



The 99th Meeting of the East Midlands Synod saw the presentation of a certificate to **Maggie Kirkbride** (pictured with Lay Preaching Commissioner **Mark Hodgson**, left, and Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**) to mark her success in becoming an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher.

Further details of the Synod Meeting follow.

Opening Reflection by Geoff Milnes

East Midlands Synod Property Officer

Working His purpose out

I am writing this a few days before the Synod Meeting, when my **Property Officer's Report** will make it known that six churches have closed since Synod last met, and that two of them have been sold, with another two on the market.

Closure of churches brings mixed feelings to many. For some it is a relief, as there have been too few people to take on the tasks required to run the church and the few who have done these things are running out of steam. For others it is an indication of the times we live in, with ageing and depleting congregations. Then there is the effect of the pandemic, meaning that it has not been possible to meet in person for 18 months or more, and some finding it difficult to come back to church for many reasons. Finally, many

realise that their buildings are old and in poor repair and needing expense, and skills which many do not possess.

Closure, however, is not the end. Indeed it can bring many possibilities that would not have been available otherwise. For example, two of the churches that have closed this year have been sold to other denominations which have the skills needed to maintain and improve the buildings and are 'church planting'. Another church is attracting interest from other denominations whose own properties are beyond economic use and need to relocate.



Chapels which have stood as testament to the faith in villages are ripe for conversion to residential use, but will always look like a chapel, a constant reminder of the people of faith who worshipped there over the generations.

Congregations which have reduced over the years can gain fresh impetus by joining with other fellowships, perhaps refreshing their faith in the process, and gaining a new lease of life.

There is also the opportunity that closure brings – to rethink how church works, to build buildings that are not constrained by their layout to be used once a week, but which can be multipurpose buildings which will be a benefit to the communities in which they are set, enabling the Christian faith to be demonstrated to everyone every day and not just to those who attend worship for an hour on Sundays.



Many wonder what is happening to our churches, our congregations, our buildings, and where will it all end? Are we so out of touch with society that we are becoming irrelevant? What is our purpose – how can we show our faith when all around us seems to be failing?

The answer? Have faith! I am reminded of the words to Arthur Campbell Ainger's hymn – **'God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year'**. He has His plans for us and will not fail us. As He said in **Jeremiah** at ch 29 v 11: 'For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'. Words to trust and rely on.

The future may look uncertain for us, but in prayer and faith we will discern the Lord's plans for all of us and our churches and our fellowships and then, through us, God can indeed work His purpose out, as year succeeds to year.

East Midlands Synod Meeting

The 99th Meeting of the East Midlands Synod was held on **Saturday 9 October**, hosted by **Sherwood United Reformed Church**, Nottingham. Welcoming members of Synod to Sherwood, **Stefan Janiszewski** outlined the adaptations the church had made over the years in order to continue providing relevant service in the local community.

Deputy Synod Moderator the **Revd Jane Wade** led Opening Worship, describing the Golden Commandment and the Great Commission as two sides of the mission in which God invites us to join. Although, like Jesus' disciples, we might sometimes feel overwhelmed by the task, she suggested that we have already been given all that we require to "gossip the gospel" and transform society.



Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** welcomed several ministers coming into our Synod and marked the Jubilee of the **Revd Anthony James Lawford Jones**, celebrating 50 years of service to the Lord following his ordination in 1971. He led the Synod in remembrance for those ministers and office bearers who had died since our last Meeting and in prayers of thanksgiving for the life and witness of the four churches whose closure was listed in the Book of Reports – **Lutterworth URC**, **Westcotes URC**, the **Headlands Church** and **Badby URC** – alongside two others whose closure had been announced since its publication: **Anstey URC** and **Paulerspury URC**.



A joyous note was sounded as the Moderator presented **Maggie Kirkbride** with a certificate marking the successful completion of her training to become an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher. Maggie is the last in this Synod to train as an AALP under the long-standing **TLS** (Training for Learning and Serving) route, in which not even a global pandemic could deter her.

