

Opening Reflection by the Revd George Mwaura Convenor of OMCG (Ordained Ministers & Churches Group)

Happy New Year friends...or is it too late for that? I do not think so!

Christmas and New Year festivities have come and gone. All too soon if you ask me. Now we are in the middle of **Epiphany** where Christ is continuously revealed to us. I hope that you have all received grace upon grace to see you through the coming year with all its trials and blessings... and there will be some without any doubt! If you are reading this, then you are the recipient of such grace so, praise the Lord!

In the western hemisphere churches, we celebrate the season of Epiphany from 6 January through to the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Epiphany represents the revealing of Jesus to the Jews and Gentiles and its main theme is **Christ as the light of the world**. The revealing that begins with the Magi following the star continues with the baptism by John, calling of the disciples, and ends with the recognition of Jesus in the Temple by Simeon and Anna. In a sense, it is a continuation of the Christmas journey – a time to reflect on the meaning of these events. As we travel the Epiphany route each year, the revelation is remarkably different because each year, as inhabitants of this world we are changed and shaped by the encounter with fellow Christians and the forces of nature that shape our world and over which we have no control.

In the western hemisphere, Epiphany falls at a dark and low time of the year. This is not by mere coincidence. It is during these dark times, made even darker by the pandemic which has ravaged our world for two years without a let up, that we are offered divine grace and mercy from the Godchild now revealed to us. Jesus' arrival into our dark world meant the forgiveness of our sins and a reconciliation with God. Today, God's love embraces all humanity and as Christ is revealed to us, we who once dwelt in the darkness are given light and strength in the power of the Holy Spirit to get us through the year ahead no matter what the pandemic, climate change or any other unknown catastrophe may throw at us.



It is funny how the lectionary time moves so fast. Barely six weeks ago was Jesus born and now he is 30 years old in the narrative and about to embark on his ministry. I just wish real time would move that fast! Anyway, last week we journeyed with him back to his village and we beheld him preach for the first time

with authority. Jesus read from Isaiah 61 and in essence set out his mission. This particular passage is a servant song, and proclaims that the Messiah will bring relief to the disenfranchised. This too is the mission of the church because Jesus calls us as his church to show love to the unloved, and to offer service to all, even those (un)deserving. It is not a comfortable discipleship. As we hear these words from Isaiah, we must remember that poverty, captivity, and blindness have both physical and spiritual dimensions. Hard as it is to struggle materially, it is debilitating to be spiritually bankrupt.

The words from **Isaiah** held a tantalising hope not just for the poor but also for all Jewish people in Palestine. The Roman administration had stationed soldiers throughout its empire to make sure that Roman laws were followed and taxes collected. As colonised people, the Jews had no say in their future. And as far as political power was concerned, we could equally argue that the Jews were poor, captive and oppressed and they, just like those in Isaiah's scroll Jesus read about, desperately needed a saviour.

The prophecy in Isaiah was fulfilled when Christ was born, died and resurrected. But this narrative didn't end there and the fulfilment continues today in the life and mission of our churches. Everywhere you look today, the church of Christ is the messenger of God's Good News to the poor and the oppressed. It proclaims the release of the captives, it helps the blind to recover their sight and it partners with others to set folks free from slavery and addictions and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour through championing human rights, providing relief to victims of natural disasters and domestic abuse, taking the gospel to far flung corners and many, many more. Today the church collaborates with the Holy Spirit to fulfil Christ's mission in the Isaiah passage. We thank our Missional God for inviting us to participate in the **missio Dei**.

Induction of the Revd Jo Clare-Young

Saturday 22 January marked the Induction of the **Revd Jo Clare-Young** to the Pastorate of **Newport Pagnell URC & the Mead Centre and West End United Church, Wolverton**. Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** led the service, alongside the **Revd Edson Dube** of Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit, and the sermon was delivered by the **Revd Alex Clare-Young**.

We are delighted to welcome Jo to the East Midlands Synod and hope she will enjoy a fruitful and fulfilling ministry among us.



