

Opening Reflection by the Revd Geoffrey Clarke

Moderator of the East Midlands Synod

Breaking Free

Were he still alive **Freddie Mercury** would be celebrating his 75th birthday on Sunday (5 September). Given the breadth of music tastes embodied by the readers of this E-Letter I am not assuming that everyone will recognise the name. Mercury was the lead vocalist for the band **Queen**, whose distinctive music delighted many of us from their 1973 debut album onwards. From among the many titles that I could have chosen, *I want to break free ... Oh how I want to be free* is playing in my mind as I write this letter.



The desire to *be free* features prominently at the moment: images of people desperate to break free from the oppression of the Taliban after its conquest of Afghanistan, crowding the airport at Kabul and taking huge risks in order to be among those flown out of a country in which they no longer feel at home or safe. In particular, women and children, who have for the past two decades tasted greater freedom to play their part in society, appear now to be destined to have such freedoms denied. *Oh how I want to be free.*

What it means to *be free* is likely to differ from person to person. But most if not all of us might well long for the chance to be free from being forced to do another's bidding; free from responsibility or expectation; free from what or who holds us back; free from pain and distress ...

One of Cranmer's prayers, known as The Collect for Peace, suggests that it is in *service* that we find freedom:

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom...

(Book of Common Prayer, liturgy for Matins)

Cranmer's assertion, at first glance, is counter-cultural. Service can feel like being compelled to do what we might otherwise not choose to do but at the heart of our faith is the invitation to take up our cross and follow the Crucified One, who came *not to be served but to serve*.

As we ponder the images from Afghanistan and perhaps hear Mercury's lyrics, *I want to break free*, may we be advocates for hospitality for the refugee and offer our prayer that all may know perfect freedom. Service and prayer.

I commend a couple of prayers. The first is by the former Secretary for Church and Society, **Grace Pengelly-Beckett**: her Prayer for Afghanistan:

*For those who are fleeing: sanctuary.
For those who are staying: safety.
For those who are fighting: peace.
For those whose hearts are breaking: comfort.
For those who see no future: hope.*

And with his characteristic honesty and clarity, **Thom M. Shuman** writes:

*God, where are you?
Afghanistan has gone beyond falling apart,
as groups seem to be having contests
to see who can hate better and kill more,
and you seem to be found nowhere
when we are looking for you to take our side
in blaming this politician or that one,
in picking sides based on criticism
rather than compassion for those
who can't even find a middle to be caught in.*

God, where are you?

*... God, where are you,
when we want quick responses,
simple answers, solutions which cost us nothing?
And the answer is what it has always been . . .
you are doing your best (through us)
to protect the vulnerable in crumbling nations,
you are speaking before school boards
and working in overwhelmed hospitals (through us),
you are filling sandbags, boarding up stores,
driving folks to safety, opening up shelters,
stockpiling food and water and meds (through us)
for those who will need them most
and if we would just stop digging in our heels
and holding our breath until we turn blue
waiting for you to answer the age-old question
where are you, God?
you might be able to use us
as you always hope you can.*

This Sunday: Join the Nations' Climate Sunday Service

Sunday 5 September – watch live from 3.30pm



This weekend, you are invited to join in live from **Glasgow Cathedral**, as the **Nations' Climate Sunday Service** marks the culmination of the Climate Sunday services already held this year by over 1600 churches in Britain and Ireland.

Taking place at the heart of the city where the critical COP26 UN Climate Talks will take place this November, this is an opportunity to join in worship, share our commitments and challenge government to take action. If you've been part of Climate Sunday so far, it's a great chance to celebrate how your contributions are part of the bigger picture. **Please register** to join in the service online now by visiting: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nations-climate-sunday-service-churches-prepare-for-cop-26-tickets-165258230817>

Have you held a **Climate Sunday** service this year? Make sure you register your service on the [Climate Sunday website](#) by Sunday 5 September, so that your contribution is included in the presentation to the UK Government at our **Nations' Service**. Even if you haven't held your service by then, please say what you are planning, because there will be another presentation of all the climate services at COP26.



Creation Time Begins



Each year, 1 September – 4 October is celebrated in churches across the world as the 'Season of Creation' or 'Creation Time' or 'Creationtide'.