The Synod Meeting was joined on Zoom by **Karen Campbell**, the URC's Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, who described the work of the **Legacies of Slavery** task group and urged churches to take part in its consultation, as it shapes the recommendations it will bring to next year's General

Assembly. Karen described how the group had already uncovered several notable cases of antecedents even in the dissenting churches who were apologists for the Transatlantic Slave Trade or plantation owners themselves. Lasting inequalities pervade British society as a result of this often unacknowledged history, with the varying degrees to which Covid-19 has impacted different communities being one illustration among many. A fascinating and respectful discussion followed on the topics of apology and reparation which, we heard, mirrored the debates that the task group had undergone itself. Karen closed by encouraging us all to continue the conversation and to report our feedback to the task group. (See article below.)



Synod Treasurer **David Greatorex** gave a sensitive presentation of our Synod’s role in the “URC family solution” to address the deficit which has arisen in the **Ministers’ Pension Trust Fund**. Synod Council had brought a carefully considered recommendation before Synod, specifying the contributions that it might instruct the directors of the East Midlands Synod Trust to make over the next three years to safeguard the pensions of ministers and CRCWs. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Following lunch, the **Revd Michael Forster**, addressing Synod via Zoom, shared the benefit of his professional experience as a counsellor in a succinct and encouraging talk about the other-centred



approach that underpins all good pastoral care. Titling it “**Finding the Right Words**”, Michael advocated that the right words may often be no words at all, or at most some sensitive prompts. The discipline of empathy and the sheer power of presence – just “being there” – almost always outweigh any advice we might be tempted to offer. (For more on “Being There” see the article below.)

Synod Clerk the **Revd Camilla Veitch** gave a brief report of the proceedings of this year’s General Assembly, and for the first time in person, followed this with her **Clerk’s Report**, which culminated in the presentation of several significant appointments all of which were ratified by members. Group reports followed, with that of the **JPIC** group prompting interesting discussion of the challenges posed to Synod by its policy to become carbon-neutral by 2030. There were encouraging signs that gradually, further churches are signing up to the free Eco Church scheme but much work remains to be done, around Synod and at its centre. In his report, meanwhile, Property Officer **Geoff Milnes** paid tribute to his late predecessor **Robert White**, whom he had hoped to thank in person at this meeting: our gratitude was recorded nonetheless.

In his Closing Worship, our Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** introduced the hymn “O God, your love’s undying flame” (*Rejoice and Sing* 327) by the late **Revd Basil Bridge**, the bulk of whose ministry was conducted in this Synod. Waterlogged wood though we might presently be, he prayed that our faith might be rekindled so that we may bring warmth to a cold world, light in the darkness and inspiration in situations of hopelessness. Turning to 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Geoffrey connected the interdependence of every part in the body of Christ with his recent and reluctant adoption of varifocals. In the church too there could be conflict between close-up vision, focused on the local setting and present moment, and long-sighted vision, concerned with the wider Church and planning for its future or (as with the Legacies of Slavery project) interrogating its past. In truth, both types of vision are needed, acting in concert: connectedness for the good of all.

After almost two years of distance and enforced separation, this was a joyous occasion in which many members revelled in greeting one another in person and raising their voices in praise as the corporate body of Christ in this particular setting. We now look forward with optimism and refreshed vision to our 100th Synod Meeting in March 2022 and to celebrating the URC’s Jubilee when we come together again next autumn.

Legacies of Slavery – new video and consultation

The [task group](#) investigating the **Legacies of (Transatlantic) Slavery** on behalf of the URC has launched a denomination-wide consultation to help shape its recommendations to General Assembly 2022. The paper prepared for the consultation, including a draft apology, is available at: https://urc.org.uk/images/Global_and_Intercultural/Black_History/LoS_Consultation_Overview_Document_-_updated.pdf

As an engaging resource for individuals, Elders’ Councils and Church Meetings, the URC’s Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries **Karen Campbell** presents a new video outlining the background and work of the task group: visit <https://youtu.be/KrZaswCeXoU> or click on the image below:



The **Legacies of Slavery task group** is urging local churches to respond to its proposals about apology, reparation and white privilege, in the hope that these conversations will help inform the recommendations to General Assembly 2022 and help the URC toward its goal of becoming an anti-racist Church.