L-R: the Reverends Geoffrey Clarke, Alex Clare-Young, Jo Clare-Young and Edson Dube.

Induction of the Revd Caroline Andrews

We are also delighted to welcome into the East Midlands Synod the **Revd Caroline Andrews**, who has commenced her ministry in the **North Derbyshire Resource Area** this week.

Caroline's Induction will be held on **Saturday 26 February** at 2.00pm at **St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Chesterfield**.

Synod Jubilee Event



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

Commemorate – Celebrate – Create

Saturday 10 September

To mark the URC's 50th anniversary here in the East Midlands, we are planning a Synod Jubilee Event, to be held on **Saturday 10 September 2022**.

Plans are evolving for a mini festival at a central location, suitable for all ages. As well as celebrating our Jubilee together, the day will feature opportunities to commemorate past hopes and create visions for the future. A range of workshops and activities will help us mark the life of our Synod, with a lively act of intergenerational worship as the centrepiece.

Please mark the date in your diary and watch this space for further details. The event will be held in full compliance with any health regulations still in force at the time.

Celebrate together

- Celebrate together
Free for everyone involved with the URC.
- Reform's 50th anniversary
- Jubilee events
- Synod events
- Service at Parliament
- Books by Steve Tomkins, David Cornick, Robert Pope and Anne Sardeson
- A joint book with the Congregational Federation
- General Assembly.
- Worship Resources Competition for choirs, bands, poets and songwriters
- URC Youth Assembly
- URC Ministers' Gathering
- Greenbelt
- Synod services.
- Resource pack
- Drama
- Quiz
- Worship resources.

50 The United Reformed Church
Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972



**Faith
Hope
Love**
Since 1972



50th jubilee celebrations!
October 1, 2022

Open Church House

United Reformed
Church House, London
Visit www.bit.ly/urc50
to book your free tickets.



Walk to Westminster

Visit www.bit.ly/urc50 to book your
free tickets.

**The Service of Thanksgiving
and Celebration**

Methodist Central Hall
Westminster
Visit www.bit.ly/urc50
to book your
free tickets.



www.urcshop.co.uk/50

50@urc.org.uk

About ACAT – a reminder

What do you think when you see the acronym ACAT?

Need a little help with finances at your church?



ACAT is the charity for Treasurers of Christian churches and we, as treasurers in churches of the United Reformed Church, are members.

Whilst the web site www.acat.uk.com is available to view as a 'guest', to take advantage of the whole array of information it is necessary to access as a 'member'. The URC has held membership on behalf of all its churches for many years and if your church is not signed up then please contact the Synod Office where you will get the necessary information for the corporate access.

In recent years **ACAT** is requesting each church / treasurer holds an individual membership - this can be created. The web resources are available 'free' but most courses / events are chargeable.

David Greatorex
Synod Treasurer

Legacies of Slavery – Discussion Evening

Consider how slavery shaped the East Midlands
and play your part in the consultation

Monday 7 March 7.30-9.00pm on Zoom

The United Reformed Church East Midlands Synod

Legacies of Slavery

Discussion Evening

Monday 7 March 7.30pm on Zoom

with
Karen Campbell
& **David Reynolds**
of the United Reformed Church
Legacies of Slavery Task Group

Email training@urc5.org.uk
to register

Supported by **JPIC**

Photo: Huskain Bardshah on Unsplash

The **East Midlands Synod** has joined forces with the **Legacies of Slavery task group** to host a Discussion Evening, designed to help churches and individuals respond to the current consultation. This is an opportunity to share perspectives, questions and feedback directly with two members of the task group: **Karen Campbell**, Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, and the group's Convenor **Professor David Reynolds**.

Join us to explore:

- How the history of transatlantic slavery resonates in our own region
- The ways its legacy persists in the inequalities of the present day
- What we in the United Reformed Church may be called to do about it now

Taking place via Zoom, the Discussion evening is supported by the Synod's **JPIC** group (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation).