During this time, could you or your church focus for one Sunday service (if not more) on celebrating the Creator and considering again our calling to care for Creation?

All manner of resources are available online, including prayers, sermon outlines, all-age activities, videos and more. Visit jointpublicissues.org.uk/creation for full details.

Support the YCCN Relay - in the East Midlands This Week

The **YCCN Relay** is passing through the East Midlands Synod the same week that this e-letter is published.

The **Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN)** has come together with local churches and Christian Aid to mobilise people across the country to highlight the effects of climate change on the world's poorest communities. The walk – called the **Relay to COP26** - began in Cornwall in June, where the G7 Summit took place, and will finish at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in November.

YCCN invite people of **all ages** to get involved – young, old or in between – to help them campaign for systemic change on a local and global scale.



- Monday 30 August: the walkers crossed from the West to East Midlands and arrived in **Melbourne**.
- Tuesday 31 August: the route continued from Melbourne to **Aston on Trent**.
- Wednesday 1 September: the pilgrims progressed as far as Attenborough Nature Reserve, **Nottingham**.
- Thursday 2 September: joined by a “tributary” relay which has walked from Norfolk to Nottingham, today’s walkers take a route through the western parts of the city to **Hucknall**.
- Friday 3 September: East Midlands Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** joins the Relay as it continues from Hucknall to **Huthwaite**.
- Saturday 4 September: from Huthwaite, the walkers march along the five pits trail to **Chesterfield**, where **St Andrew’s United Reformed Church** is closely involved in the hospitality they will receive (see below).
- Sunday 5 September: Setting out refreshed from Chesterfield, the Relay heads through the Peaks toward **Sheffield** and ultimately on to Glasgow, arriving just in time for the start of the COP26 climate talks.

It is still possible to join the walkers for one or more of their daily stages, to help welcome them at one of their overnight stops or to cheer them on along the way. Find out how you can lend support at <https://www.yccn.uk/> .

Three of the pilgrims – **Joshua, Ruth and Patrick** – appeared on **BBC Radio Nottingham** on Sunday morning to discuss the Relay’s progress through this region and how their Christian faith had motivated them to act on climate change. To listen to the interview on BBC Radio Nottingham: visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09s9rt2> and move the slider to begin 1 hour 20 minutes into the programme.

Joining the YCCN Relay

Graham Ghaleb, Convenor of the Synod's JPIC Group, shares his account of marching alongside the Relay in one of its earlier stages:

“In years to come, we want to be able to look back and say ‘we did not sit at home while unjust decisions were made on our doorstep; we set sail towards a just future.’ ”

It was in response to this call to action made by the **Young Christian Climate Network** that I determined to express my solidarity for their aims and aspirations by joining them on the relay leg between **Hemel Hempstead** and **Tring**. The walk was relatively easy, just under 10 miles along the Grand Union Canal, and the weather was fine, a mixture of sunshine and light showers, at a time when parts of the world were suffocating under record temperatures and destructive wildfires, while others were seeing lives lost as well as houses and buildings and property washed away in devastating floods. The daily pictures on our television screens were a powerful reminder of why we were walking and the sense that inaction is no longer an option.



The day's YCCN walkers set out from Hemel Hempstead



The walkers take a lunch break at Berkhamsted Castle

The walk may have been an act of solidarity, but like all good pilgrimages it was also an opportunity to meet others and to hear their stories, to find out what they were doing for climate justice. I was inspired to hear about the work of two [Friends of the Earth](#) lawyers, one working on further legal challenges to the proposed coal mine in the north-east of England and preparing arguments to oppose the Cambo oil field to the west of Shetland; the other working with indigenous peoples around the world where their livelihoods and very existence were under threat as a result of climate change. Equally inspiring was the young woman running a small charity which works with street children in Guatemala, offering them education, support

and a way out of poverty. I also heard the story of a church that as part of its [EcoChurch](#) journey had placed hives in its churchyard and maintains meadow grass with its associated flowers and seeds to support wildlife. And I heard how others, through their church or as a result of their own particular concerns, were working in their own way to create a safer, more sustainable and more just world.