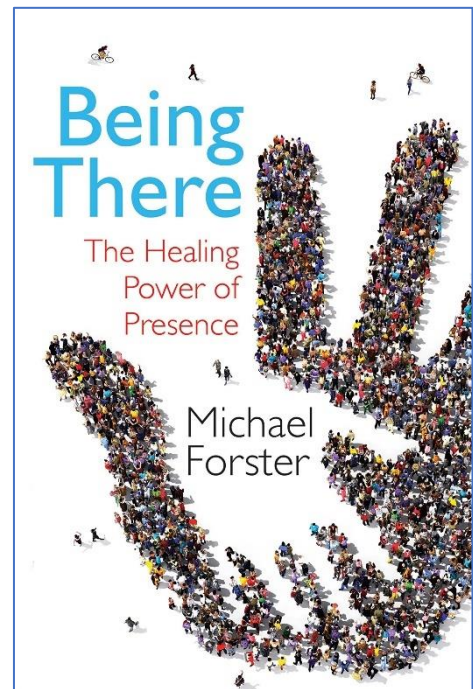
For more information, to share your thoughts or to get involved, email: global.intercultural@urc.org.uk .

Being There: book offer

At the Synod Meeting on Saturday 9 October, members heard an inspiring presentation by the **Revd Michael Forster** on the subject of "Finding the right words", outlining the principles of empathy, presence and attentive listening that characterise good pastoral care. Michael's book **Being There: The Healing Power of Presence** explores these themes in further depth, drawing on his complementary insights as both trained counsellor and URC minister. As well as distilling the key disciplines of an effective pastoral companion, **Being There** uses the lens of therapeutic practice to cast fascinating new light on familiar Bible stories – and Bible stories to illuminate critical aspects of pastoral relationships.

Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** warmly recommends this "simple yet profound" book:

Forster draws upon his people-centred work in both health and church contexts and enables the reader to consider the qualities of presence, practical pitfalls and potential for good, and introduces counselling insights alongside Judaeo-Christian spirituality ... This book is a treasure for anyone wishing to "be there" for others.



Michael has a limited number of copies of **Being There** available at the special author's rate of **£10.04** (published price: £14.99). With the addition of postage and packing the full cost is **£12.73**. To obtain a copy at this special price, while stocks last, you may email Michael directly at michaelinretirement@me.com.

Funeral Service for Robert Bailey White



In our last issue we announced the sad loss of **Robert White**, our former Synod Trust and Property Officer. Robert's funeral takes place this **Friday, 15 October** at **11.00am**. The service will be streamed live from about 10.45am on this link: <https://vimeo.com/event/1362601/24655fec4c>

Unless otherwise requested, donations at the funeral will be shared between the Haematology Department at **Nottingham City Hospital** and the **Rafiki Thabo Foundation**. You can also make donations using the following links:

The Haematology Department at the City Hospital: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rachel-white56

The Rafiki Thabo Foundation, which funds a school in Lesotho: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rachel-white57.

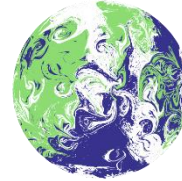
Prayers for the Planet

A short act of worship ahead of COP26

Tuesday 26 October 8.00pm via Zoom

Join together to pray for the success of the COP26 climate summit

The nations come together in Glasgow from Monday 1 to 12 November 2021 for the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26)**, widely viewed as the last great opportunity to prevent escalating and catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activity.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

In the week before world leaders gather in Scotland, join us on **Zoom** to reflect on the momentous decisions they face and pray for the success of the talks. This 45-minute service will include music, video, prayers and readings. Climate change is an issue in which every generation has a stake – and the power to make a difference – and so both younger and older voices will be heard.