Since making some painful discoveries about the involvement in the transatlantic slave trade of some of our forebears in faith, the **Legacies of Slavery task group** has shared the draft of an **Apology and Confession** for consideration by General Assembly 2022. Its concise [Consultation Document](#) includes recommendations about reparative justice and complements the URC's resolution to become an actively anti-racist church. You can read it at:

[https://urc.org.uk/images/Global and Intercultural/Black History/LoS Consultation Overview Document - updated.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/Global_and_Intercultural/Black_History/LoS_Consultation_Overview_Document_-_updated.pdf)

Last autumn, the task group launched a consultation across the whole URC to seek responses. **Karen** introduced this at our Synod meeting in October, where there was a clear desire for further discussion. Her

presentation can still be viewed on our YouTube channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcDO7yAT1Ps&t=673s>

Karen says:

“We want people across the breadth of the URC to have a say, contributing to the recommendations being taken to our jubilee General Assembly. We are offering ourselves – and the URC’s racial Justice networks – as a resource to help facilitate local conversations, and to discover how people respond to the direction of travel so far. The task group included widely differing perspectives and conversations were not always easy, but they were open and honest. That is what we want to encourage across the Church. The important thing is not so much where anyone starts or finishes in the conversations, it is the willingness to be on the journey together.”

Churches are asked to respond in time to feed into the final version of the task group’s recommendations to General Assembly this summer. You are warmly invited to take part in this Discussion Evening which, as well as feeding directly into the consultation process, may also help you in preparing your church’s feedback.

To register to attend the Discussion Evening and receive the Zoom codes, please email **Derek Graham** and **Hannah Holmes** on training@urc5.org.uk .

Anti-Trafficking & Modern Slavery - Awareness Raising & Volunteer Opportunities

Our friends in the **Salvation Army** have introduced a mentoring programme to support survivors of modern slavery on their journey from victim to survivor and are seeking volunteers in the Nottingham area.



The Salvation Army has developed a mentoring programme which aims to support people on their journey from victim to survivor. Mentors help to model healthy community with a structured relationship, modelling how to establish goals, giving practical support, advice, signposting and helping to celebrate successes.

The role offers an exciting opportunity to be part of a programme to mentor a female or male survivor of modern slavery as they establish life in Nottingham. Volunteers will work with a fellow mentor to support a client (survivor) to establish goals as well as provide practical guidance and support for the individual to achieve them. This will happen every other week for two hours.

All volunteers will receive specialised training and regular support. If you have a passion for transforming the lives of people, this may be the role for you.

Further information can be obtained from **Clare Buckby** by emailing Clare.Buckby@salvationarmy.org.uk .

Ministry Enquirers' Event – this Saturday

What does the Lord require of YOU?

Saturday 12 February 10.00am-3.00pm

The URC is holding an online **Enquirers' Event** to help you think about God's call to Worship Leading, Lay Preaching, Ministry with children and young people, the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work. To register for this online event and receive Zoom details, please email ministries@urc.org.uk.



New year, new challenges; is God calling you to new ventures?

- ❖ Perhaps you feel passionate about making a difference in your local area?
- ❖ Perhaps you feel unsettled in a job or role you've been doing for a while and feel ready for a new challenge?
- ❖ Perhaps you've been the main parent or carer at home, but your children are older and less dependent now, or your carers' responsibilities are reduced, and you have more available time and energy for a new vocation?



Maybe you've been a family worker or a youth worker employed by a local agency or your church, and feel called to develop your skills further? Or perhaps it's a short-term contract and you hope for a role that's longer-term? Perhaps you've felt a 'niggle' to get involved with community ministry for quite a while now but have never quite got round to chatting with someone or praying about what the Holy Spirit might be prompting you to explore further.

Perhaps some of these stories about community involvement excite you? <https://urc.org.uk/tag/church-related-community-work/>

If any of these examples above apply to you, or if you have any questions about how you might be able to get more involved with making a positive difference in your neighbourhood, community or church, then please do not hesitate to contact steve.summers@urc.org.uk in the Church Related Community Work (CRCW) team for more information. All enquiries will be held confidentially.



