



The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 274 – 2nd AUGUST 2018
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: HELEN LIDGETT

Bless the Lord , O my soul.
You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
They flow between the hills,
Giving drink to every wild animal;
The wild asses quench their thirst.
By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
They sing among the branches.
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
Psalm 104 v.1, 10-13 NRSV

These refreshing words are part of a much longer psalm that celebrates the greatness of God as shown through the natural world. Starlit heavens, high mountains and valleys, grass and plants providing food and wine, wild animals going about their hunting by night, birds nesting in tall trees, the sea full of 'creeping things'.

We know all about the billions of years during which the earth as we know it today was formed; the moving of tectonic plates in the earth pushing continents apart. We have looked in amazement at long dead creatures - vast dinosaurs which once roamed the earth whose bones now lie buried in stone; we've followed the trail of evolution which leads to a myriad of life forms - insects and birds, animals, reptiles and fish, which inhabit the earth today.

As Christian people we do not deny evolution or pretend that the earth did not take eons to form and is in a continuous process of change, but we look beyond these things to God the creator. We do so in wonder and in worship, in hymns and psalms that celebrate God's abundance, God's gift of this earth and God's gift of life.

How are we to respond? Do we accept the gift, treasure it, look after it, use it wisely? Or do we trash it, trample on it, destroy it? As we struggle through a heatwave, sweeping as far north as the Arctic and as far east as Japan, scientists tell us that this is only to be expected. It's part of the effect of climate change. And although climate change happens naturally, we know our present runaway heating up of the earth is caused by human activity. So we are trashing the gift! As Christian people, knowing we are loved by the Creator God, we have to take responsibility - to care for the environment, to use its resources wisely, to love and not destroy.

In 2016 General Assembly approved the URC's Environmental Policy and committed the church to implementing it. In our churches we can use the resources and accept the challenge provided by Eco-Church. In a few weeks time you will hear about Green Journey, offering help to all our churches in the management of our buildings, which will be promoted by our Green Apostle, Charles Jolly. What can your church do, what can you do, to make our commitment to the stewardship of God's earth real?

Helen Lidgett

PEOPLE

- We regret to inform you that the **Revd Antony Tomlinson**, a retired minister living in Sheffield, passed away on 12th July. Antony served at: Egham Hill 1961-67; Sunningdale 1964-67; Gosport 1967-76; Marton & St George's, Blackpool 1976-86; Trinity Lancaster 1986-2000. The funeral was held on Monday 30th July at St Andrew's (URC/Meth) Church, Penistone at 3.30pm. Please remember Antony's family, in your prayers.
- We are pleased to announce the following upcoming Induction in the East Midlands Synod: **Revd Judith Tatton-Schiff** will be inducted to the Derby West Group pastorate - Ashbourne Road LEP, Central URC and Mackworth URC. The service will be held at Central United Reformed Church, Becketwell Lane, Derby, DE1 1JW on Saturday 8th September 2018 at 3:00pm.

DELAY IN SENDING THE E LETTER OUT

Apologies for the fact that you are receiving this E letter so late. Unfortunately, due to new installations, on 2nd August the Synod Office lost all server connection. This meant that we had no internet or access to any files for over a week. Although we are still having some technical issues, we have now been able to access files and are catching up with the back log. We are very sorry for any inconvenience that this has caused.

Following a short break for the summer, the next edition of the E letter will be sent out on Thursday 6th September.

DERBYSHIRE

CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR DERBYSHIRE – presents ‘Working Together is worth it’ with keynote speaker: Pastor Geoff Pickup on Saturday 6th October 2018 from 10am to 3pm at Matlock Methodist and United Reformed Church (Parking at County Hall nearby, DE4 3AG). Free entry, drinks provided, bring your own lunch.

In our time, Christian unity is taking many forms, with new combinations and new partnerships. Pastor Geoff will draw on over 40 years ministry experience to help us to see how traditional denominations and less traditional congregations are collaborating when and how the Spirit leads. Plus an opportunity to connect with other local mission groups

For more details or to book contact Ian Sant: 01332 721927 ian.sant@ntlworld.com or Paul King: 01246 270936 jpking@uwclub.net

WORKS AT SYNOD OFFICE

You will have read or maybe seen that the Synod offices have been upgraded and we are taking an opportunity to dedicate the new space to the work of Synod and for the staff team working there.

A short event is being held on Tuesday 16 October 2018 between 1200 and 1400 and if anyone connected with our churches wishes to attend please let us know, for catering purposes, by contacting Chris Willis at the Synod Office: admin@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241 before 27/09/2018

URC MUSIC NETWORK – MUSIC DAY 2018

Saturday 6th October at St Columba’s URC, York. ‘Sing a New Song to the Lord’.

Our Music Day will provide a wonderful opportunity to try new music, to be inspired to refresh old favourites and to hear how one of the URC’s well-known hymn-writers found inspiration. We have three gifted leaders to help us get the most out of our day and, as always, Music Day will send us home with a new song in our hearts.

Cost: £10 per member of URC Music and £12.50 for non-members.

Workshop Leaders: Alex Walker, Laurence Wareing and Revd Anne Sardeson

For more information visit: <http://urcmusic.org.uk/2018/06/celebration-day-2018-sing-a-new-song-to-the-lord/>

STEPPING OFF THE MAP

Engaging With New Housing Areas – A conference for churches and individuals keen to share Christ’s love in Lincolnshire’s 100,000 new homes. Speakers: Revd Alison Boulton and Revd Penny Marsh, Saturday 24th November from 9.30am to 4.30pm at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. Tickets: £35.00

To book visit: <http://www.ctal.org.uk/sotm.html> for more information contact: admin@ctal.org.uk

GDPR - GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Visit to the Synod Office

At our invitation, an officer from the Information Commissioner's Office made an advisory visit to the Synod Office at the end of July. He looked through our documentation and asked us various questions about how we are implementing data protection. He praised Synod's good practice in a number of areas and made some recommendations for improvement. Remembering the hours of hard work staff put in, how good it was to read: "The staff and volunteers who are involved and responsible for the implementation of GDPR are clearly well motivated, engaged, and interested."