All are welcome. The prayer meeting takes place at 8.00pm on **Tuesday 26 October**. Please contact Derek Graham on trainingpa@urc5.org.uk to register and obtain the Zoom link.

*This prayer event is arranged by the **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation** group (JPIC) in the East Midlands Synod.*

Other Eco Events

TUNE IN TO CREATION
HEAR ITS GROANING
TAKE ACTION

Climate Justice Matters

Join us ahead of CoP26 to reflect on the climate crisis and explore how to take action

October 5, 11 & 25
7.30 - 9pm
+ Sunday October 31

Contact:
training@urceastern.org.uk

And Jesus said

"Worship the Lord your God"

Exploring creative ways to worship around environmental themes

Jo Love

Resource Worker, Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG)

Tuesday 19th October 2021
7.30pm to 9.00pm
email: jason.askew.urcwales@urc.org.uk
to register and obtain the ZOOM link

The United Reformed Church National Synod of Wales
Journeying together as Eco Church

Eco Church Open Evening

Tuesday 2 November 6.30-9.30pm



This open evening hosted by **St Andrews Psalter Lane Church** and **Sheffield Methodist District** is for churches of any denomination interested in considering, getting started, or already involved in the [Eco Church](#) movement.

This is an opportunity to ask questions, hosted by a local church holding an Eco Church Silver Award. What difference does being an Eco Church make in practice? How to get started? How to overcome common challenges? How can we better support and encourage each other?

For further details and to book please visit: <https://211102-ecochurch.eventbrite.co.uk>

Abington Avenue URC's Eco Journey

In our last issue we congratulated **Abington Avenue URC**, Northampton, on becoming the latest church in our Synod to be awarded an [Eco Church](#) award. **Rachel Jones** shares details of how the church achieved this milestone:

Our journey towards the **Eco Church bronze award**, which we were delighted to receive recently, began long before we had heard of [A Rocha](#) and Eco Church. When our church buildings were redeveloped 25 years ago, environmental concerns

influenced the design. Measures to mitigate heat loss were incorporated and we were quick to install solar and photovoltaic panels when this became practicable. Recycling containers for paper, plastic and metal were already provided, as were cycle racks.



As the threats to our environment became more apparent, the church agreed to the setting up of a small 'Eco Group', tasked with looking at ways in which as a congregation and as individuals we could do more. The obvious starting point was the Eco Church [survey](#), accessed via A Rocha's [website](#). This proved to be an excellent tool for assessing our impact on the environment and considering what more we could realistically do in both the long and the short term. The website also provides numerous useful links to advice on greener living and prayer and worship resources.

Many measures were easy to implement: encouraging users of the building to bring in crisp packets for us to take in bulk to a local collection point for recycling, collecting old

spectacles to send to Vision Aid, providing a container for used batteries and taking compostable kitchen waste home, rather than putting it down the waste disposal.

As far back as 2008 we acquired an **allotment**, where we grow organic produce to use in the church kitchen and to donate to a shelter for homeless people. We have recently put up home-made nesting boxes and created a frog-friendly wildlife pond with an adjacent log pile. Flowers such as borage and nasturtiums are sown alongside vegetable to deter pests and attract pollinating insects. Compost from our three containers and leaf mould from a wire cage are vitally important soil conditioners, as is green manure, sown as the beds become vacant and dug in before they flower. Part of the plot is deliberately left untidy (this is not at all difficult!) with long grass and weeds/wildflowers allowed to flourish.



We wanted to engage the local community as well as the church congregation in our drive to be more environmentally friendly. To this end we organised a **litter pick** in the streets surrounding the church early in 2020, hosting volunteers to a soup lunch afterwards. On the same day a local councillor ceremonially planted a rowan tree in front of the church.