Perhaps it's time to step out, have a go, take a risk -and be surprised where God may lead you, and how God will support you in the venture along the way.....

Additionally, the **Enquirers Event** on February 12th will provide the opportunity to discover about different ministries and to explore your discipleship and vocation further. For example, the URC has a recognised ministry of locally-called, locally deployed, non-stipendiary CRCW.

Please email: ministries@urc.org.uk for more information about the event.



Creating Change in Communities & the Church

Discipleship Development Fund – New Opportunities

The United Reformed Church has revised its [Discipleship Development Fund](#) to encourage all individuals, groups and churches to engage with a journey of **deepening personal discipleship**.



There are now two levels: the **Small Grant** scheme awards grants of **up to £200** per person, while the **Large Grant** scheme welcomes applications from churches, groups and Synods for grants of around **£5000**.

You can apply for resources, courses and conferences or help to develop programmes of your own – be creative! At both levels, the Discipleship Development Fund is designed to:

- create opportunities for everyone to **encounter the living God**, whether they already identify themselves as followers of Christ or not
- encourage everyone in their **prayer life and relationship with God** to enable them to live as disciples of Jesus
- encourage everyone to make the most of **educational opportunities** that are relevant and appropriate for them in their discipleship journey.

Small Grant Scheme

- Who can apply?** All individuals and congregations in the URC may apply, for up to £200 a year.
- What's it for?** An individual could receive support for discipleship courses, activities or retreats. A congregation might seek help to bring in an outside speaker or buy resources to facilitate an in-house project or event: there are all sorts of possibilities.
- Who awards grants?** Each Synod awards the Small Grants, from a pot of **£2000** each year – please apply early to avoid disappointment!

To apply for a Small Grant up to £200, please obtain an application form from **Derek Graham**, Training and Development Officer, by emailing training@urc5.org.uk.

Large Grant Scheme

- Who can apply?** Any recognised group within the URC is invited to apply, including local churches, Synods and Assembly Committees.
- What's it for?** Grants can be put towards any purpose that will contribute to the discipleship development of lay people in or connected with the URC including personnel costs, facilities, travel, courses etc. Multi-year projects can be supported for up to 3 years.
- Who awards grants?** The Large Grant Awarding Group will meet four times a year. Applications are invited by the end of March, June, September and December and the Group will normally respond with its decision by the end of the following month.

For further details and to download an application form for a Large Grant up to a sum of around £5000, visit <https://urc.org.uk/education-learning/discipleship-development/discipleship-development-fund/>. Application forms may also be obtained from **Derek Graham** on training@urc5.org.uk.

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 has been achieved through their lives and ministries.

The **Synod of Wales** reports the death on Tuesday 18 January of the **Revd John Huntington**, who served for some years in the East Midlands Synod. John was ordained in 1974, serving at: Ilkeston and Long Eaton (1974-80); Colwyn Bay and Old Colwyn (1980-2003); and Penmaenmawr, Llandudno & Rhos on Sea (1995-2003). His funeral service will be held on Friday 4 February 2022, 2.00pm at Colwyn Bay Crematorium. John's wife died in December 2021. We hold their family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

The **North Western Synod** reports the death of the **Revd David Allen** on Saturday 22 January. David served at: North West Manchester District (1994); and Little Lever (1994-2002). We hold David's wife, wider family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

The **Northern Synod** reports the death of the **Revd Ruth Crofton** on Saturday 22 January. Ruth served at: Patricroft/Weaste (1990-96); Christ Church, Halton, Leeds (1996-2001); and Waddington Street & Crook, Durham (2001-08). Her funeral service will take place at Jesmond United Reformed Church on Wednesday 16th February at 11.00am and will be livestreamed through Zoom, which may be viewed via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84887323194?pwd=ZnJQT203Zk05aXcweHBreS9icHhiUT09>
Meeting ID: 848 8732 3194 - Passcode: 559211

The **Eastern Synod** reports the death of the **Revd Colin Garwood** on Saturday 22 January. Colin, who was 94 and still preaching, served at: Staines (1952-61); Cliff Town, Southend (1961-75) & Chelmsford Avenue, Southend (1973-75); St John's, Bexhill (1975-92); and Fakenham (1996-97). His funeral will be held at Wells Methodist Church on Friday 4 February at 2.30pm. We hold his wife and family in our thoughts and prayers.

