place at **Luther King House in Manchester**, with a cost of £147.50 (residential) and £85 (non-residential). Additional bednights can be booked on request at an additional charge.

A PDF flier for this event that you can print/e-mail is also available by downloading [here](#).

To book a place (and for further information) please complete Northern College's [Event Registration Form](#) and return to [paul.barrett@lutherking.ac.uk](mailto:paul.barrett@lutherking.ac.uk)

Grants are available to all accredited Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders in the East Midlands Synod to enable them to participate in this and similar events: please email [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk) for details.

# Rural Ministry Course

The Arthur Rank Centre  
Tuesday 25 – Wednesday 26 April 2023

The Arthur Rank Centre's **Rural Ministry Course** is designed for lay and ordained church leaders across the denominations entering a rural appointment, and those already in rural ministry who feel the need for a 'refresher'.



Next running from Tuesday 25 to Wednesday 26 April, the two-day programme employs a variety of approaches including practical sessions, group work and workshops led by practitioners, and includes

sessions on understanding rural contexts, mission and growth, leadership, farming and work with children and young people in the countryside.

The Rural Ministry Course continues to develop and offer a unique rural, ecumenical focus which the Arthur Rank Centre is well-known for. All are welcome to book on & join in, whether involved in lay or ordained rural mission and ministry.

For more details and to book please click: [Rural Ministry Course - The Arthur Rank Centre](#)

## Reminders of Other Forthcoming Events

### URC Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration New date: Saturday 15 April 2023



On **Saturday 15 April 2023**, the new date after the rail strikes affected us in October 2022, join us in London to give thanks and to celebrate the URC's 50 years.

From 10.00am-12.00noon at United Reformed Church House at 86 Tavistock Place, London, an **Open Church House** event will be held, with dozens of activities and crafts related to the jubilee including: a Living Library, our Mersey Synod with LICC/LYCIG, Free-to-Believe, GEAR, the URC History Society and Westminster College Cambridge, a Prayer Labyrinth, an Enquirers' Conference, Greenbelt, a cafe, Christian Aid, Roots for Churches, Single-Friendly Church, The Trussell Trust, an exhibition from the archives, Church Related Community Workers offering activities around Café Church, community work and engagement, many staff teams offering conversations and discussion activities, Fresh Expressions plant-based activities and reflections, badge-making and craft activities, a puppet show, an exhibition of Reform magazine's 50 years, the URC Bookshop and more.

Between Church House and Methodist Central Hall there will be a **Walk to Westminster** with self-guided tours for all ages packed with buildings of interest to the Church and things to find for younger walkers.



At **Methodist Central Hall**, Westminster, London, from 2.30pm, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a service will take place to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church.

## Tickets

Tickets for all of these events are free. Please book them now to avoid disappointment at <https://bit.ly/urc50>. Once booked, you will receive an email from Eventbrite which you must bring on the day - either printed out or on the Eventbrite app - to gain admission to the venues.

If you already booked for the original date and are able to come to the event on April 15, please do nothing - your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order. If you are no longer able to attend, please email <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others. Or email [50@urc.org.uk](mailto:50@urc.org.uk) and we can cancel the order for you. Use the same [email address](#) for any other queries.

## Get more closely involved

If you would like to sing in the Anniversary Choir, you can find out more details and the dates of the rehearsals by visiting <https://bit.ly/urc50-choir>. If you are willing to volunteer as a Steward at the service, please email [50@urc.org.uk](mailto:50@urc.org.uk).

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## Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Northern College, Thursday 2 February – Friday 3 February

Youth Mental Health First Aid training for people living, working and volunteering with young people:

**Youth  
Mental Health First Aid**

Learn to support young people

- Gain an in-depth understanding of mental health and factors that can affect wellbeing in the youth sector
- Develop practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Feel confident to step in, reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhance your interpersonal skills such as non-judgmental listening and learn to champion self-care

For more info and to book, contact:

 Children's & Youth Development Officers  
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell [cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk)  
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett [cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk)

Subsidised places available  
Book via the link below

[www.bit.ly/february-mhfa](https://www.bit.ly/february-mhfa)  
2 Feb - 3 Feb 2023  
Northern College,  
Manchester M14 5JP



# Resources from URC Children's & Youth Work

## Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

In June 2021 the URC General Assembly received a report and passed ten resolutions in response to the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.