The news that we had qualified for a bronze award arrived with perfect timing just before our recent, very successful **Community Eco Event**. Representatives of local and national environmental organisations came to showcase their activities and give information and advice about how to live more sustainably. People were also encouraged to join campaigns about the climate emergency and sign postcards to send to the Prime Minister. Templates on the Christian Aid website were used to make a flotilla of prayer boats ready to send to Glasgow prior to Cop26, and to create a 'Wave of Hope' display for our church windows. Pre-loved books and toys were on offer, a local wholefood co-operative sold fairly traded foodstuffs, delicious vegan food was available from a van outside, and a considerable amount of donated cake was consumed. Throughout the event there was a real buzz, and an encouraging sense of common purpose as Christians and non-Christians realised we all shared the same concerns and the same determination to work together to bring about change.

We are now aiming to progress towards a silver award over the coming year. In order to achieve this, we will need to engage more actively in local and national campaigning on environmental issues and find ways to challenge people to make further lifestyle changes that will benefit the planet. We may also find ourselves organising another Eco event!

Rachel Jones

Abington Avenue URC, Northampton

Advent and Christmas videos from URC Daily Devotions

A new resource to help with Pulpit Supply

The **Revd Andy Braunston**, who developed the URC's popular **Daily Devotions**, is introducing a new resource as an aid to churches who have Audio-Visual technology in place.

Running as a trial in the first instance over Advent and Christmas, the **introductions, sermons and blessings** from the Daily Devotions **Sunday Service** will be available ahead of time in video format. This responds to increasing demand from churches to use the Sunday Service for pulpit supply purposes, either because they have had difficulty securing someone to preach on a given Sunday, or because their worship teams are happy to put a service together but cautious about developing a sermon.

This will permit more flexible use of the Sunday Service, which until now has been provided as a more "radio"-like experience in a continuous audio stream. The Service will now be available, ahead of time, as a Powerpoint file with the video sections embedded, and might be used in a number of ways:

- the congregation could use all the service on the screen and sing along to the hymns - the words will be in the Powerpoint. All that is needed is someone to set up the technology before the service and advance to the next slide when needed.
- An elder could lead the prayers and play the Powerpoint for hymns, introduction, blessing and/or sermon. Someone authorised by the Synod could preside at a celebration of Holy Communion.
- An elder could do as described above and the local musician play for hymns - or other hymns could be substituted than those chosen for the service.

Those who wish to receive the Sunday Service ahead of time in this experimental new format may sign up now for an "Early Bird" list at: <http://eepurl.com/gWJ8vn> . They will receive the next month's services by the middle of the month before.

An invitation to Pray4URC on Facebook

Thursday evenings at 8.15pm from 28 October for four weeks
on www.facebook.com/Pray4URC



**Group for
Evangelism
And
Renewal**
*within the United
Reformed Church*

GEAR, the **Group for Evangelism and Renewal** within the URC, is hosting a fresh season of short live prayer times in the run up to the meeting of Assembly Executive (the new name for Mission Council) in late November. All are welcome to tune in and pray: you don't need to be a Facebook user to use the link (although those who are will be able to add greetings, comment and prayers during the live meeting).

The series begins on **Thursday 28 October** when the URC's General Secretary the **Revd Dr John Bradbury** is the guest and prayers will include the Church Life Review he is leading. Later sessions will focus on Walking the Way, Communications and Synod Moderators as well as prayers for the Assembly Executive meeting (22-24 November).



Simply click www.facebook.com/Pray4URC on Thursday 28 October, 4 November, 11 November or 18 November to join in. For any further query please contact **GEAR's** Prayer Secretary, the **Revd Richard Turnbull** on prayer@gear.org.uk

Book now for Youth Assembly 2022

Bookings are now open for **URC Youth Assembly 2022**, taking place at Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffordshire, from **Friday 28 – Sunday 30 January 2022**.

Next year marks the Jubilee celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the URC, so the Assembly will explore the theme of jubilee through three perspectives: commemorating the past; celebrating the now; creating the future.

The programme includes discussions, worship, keynote talks, workshops and a silent disco.

The cost of tickets is £115 if you book on or before 11 November; and £145 if you book from 12 November until bookings close on 1 January 2022.

Note: a Synod grant of £100 is available to help young people attend – so book early and it could cost you as little as £15! (For details, please email cydo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk .)