The **West Midlands Synod** reports the death of the **Revd Susan Margaret Nuttall** on Thursday 27 January. Susan, who was ordained in 1981, served at: St Columba's & Keresley, Coventry (1981-84); Painswick (1984-86); St Columba's, Gosport (1986-90); and Lylington & East End (1990-95). We hold her family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Funeral Details

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of **Peter Pay** will take place at Salisbury Methodist Church at 1.00pm on **Friday 11 February**. Mr Pay, who died in December, was one of the Moderators of The United Reformed Church General Assembly 2020-2022.

The service will follow a private family committal earlier in the day, and only family flowers have been requested. Anyone hoping to attend in person is asked to contact Deborah Walker at the Wessex Synod by emailing office@urcwessex.org.uk. The service will also be livestreamed via the following link: <https://youtu.be/c7Z7xgSiTRQ>.

The funeral of the **Revd Margaret Taylor** will take place on **Friday 25 February** at 1:15pm at Loughborough Crematorium. Anyone who wishes to attend may do so.

The funeral will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving 2pm on Friday 25 February at **Loughborough URC** with refreshments afterward in the church hall. If you would like to attend at Loughborough URC, please let the Church Secretary **Hilary Roythorne** know by emailing hilaryma123@gmail.com so that the church may cater for an appropriate number. She may also be available to advise on car parking.

The service will also be shared on Zoom. If you would like the Zoom link please contact Geetha Bala by emailing geethabala42@gmail.com and you will receive the link about two days before the service.

Online Youth Mental Health First Aid

The **Southern and Mersey Synods** have additional spaces available on their upcoming online **Youth Mental Health First Aid** course and would like to offer out this opportunity to participants from across the Synods.

They are able to offer spaces at a subsidised rate of £27.75 per person to help cover cost of the course materials. (The full course cost is normally £300pp.)

Anyone interested should contact **Steven Mitchell**: cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk or **Tom Hackett**: cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk .

Online 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-judgemental listening and learn to champion self-care

For more info and to book, contact:

MHFA England
INSTRUCTOR
MEMBER

Children's & Youth Development Officers
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

Visit the MHFA England website at mhfaengland.org
Find us on social media @MHFAEngland

Evening Course 18:30-21:30
Tues 8, Thurs 10
Tues 15, Thurs 17
February 2022
<https://feb-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk>

Morning Course 9:30-12:30
Mon 21, Weds 23
Mon 28, Weds 30
March 2022
<https://march-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk>

The Faraday Institute Seminar Series



The
**Faraday
Institute**
for Science and Religion

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion is a Cambridge-based interdisciplinary research institute improving public understanding of science and religion. Its main focus is on the relationship between science and the Christian faith, but it also engages with those of any faith or none.

The Faraday Institute Seminar series will be holding the following seminars this term:

Tuesday 8 February - **Prof. Steve Furber** (Manchester University):
'Brains, Minds and AI - Implications for Faith and Ethics'

Tuesday 22 February - **Prof. Neil Messer** (University of Winchester):
'Cognitive Science and Religious Faith'

Tuesday 8 March - **Revd Dr Joanna Collicutt** (Oxford University):
'Psychosis and Religious Experience'

The seminars are held on Tuesdays at 1.00pm, both online and, hopefully, in person. They are free, and all are welcome. Visit: <https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/events/seminars/> for more information.