Does it apply to my church?

There are a couple of things to draw to the attention of local churches. Firstly, GDPR applies to all organisations, including local churches. Do not believe anyone who tells you it does not. The officer drew our attention to a recent judgement of the European Court of Justice confirming that religious organisations are not exempt from the Regulation. If you have not yet done so, download the templates from the Synod website, which you will find on the GDPR button on the home page: www.unc5.org.uk and adapt them for your church. If you need any help, please ring the Synod Office, and the privacy officers, Hannah Holmes and Hannah Willey, will help you.

CCTV

Secondly, do you have CCTV on your premises? If so, you must register with the ICO. Go to the ICO website, www.ico.org.uk, click on 'Pay fee, renew fee, or register a DPO'. The fee for charities is £40 annually, so not excessive. All churches may find it helpful to go through the self-assessment check list on that page to check whether you need to register with the ICO. Our view is that as 'not-for-profit' organisations, you do not (unless you have CCTV), but please make your own decision about this. There are updates to GDPR in preparation. We will let you know through the E-letter if there is anything local churches need to know.

Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk



BELONGING ONLINE CONFERENCE

Belonging are holding an online conference, which is being streamed on Thursday 13th September 2018 with the Methodist Church, who are organising the event.

'Belonging' supports churches to have a welcoming and accessible ministry with children and young people who have additional needs. This day event is happening in partnership with The Additional Needs Alliance, Pete and Christine Winmill from Count Everyone In and Mark Arnold, Director of Additional Needs with Urban Saints. It promises to be an engaging and informative day with lots of opportunities to discuss and reflect on the key issues.

You can join in from anywhere there's an internet connection and we're keen to encourage lots of local events that make it accessible for as many folk as possible to get together. Do take a look at the website for details of how to register these and be kept updated on future developments with the programme and speakers:

www.methodist.org.uk/belongingconference

We are happy to announce that East Midlands Synod will be streaming the conference from the Synod Meeting Room. To join us on Thursday 13th September 2018 from 9.30am – 2.30pm, please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office to book your place. Bring a packed lunch. Email: trainingpa@unc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

THE DALES – INDOOR YOUTH CAMP 2018

Indoor Youth Camp @ The Dales URC, £15 young per person, open to all Churches!

Leaders welcome to come to support their young people. Lots of fun, competitions, games, games consoles, craft, worship and possibly not a lot of sleep.

Start time: 10pm Friday 5th October, Finish: 11:30am Sunday 7th October

Email to book or for more details: youth@thedalesurc.co.uk

Web: <http://thedalesurc.co.uk/youthcamp2018>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH WORKER AT WELL STREET UNITED CHURCH

Part time – 20 hours, Well Street United Church, Buckingham, MK18 1ET. Salary £10 per hour (depending on qualifications)

We are an ecumenical partnership (Methodist, Baptist, and United Reformed) and are seeking an enthusiastic Christian youth worker for our group between 11-18 years.

The role is to ensure that the young people have the opportunity to grow in the Christian faith and enjoy and enhance their experience of our Christian community. For more details see our website:

www.wellstreetchurch.org.uk Telephone: 01280 817560 Email: wellstreetoffice@gmail.com

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE – DEPUTY CHAPLAIN, (FULL-TIME) Lay or Ordained

Lincolnshire Police are passionately committed to the well-being of their officers & staff - particularly providing for them pastoral care and support in times of difficulty and stress. To this end, we are looking to recruit a full-time deputy chaplain to work alongside the full-time Lead chaplain, the community chaplain and our growing team of chaplaincy volunteers.

Are you passionate about caring for people, regardless of their background? Are you emotionally resilient and able to cope with working with the pain and distress of our amazing officers & staff who work at the sharp end day in, day out? Is your own personal spirituality vibrantly alive and are you able to hold it in the background whilst you offer love, support and a listening ear to diverse people from diverse backgrounds? Are you comfortable working non-judgementally with people of all faiths and often none? Are you able to work diplomatically, sensitively, independently and with real-world discernment routinely across a large geographical area? Do you have a history of significant pastoral work with people in challenging situations? If you can honestly answer yes to these questions, we are very interested in hearing from you.

We are looking for the right person to fit our team and are therefore open to applications from various streams. Whether you are lay or ordained, your spirituality will be hospitable whilst an element of orthodoxy will mean you will be and will remain in good standing within your faith community. Your pastoral experience will be significant given the intensive nature of this work. Your qualifications are less important than your practical experiences, though some pastoral, counselling or theological training will be in evidence.

In return, we offer you the opportunity to minister within a growing police chaplaincy team whilst having your own distinct areas of responsibility to blossom and grow within. An excellent remuneration package (£39,918 - £43,908) is provided.

Given the relatively unique nature of this role, time for informal conversations with the Lead Chaplain and exploratory visits will be made available for interested candidates. We strongly recommend prospective candidates make use of these opportunities. Please contact the Lead Chaplain Rev. William Ruddle on 07903 730591 to discuss further.

APPLICATIONS VIA: <https://www.lincs.police.uk/about-us/join-us/vacancies/police-staff/deputy-chaplain-ref-1843/>

AND FINALLY: - This E letter is sent on behalf of The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA. Telephone: 0115 9609241

Email address for E-Letter Editor: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 03.09.2018

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