Although I had to venture outside the Synod to take part in the relay, there are opportunities for members of churches further north in the Synod to join and I would urge you to take part if you feel able. The relay is passing through Derbyshire on its way to Sheffield with a welcome in Chesterfield on **Friday 4 September** and all with a concern for climate justice are encouraged to be involved.



The pilgrims arrive at Tring, their terminus for the day.

Graham Ghaleb

Convenor, JPIC Working Group (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation)

Welcome the YCCN Relay to Chesterfield

St Andrew's URC, Chesterfield has collaborated closely with the **Chesterfield Climate Alliance** and **Transition Chesterfield** to plan the welcome that the YCCN walkers will receive as the Relay's route through Derbyshire reach the town to overnight this Saturday, 4 September.



If you would like to be involved in this section of the Relay, you can:

- volunteer via [YCCN](#) to join the walk from Huthwaite to Chesterfield
- meet the walkers at 5pm at **Eastwood Park**, Hasland and accompany the last part of their walk into town, or
- come along at 5.30pm to their destination, **Rykneld Square** in the shadow of the Crooked Spire, to give them a warm Chesterfield welcome.

Further details of the Chesterfield Welcome are available as a Facebook Event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/941103849791928>

Send your Prayer Boats to COP26

[Christian Aid](#) is campaigning ahead of COP26 – and supporting the YCCN relay – by encouraging churches to get involved in crafting **paper prayer boats**.

Christian Aid says:

The climate crisis is a storm that is affecting us all, yet we're not all in the same boat! Many of the countries around the world who are most affected by the climate emergency are also the ones least equipped to deal with it. Join with others around the country to pray for the climate crisis and to send a message to politicians that they must prioritise those who are most affected.



How to get involved:

1. Make your prayer boats (instructions are available on [YouTube](#)). You could even invite your MP or local leaders to join you.
2. Share images of your boats on Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag **#prayforCOP26** to join an 'online fleet'. (Tag your MP if they're on social media.)
3. Display the boats in your church or school as a focus for prayer.
4. If you are supporting the **YCCN** relay, take your boats along!
5. Either way, finish by sending them on to **Christian Aid** who will be taking all the boats to **COP26** [Post to: **Christian Aid**, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL]

Induction of the Revd Craig Muir

Saturday 18 September at 2.30pm

The Elders and members of **Loughborough URC** and **Melton Mowbray with Freeby URC** look forward to welcoming the **Revd Craig Muir** into both churches and as a **Transitional Minister** for the East Midlands Synod. Craig has commenced his work in the joint pastorate this week, on Wednesday 1 September.

You are invited to attend Craig's Induction, to be held at **Loughborough URC** on **Saturday 18 September** at 2.30pm (Covid restrictions permitting). Light refreshments will be served after the service. If you would like to attend, please email either **Hilary Roythorne** on hilaryma123@gmail.com or **Marcia Coxhead** on marciacoxhead@yahoo.co.uk, indicating whether you intend to stay for refreshments and whether you have any dietary requirements.

URC Launches Haiti Earthquake Appeal

On Saturday 14 August, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti at Les Cayes, 75 miles west of the capital of Port-au-Prince. Then on Tuesday 16 August, Tropical Storm Grace, flash floods and mudslides caused further devastation on the island. The two natural disasters have claimed more than 1,400 lives, injured almost 7,000 people and destroyed 83,000 homes. Entire communities have been made homeless.



Right now, people who have lost everything need emergency shelter, food, drinking water and access to healthcare. Our **Christian Aid** partners are on the ground ready to respond. The URC has launched [an appeal](#) which aims to raise £2,000 to help reach some of the most vulnerable people – women and girls, older people and people with disabilities are all most at risk.

If you would like to support the appeal and help the URC reach its target, please visit: <https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/the-united-reformed-church-s-haiti-earthquake-appeal>

Stand by to Celebrate 50 Years of the URC



The United Reformed Church is set to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2022. What does it say that we are still here? And what is God saying to us? What opportunities does it give us to reflect on our story, on who we are, on what we stand for, on who we follow - and to share that with others?

Marking our 50th year can help us to plan for the future – not only to keep pursuing our ecumenical vision, but also to plan for how we will continue to be an active, engaged and faithful Christian presence in our communities and in new ones. Not least, marking our Jubilee will be an opportunity to give thanks.