URC Children's and Youth Work and URC Commitment for Life (who partner with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now) have produced a two-part booklet for 5-11s and 11-14s to help them get a glimpse into the background and life for children and young people in that region and to explain the URC's stance.

Consisting of five sessions each for children and young people and an intergenerational celebration, the booklets include discussions, recipes, games, activities,

action points, prayers and Bible links as well as pointers to other resources to help groups and individuals learn more.

To download a copy, visit:

<https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people/children-youth-work/go-with-greta-and-connect/> or contact either [suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk) or [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) to request a hard copy.

## Love is.... All-age resource book

The URC Children's and Youth Work theme for this year is 'Love is....' and to help you explore it, contributors from around the URC have worked to produce a booklet of prayers, discussions, activities, worship ideas, puzzles and more which can be used by anyone engaging with babies, children, young people and young adults and beyond.

A copy will be sent to every URC named Children's and Youth Work contact or Church Secretary next month (February). It should also be available online as a digital download from February. If you don't receive your copy and think you should, or would like a digital file sent straight to your inbox, please contact [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk).



## Electrical Tests in Churches and Manses

East Midlands Synod Property Officer, **Geoff Milnes** shares the following with us:

“A church asked me recently about the need for electrical tests in Churches and Manses, though the specific question was about **PAT** (Portable Appliance Test) testing. The position is this:

1. **PAT testing** must be carried out ANNUALLY. This will involve things like kettles, toasters, church laptops and computers, printers, shredders, phone chargers, and the like. It must include personal electrical items if they are used on the premises – if someone unknowingly brings a faulty electrical device to church and plugs it into the church electrics, it could cause damage to the church’s electrical circuits, and possible even cause a fire.
2. Manses should have their fixed wiring/electrical circuits tested at no more than TEN year intervals.
3. Churches **MUST** (it is a legal requirement) have their fixed wiring/electrical circuits tested every FIVE years.

As an aside, all Church buildings and Manses must have smoke alarms fitted on each floor, ideally on hallway and landing ceilings. Don’t put them in kitchens or bathrooms as the smoke from burning toast or steam from showers etc can set them off. Alarms should be tested every month, and batteries replaced annually or when the alarm starts to ‘bleep’.

Carbon Monoxide detectors must be installed/placed next to any fossil fuel burning appliance e.g. gas and oil boilers, gas fires. Carbon Monoxide is produced when fuel is not burnt properly and is an indicator that the appliance is faulty. It is a lethal gas that cannot be smelt or seen and is known as the ‘silent killer’ as it gets into the lungs and stops them working properly. If your lungs don’t work.....

Please make sure that our Churches and Manses are as safe as we can make them.”

## Situations Vacant

### Sector Minister – Director of MK Christian Foundation

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.



**Salary Package:** £43,000 plus pension. The deadline for applications is 12.00noon on 27 January 2023. For an application pack please go to <https://mkchristianfoundation.co.uk/jobs/>.



## East Midlands Synod Clerk

Applications are welcome for the role of **EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD CLERK**.

The Synod Council is looking to recruit a new Synod Clerk in a voluntary capacity for, on average, 15-20 hrs per week. The role holder is required to spend time in the Synod office in Nottingham but will be mainly home based with travel across the geography of the EM Synod.

Applications are welcome from URC elders, members, retired ministers and ministers, including non-stipendiary ministers.

The role of the Synod Clerk in the East Midlands Synod has four principal elements:

- To serve as Clerk to the Synod and Synod Council
- To be responsible for enabling Synod engagement with General Assembly
- To provide advice, guidance and support on the structure, governance and procedures of the United Reformed Church
- To serve as one of the Synod Officers alongside the Moderator and Treasurer.