The Faraday Institute also have a range of resources to equip churches teach well about science and faith, and to help Christians think through how science and faith interact. Visit: [Overview | Faraday \(cam.ac.uk\)](#) for further details.

Vacancies



Programme Assistant Children's and Youth Work

Permanent contract, 21 hours per week

Salary: £16,334

Are you passionate about building a Church which caters effectively for children and young people? Are you a team player committed to working with others to develop resources and programmes for children and young people?

An opportunity has arisen for a new role to support the Children's and Youth Work Office of the United Reformed Church.

In this role you will contribute to projects, programmes and resources for local churches as well as support the Children's and Youth Work team in maintaining communication and a strong web presence. This is a varied role requiring flexibility within a lively team.

You will be an experienced and creative children's and youth worker with excellent communication skills.

You will need to be able to work with a diverse group of colleagues and volunteers. You will ensure that the various events, publications, online materials, and opportunities offered for children, young people, their families and workers, are delivered to a high standard.

We can offer a friendly and flexible working environment; hybrid working from Church House in London and from home is possible.

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, Friday 4 February 2022 Interview date: Tuesday 15 February 2022

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



Digital Content Officer (Digital Worship)

Permanent contract, 21 hours per week
Salary: £18,524

Are you ready to help the discipleship and mission of the Church through digital worship?

Working in the creative Communications team and closely with the Minister for Digital Worship, this role supports the teams purpose to promote effective communication and celebration of the Gospel in and beyond the URC; giving voice to good news and facilitating regional and national communications.

You already have experience in website content development, extensive knowledge of digital platforms and experience of managing internal and external digital communications. You have a wide set of digital editing and production skills, with experience in online videos, images, podcasts, social media, websites, PowerPoints, and emails. You possess excellent English language skills including writing for social and digital media. You are highly organised with an ability to multi-task and work to tight deadlines. An awareness of Christian mission and language, and appreciation for worship in varied formats is essential. Experience of managing focus groups and delivering training events would be advantageous.

We can offer you a friendly work environment: flexibility to be home-based or hybrid working from United Reformed Church House in London and from home (following a successful probationary period).

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/jobs

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 21 February 2022 Interview date: Tuesday 8 March 2022



Administrative Assistant

Permanent contract
21 hours per week
Salary: £16,334

Are you interested in being part of a team to help the Church keep people safe?

As part of the Safeguarding and Discipleship teams, in this role you will provide vital administrative support to the Safeguarding Office, responding to initial enquiries from local churches and synods.

Educated to A level or equivalent, with GCSE passes (grades A-C) in English and Maths, you already have experience in general office procedures and administration. You will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to handle information with discretion in a sensitive and confidential manner. You will be organised and thorough with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.

The ability to take accurate and timely minutes would be a distinct advantage.

We can offer you a friendly work environment with the flexibility for hybrid working from United Reformed Church House in London and from home a possibility.

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, Monday 28 February 2022 Interview date: Monday 14 March 2022

Find Us Online



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



Our [East Midlands Synod Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/URC-East-Midlands-Synod-102279281444717/) continues to host the **Evening Prayers** led by our Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** and others during the ongoing pandemic. If you are a Facebook user, please consider **Liking** and **Sharing** this Page and its posts:
<https://www.facebook.com/URC-East-Midlands-Synod-102279281444717/>

Similarly the [Synod Youth and Children's Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/) shares news and ideas related to our work with young people: <https://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/>



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

Following the relaxation of the government's "Plan B" Covid guidance, the **Synod Office** has now reopened from **Monday to Thursday** each week. As a continued precaution, members of staff are each working two days per week on site and otherwise working from home, in two alternating "bubbles". 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.

Arrangements remain under regular review and any update will be posted on our website:
www.unc5.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
Photo by [David Monje](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Next edition: Thursday 17 February 2022

Please send all material for this E-Letter to both: trainingpa@unc5.org.uk and training@unc5.org.uk
Copy deadline for next edition: 12 noon on **Monday 14 February 2022**