Watch the short video below to see some of the ways you can join in our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2022:



or visit <https://youtu.be/3crc-4C0i8k>

URC at 50: Contribute to an Anniversary Book

Would you consider contributing to a book that the **United Reformed Church** and **Congregational Federation** are publishing jointly for our 50th anniversaries?

We are looking for positive reflections and stories of encouragement from any time in the last 50 years, with an eye to our future too. All contributions are welcome: for example, a memory from the time of the denominations being created; how you have worshipped and served in a local URC or CF church; projects

that have been done ecumenically; your hopes for the future; photographs from the last 50 years with a caption; or perhaps a prayer about our past, present and future.

The style should be non-academic and in everyday language. All submissions should be sent by email or by post with permission obtained from those included in photos if needed. Along with your contribution, please provide your name, the churches and or roles in which you have served, and your Area or Synod.

The **deadline for submissions is 10 September** and they can be made by email to andy.jackson@urc.org.uk or by post to **Andy Jackson, The United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1 H 9RT**. Any questions should also be directed to **Andy Jackson**, URC Head of Communications.

URC at 50

Resource pack for local churches



To celebrate the United Reformed Church's 50th anniversary, a resource pack is being designed to help local churches plan their own celebrations.

The pack will include:

- **The script of 'Breaking News' – a drama about the formation of the URC in 1972, and a short film of it**
- **Celebrate Together, a picture book for young members**
- **Winning entries of Worship Resources Competition**
- **Suggestions for worship with resources and a service outline**
- **Details about the 2022 Prayer Handbook**
- **Calendar of Jubilee events**
- **Celebratory materials to help get your party started**
- **A quiz ... and more.**
- ***The pack will be available by January 2022.***

URC at 50: Enter the Worship Resources Competition

Also in celebration of our 50th anniversary, choirs, bands, individuals, songwriters, composers, and poets are invited to submit an entry into a special **Worship Resources Competition**.

There are four categories in which you can enter:

- **traditional hymn/song**
- **poem**
- **contemporary hymn/song**
- **rap**

The closing date for entries is **Friday 8 April 2022**. Judges will select a winner from each category. Winning entries will receive a debut at General Assembly and will be included in a digital version of the **URC at 50** resource pack for local churches, so that they can use them in jubilee celebrations and/or Sunday services.

Full details, terms and conditions are available at:

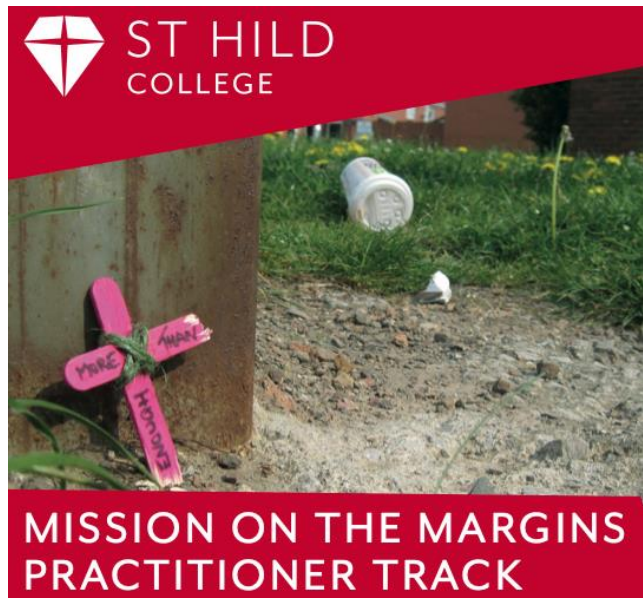
https://urc.org.uk/50.html?dm_i=2JB1,1RRA0,9Z9LHB,63DBN,1

Mission on the Margins

Starting this month

Are you engaged in mission with, or feel that God may be calling you to work in, marginalised communities? Are you wondering what it means to discover God in low-income neighbourhoods, prisons, social justice initiatives, among the homeless community or a myriad of other seemingly forgotten groups? If yes, then the [Mission on the Margins Practitioner Track](#) offered by [Urban Life](#) and [St Hild College](#) could be for you.