The role description, person specification and application forms are available from Mrs C Willis at the Synod office. To arrange an informal discussion with the Moderator and/or current Clerk please contact the EM Synod Office [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk) or 0115 960 9241

Closing date for applications: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Hope into Action – Church and Tenant Empowerment Worker



Do you have a passion for the homeless and the local church?

Can you empower, develop and support church members working with tenants?

Do you want to make a real difference in people's lives?

If that's you, we would love to hear from you.

**Church and Tenant Empowerment Worker**

**Key Information**

Based in Hinckley  
8 hours per week  
£23,701.33 pro rata  
(£4,740.27 per annum)

**Closing date:** 30th Jan 2023  
**Interviews:** 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023

**More details:**

[www.coventry.hopeintoaction.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.coventry.hopeintoaction.org.uk/vacancies)

Contact Adèle Harris:  
[Adele.Harris@hopeintoaction.org.uk](mailto:Adele.Harris@hopeintoaction.org.uk)  
07305925777

This is a readvertisement - previous applicants need not reapply.



## **Mission Development Officer East Midlands Synod**

The East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church is seeking to appoint a  
**Mission Development Officer (Ref MDO)**

This is a full-time post for 37.5 hours/week  
(including evening and weekends) on a permanent contract.

Salary: £40,000 per annum for a lay person or a minister from outside the URC. A URC minister will receive the current ministerial stipend, a manse and related benefits in accordance with the Plan for Partnership.

This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

The purpose of this role is to help equip churches in their missional discipleship and growth and to facilitate the sharing of good news, practice and opportunities across the Synod and beyond, holding the whole-of-life discipleship ethos of Walking the Way at the heart of their work.

The successful candidate will work to promote, encourage and undertake the promotion of mission to the whole people of God to facilitate the development of the life of the church at all levels by helping churches to identify and understand their particular priorities in mission and, to develop and release people to engage in that mission.

The Officer appointed will be a member of a collaborative Synod team and therefore good team working skills are essential.

For an application pack (no CVs) please contact:

Mrs Chris Willis  
East Midlands Synod Office  
1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood  
Nottingham, NG5 3AA  
Tel: 0115 9609241  
Email: [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Interviews to be held: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

*In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian*

We are committed to diversity and equality of opportunity. We especially welcome applications from women and Black and Minority Ethnic Groups who are currently under-represented in this area of work in the Church.

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## Synod Safeguarding Officer East Midlands Synod

The East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church is seeking to appoint a **Synod Safeguarding Officer** (Ref SSO). This is a part-time post for 17.5 hours per week (including evening and weekends) on a permanent contract. Salary is £38,239 pro-rata (actual salary £17,845). This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

Safeguarding children and adults at risk is a core part of the Church's mission, and the Synod Safe-guarding Officer is essential to promoting that mission. Working within the structures of the United Reformed Church, their role is:

1. To lead on safeguarding matters and be a trusted advocate for safeguarding in the Synod.
2. To advise and support the synod and local Churches in child and adult protection matters.
3. To ensure that disclosures and allegations of harm, abuse or neglect are appropriately referred to the statutory authorities and that appropriate advice and support is given to survivors of abuse
4. To manage safeguarding cases including liaison with other relevant agencies and services such as the police, children, probation and adult social care services
5. To ensure regular safeguarding training for ministers, workers and those responsible for the care of children and/or adults at risk in the synod and the local churches
6. To keep accurate records, data and information and produce relevant reports.
7. To keep abreast of developments in safeguarding within and outside the URC and maintain appropriate links

For an application pack (no CVs) please contact:

Mrs Chris Willis, East Midlands Synod Office

1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood Nottingham, NG5 3AA

Tel: 0115 9609241 Email: [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: 28th February 2023 Interviews to be held: 30th March 2023

## 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/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 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

CCL1067405

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***Next edition: Thursday 26 January 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 23 January 2023**