To book your place, visit:
bit.ly/URCYA2022bkgs

The Assembly is open to all young people with a connection to the URC from Year 10 or S3 up to 26-year-olds. (The age limit has been extended for 2022 due to the cancellation of the 2021 Assembly.)

A creche will be available for children aged 0-5 years-old.

The URC **Youth Leaders' Gathering**, for all who work with young people aged 11-25 that are in any way connected to the URC, will also be taking place over the weekend as a separate event. Places cost £115 and can be booked at:
bit.ly/URCYouthlg21 .



Age limit extended for 2022 only due to cancellation of YA2021.

Creche available for children 0-5 years old.



Children and Youth Survey

Please complete by next Monday, 18 October

East Midlands Synod **Children and Youth Group** welcomes the opportunity to ask you, the children, the young people, the young adults, the children and youth leaders, the members of congregations and the ministers for your views on how the Synod can help you in your churches to encourage and develop the ministry and mission of children, young people and young adults.

We know that there are children and youth leaders who have hopes, dreams and aspirations too in what they would like to do. And ministers, who would love to be able to welcome all ages in their congregations and are hoping to develop what currently happens, or instigate something new, whilst also responding to the effects of the pandemic. And there will be some churches who do not have contact with children and young people but would love to, this invitation is for you too.

We are keen that whatever is planned is the best fit for what churches need and see as a priority, particularly in regard to any Synod-appointed role to support churches and the mission and ministry in the Synod among children and young people. We have set up an online questionnaire on the Synod website which can be found at: <https://www.urch5.org.uk/form/children-and-youth-survey-2021>

We will gather all responses on Monday 18 October so please make sure you complete the survey before this date.

Please spend some time to consider your answers prayerfully. Please also pass this on to anyone who has an interest or involvement with children, young people or families. We would love to know what East Midlands Synod thinks and how we can best serve you in the future. And we will use these answers to consider prayerfully our planning for children and youth and the recruitment of the next person or people to help us to meet the hopes, dreams and needs of our Synod.

If you would prefer a paper copy or need any help completing the questionnaire, please get in touch with the Synod Office or with Richard Knott, who is currently on part-time secondment in the Synod. He can be reached via email at cydo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk or call 07577 867024.

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to this.

Richard Knott

Children and Youth Development Officer (West Midlands)

Ministry with Older People: a Webinar

Wednesday 3 November 1.00-2.30pm

What is a community audit? What is the point of one? Where do we start?

The **Methodist District of Sheffield** extends an invitation to this webinar: an opportunity to explore some practical and effective tools for understanding better the varied needs of older people living in your community, what is already being provided, and who might be willing to minister alongside you.

The webinar includes opportunities to share experiences and hear stories of real-life community audits. Please register by Sunday 31 October via this link: <https://211103opcop.eventbrite.co.uk>

New Resources from CPAS

The mission agency **CPAS** (Church Pastoral Aid Society) has published a list of resources designed to help churches negotiate the path out of pandemic, following a webinar it held last month on “Godly Leadership in Demanding Times”. The following are of particular note (click on the highlighted words to go to each resource):



The Future

Four questions: [a matrix](#) for thinking about coming out of lockdown

Ten questions: [a guide](#) to identifying the ten important questions for you and your leaders to address

Handling expectations: a guide to handling the variety of [expectations](#) that come our way as leaders

[How to Engage](#) with the different people around us in a time of change

Recovery Resources

- **A Guide to Leading Through the Recovery Phase:** [ideas and resources](#) on what to do
- **A Recovery Event on Zoom:** an outline for a 40-minute [event](#) on Zoom to help people process their experience of the pandemic
- **Recovery Order of Service:** an outline of an all-age online or onsite [order of service](#), also designed to help people process their experience of the pandemic
- **My Pandemic Experience:** four guides for people to use in their homes to help them remember, reflect and recuperate. One each for [church members](#), [families](#), [young people](#) and [people within the community](#)
- **A Space for Processing:** a guide for how to use our [buildings or churchyards](#) as a space for those looking for somewhere to process their experience of the pandemic
- **Habit checker:** a free downloadable [resource](#) to share with church members to help them review their habits and develop healthy ones.