We know that God is found 'in the margins'. While the energy of marginalised communities is often vibrant, ministering in these areas can be very challenging. Even those who already have training and skills in ministry may not be equipped to engage well in these contexts. **Mission on the Margins** aims to support people working in marginal urban, rural or pioneering settings, at graduate or post-graduate level. The track focuses on the skills needed to cultivate transformative community-based ministry for the long term, to be a church that is present in places that have often been left behind.



To find out more and explore whether this is the course for you, email info@urbanlife.org as soon as possible. The track begins this month but we are advised that it is not too late to sign up.

Latest episode of the URC Podcast



The final episode of the **URC Podcast**'s first series is now available on Anchor, Spotify, Google and other major podcast platforms: <https://anchor.fm/theurcpodcast/episodes/Episode-6---Antiracism-e16er6i>

In this episode, **Karen Campbell**, the URC's Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, explores non-racism vs antiracism, how disciples of Jesus should respond, and where the URC stands. A second series of podcasts is already in the works.

Training for Treasurers and Trustees

The new autumn training schedule from **ACAT** (the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers) will commence on Saturday 11 September, with all courses taking place virtually.



Being a Treasurer: The Basics is split into three sessions which are equally relevant to new and experienced church treasurers. It affords an excellent opportunity to discover best practice surrounding such areas as charity law and the role of trustees, the bookkeeping and finance processes in a church, and much more.

Over two sessions, **Trustee Training for Churches** equips trustees with the skills they need to meet their legal and moral obligations and consistently manage their churches in the most appropriate way.

Independent Examination: From the Treasurer's perspective... has been devised by **ACAT** to help treasurers fully understand the needs of the independent examiner, but is also for those considering becoming an independent examiner themselves.

Gift Aid: Maximising the Benefits looks at Gift Aid in detail as well as identifying ways in which churches can maximise their use of it.

Further details about these - and all **ACAT**'s current courses - are available on their training page at: <https://www.acat.uk.com/training-events/>

Neurodiversity in the URC

Monday 27 September 7.00pm

The Revd Alex Clare-Young shares the following invitation:

We warmly invite all people who identify as neurodiverse and are connected to the URC to an online event on **Monday 27th September** at 7.00pm. This will be an opportunity for neurodiverse people associated with the URC to share stories and experiences, hopes and dreams for how the URC might be more inclusive and support a celebration of neuro-diversity. For more information, and to book a free place, please visit: [Towards Appreciating Neuro-diversity in the URC Tickets, Mon 27 Sep 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#).

'Neurodiverse/neurodivergent' means having a way of thinking that differs from the norm. It is a developing field, but is currently understood to include ADHD, Autism, Dyspraxia, and Dyslexia. For the purposes of this event, we welcome all who self-identify as being neurodiverse/neurodivergent. If you would like more information about neurodiversity, please visit:

<https://exceptionalindividuals.com/neurodiversity/> or get in touch with Alex at alex.clareyoung@gmail.com

Shaping Our Everyday Prayer

Wednesday 22 September 2.30-5.30pm

The **Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain** presents a free Zoom conference for all who pray and all who lead prayer in Christian communities.



Are you seeking to grow in your prayer life? Looking for creative approaches to prayer in worship? **JLG** offers *Shaping Our Everyday Prayer*, an online conference on the afternoon of **Wednesday 22 September**. Leaders **Fr. David Birchall** and the **Revd Peter Gardner** will explore how to enhance our ways of seeing and transform our everyday prayer, both as individuals and as worshipping communities.

For more information, visit www.jlg.org.uk. JLG encourages sharing of the **Zoom** link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89501586685>

There is no registration fee, but donations will be accepted on the day, for the costs of the day and JLG's on-going work.