A wealth of further resources is available on the CPAS website: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/>

Religious Persecution Today – a Study Day

Saturday 20 November 2.00-4.00pm

Through Churches Together in England (CTE), the **Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham** extends an invitation to an interactive study day on the subject of religious persecution, taking place from 2.00-4.00pm on **Saturday 20 November** at the St Mary’s Parish Centre, Derby.

The day will investigate the interplay of religious freedom and persecution across the 21st century world, with speakers **Bridget Teasdale** and **Rachel Buckley** from [Aid to the Church in Need](#).

For more information, please contact **Fran Hazel** by emailing: ecumenicalmission@dioceseofnottingham.uk

FAITH & FREEDOM:
TOWARDS AN END TO RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN OUR WORLD TODAY

The Nottingham Diocesan Ecumenical Commission invites you to attend an interactive study day looking at the issue of religious freedom across the world.

With speakers from 'Aid to the Church in Need' - Bridget Teasdale & Rachel Buckley

WHEN
Saturday 20th November 2021
2pm—4pm

WHERE
St Mary's Parish Centre, Derby
Barley Lane, Derby DE1 3AK

Booking not required

For more information please contact
Fran Hazel -
Ecumenicalmission
@dioceseofnottingham.uk

DIocese of NOTTINGHAM

Situations Vacant



Training and Development Coordinator for Safeguarding

Home based
2 year fixed-term contract, 28 or 35 hours per week
Salary: £27,215 or £34,019

Are you passionate about equipping people with skills and resources to safeguard the vulnerable?

The Safeguarding team is looking for a committed team player to enable and support the United Reformed Church to develop and coordinate its safeguarding training programme.

You already have extensive knowledge of legislative guidelines and statutory guidance related to protection of children and adults at risk. You have experience of developing policy and practice guidance, developing and delivering training and enabling others to do so.

You have excellent interpersonal and communications skills with the ability to work co-operatively and collaboratively in a variety of settings using differing media.

Experience of working in safeguarding within a faith-based charity context would be a distinct advantage.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, 020 7691 9871
recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, 25 October 2021

Interview date: 17 November 2021

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



Director of Ministry Formation

Westminster College, Cambridge

URC Minister's stipend – 7 year termed appointment, from August 2022

or Permanent Contract, Salary: £42,149-£53,348



Are you an educator who is passionate about whole church witness and mission?

Westminster College has many aspects to its life: as a Resource Centre for Learning (RCL) for the whole United Reformed Church (URC); as a key member of the Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF); and as part of the Cambridge academic world. In this role you will relish the opportunity to share in networks of teachers and trainers in the CTF, in the two other RCLs and across 13 Synods of the URC. You will play a full part in fostering the church's desire to be a learning church in which all are encouraged to grow in faith and service. You are excited at the prospect of sharing in the URC's life in tune with its ethos of broad theological diversity, alongside openness to ministry and leadership by people from all backgrounds. You will help people to reflect on pastoral practice, on training for practical aspects of ministry and discipleship, while engaging fully in the Church's mission in ways appropriate to our contemporary context.

The successful candidate will:

- have a Master's qualification in theology;
- have experience of a diverse range of ministries;
- be an experienced minister or lay person, committed to delivering a high standard of theological education with passion, creativity and vision.

Applications are invited from candidates who are ordained Ministers or members of the United Reformed Church or a church belonging to Action of Churches Together in Scotland, Churches Together in England, Cytun, Free Churches Group, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council or the Council for World Mission.*

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

T: 020 7691 9871

E: recruitment@urc.org.uk

W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 10 January 2022

Interviews will be held in Cambridge over two days on 1 and 2 February 2022

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

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 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](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 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.urch5.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

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Next edition: Thursday 28 October 2021

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 25 October 2021**