Dance through Advent with *Journey of the Magi*

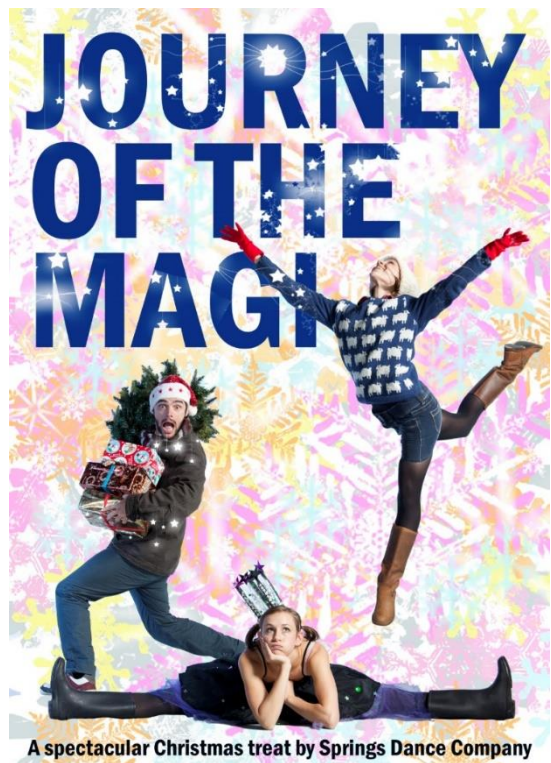
Journey of the Magi is a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message.

Following a sell-out year in 2019, this show by **Springs Dance Company** is back for churches to host for Advent 2021. Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your church and local community through this exhilarating, critically acclaimed performance. 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 and offers a chance to reflect and refocus.

"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. (Hope you'll come back.)"

Richard, Poynton Methodist Church

Springs is inviting churches to host a performance of ***Journey of the Magi***, which they plan to tour nationally in December 2021. If the tour cannot go ahead due to Covid-19, bookings will be postponed until Advent 2022 or fully refunded.



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**.

Come Study with Westminster College



Westminster College
Cambridge

Westminster College has shared information about the **Short Courses** it is offering in 2021-22:

Who are these courses for?

These short courses are relevant to anyone engaged in lay or ordained ministry of whatever kind. They are particularly suitable if you might be:

- thinking about your faith and would like to explore a particular topic in more depth
- considering what God is calling you to do and would like the opportunity to study
- a Lay Preacher or Worship Leader, Children and Youth Development Officer (CYDO), Church Related Community Worker (CRCW), or Minister of Word and Sacraments, looking to develop new knowledge and fresh skills for your particular ministry



Above all, these short courses offer the opportunity to deepen your knowledge while reflecting on your current practice.

What are the classes and sessions like?

Class sizes vary between 5-25 and involve a wide range of age, backgrounds, and experience in the room, which makes for a very rich learning experience. You do not have to have studied any theology before: courses are offered at different levels appropriate to different experiences of prior learning.

For further information and a list of available short courses, please visit:

<https://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/urc/study-at-westminster/short-courses>

A full listing of the courses and a booking form can also be obtained by emailing **Derek Graham**, Training and Development Officer on training@urc5.org.uk. In some cases financial support may also be available to enable you to study at Westminster College.

Personal News

It is with great sadness that we bring news of the deaths of the following retired ministers. We give thanks to God for all that He achieved through their lives and ministries.

Resident in the **East Midlands Synod** for the past 15 years, the **Revd Robert Stewart Hynd** (known as Stewart) died on Thursday 22 July 2021. Stewart served most of his ministry as a Church of Scotland chaplain with the British Army (from 1966) and later as minister to St John's URC in Northwood, London (1991-2000) where he also served as a civilian chaplain to the Navy at Northwood Headquarters. His funeral was held on Wednesday 4 August. Our thoughts and prayers are with Stewart's daughters Fiona and Kirsteen, grandsons Alex and Callum and his partner Ute.

The **Mersey Synod** reports the death of **Revd Captain Tom Carmichael** on Thursday 29 July 2021. Tom served in the Presbyterian Church of South Africa (1995-2000) and at: Longton, Uttoxeter & Tomkin Mission Project (2000-02); Chorley (2003-07); Christ Church, Port Sunlight (2007-14); and Sherborne (2014-16). He was also a British Officer and Padre in the Territorial Army and Past Master of Corinthian Lodge EC7251 S.A. Tom's funeral service was held on Wednesday 18 August. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children and grandchildren.

The **Wessex Synod** reports the death of the **Revd David Moss** of Colehill, Wimborne on Thursday 15 July 2021. David served at: Dorset District (2005); West Moors Group (2005-07); and Winton (2007-16). His funeral was held on Monday 9 August. Our thoughts and prayers are with all his family.

The **Wessex Synod** also reports the death of the **Revd Patrick McManus** on Tuesday 24 August 2021. Patrick served at: Fareham (1983-89); North Hayling Island (1989-91); South Hayling Island (1989-2002); Christ Church Chichester (2002-05); Channel Islands (2005-12). Funeral details were not known at time of publication. Our thoughts and prayers are with all his family.

Situations Vacant



Minister for Digital Worship

**Full time, Home-based
Seven-year termed appointment
Minister's stipend**

Are you excited to help the church explore ways of extending worship and discipleship development digitally?

The Daily Devotions have become a treasured part of the life of the United Reformed Church. This new role is designed to ensure that Daily Devotions and Daily Devotions Sunday Services are fully integrated into the worshipping life of the URC.

In this role you will extend and develop the Daily Devotions and the Sunday Services. You will explore how emerging digital initiatives can enhance worship, discipleship and mission for individuals and congregations. You will take time to explore the context of a wide digital community and possible ways in which this ministry can develop, and Christian community fostered.

You will be an experienced preacher with an excellent understanding of worship and liturgy in the reformed tradition - acknowledging the diversity of the United Reformed Church. Effective use of technology and a working knowledge of digital editing is essential.

Experience of enabling new forms of ministry and supporting nascent Christian communities to flourish would contribute greatly to the impact this initiative can have on the reach and worship of the United Reformed Church.

If you wish to nominate anyone for this role please email recruitment@urc.org.uk by Sunday 12 September 2021

**If you are interested in this role and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form:
Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
020 7691 9874 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urchurch.org.uk/vacancies**

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 4 October 2021 Interview date: Wednesday 3 November 2021

*In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be an ordained minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church.

This role also requires a satisfactory enhanced DBS certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.



General Secretary Churches Together in England

Full time/Flexible over 5/6 days per week incl. weekends/evenings, travel etc.

Salary range £55,204-£58,422 pa (dependent on experience) plus homeworking allowance.

Home based, accessible to London

Due to the impending retirement of the current post holder, Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking an able and inspiring General Secretary to provide vision and leadership within CTE, whilst promoting the unity and mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ideal candidate will

- lead and manage the organisation and the staff team
- have wide ecumenical experience with diverse church traditions
- be a confident communicator
- be skilled at brokering and developing relationships
- take responsibility for external relations with member churches
- have experience of managing organisational change.

An application pack can be downloaded at www.cte.org.uk/GSV

To arrange an informal chat, please contact rowenaloverance@btinternet.com

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 1 October 2021

Interview date: w/c 18 October 2021 (tbc)

There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for applicants to be a practising Christian and an active member in good standing of a [Member Church of CTE](#) or [CTBI](#).

www.cte.org.uk

Find Us Online



The [East Midlands Synod website](#) is the one-stop shop for all essential information:

<https://www.urch5.org.uk/>



Our [East Midlands Synod Facebook Page](#) continues to host the **Evening Prayers** led by our Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** and others during the continuing 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](#) shares news and ideas related to our work with young people: <https://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/>



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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUjKn8XOGGeZU5SgN95g>

Contacting East Midlands Synod

The **Synod Office** is now open from Monday to Thursday each week. As a continued precaution, members of staff are attending the premises in two alternating “bubbles” and otherwise working from home. In the first instance please contact the staff by email in the usual way, as this will receive a direct response from the staff member you wish to correspond with. The office phone (**0115 960 9241**) will be answered Monday-Thursday, 9.00am-3.00pm.

Any further update to these arrangements will be posted on our website: www.urb5.org.uk

This E-letter is produced on behalf of:

The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA.
Telephone: 0115 960 9241

CCL1067405

Free-to-use photography on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/): mountaintop above Kabul, Afghanistan (2020) by [Sohaib Ghyasi](#)
Images from the YCCN Relay website and WhatsApp group are approved for publication.

Next edition: Thursday 16 September 2021

Please send all material for this E-Letter to both: trainingpa@urb5.org.uk and training@urb5.org.uk

Copy deadline for next edition: 12 noon on **Monday 13 September 2021**