



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 275 – 6th SEPTEMBER 2018

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD GEOFFREY CLARKE

I am currently reading the history of one of the former Methodist churches here in Worksop and was intrigued to read that “The second quarter of the nineteenth century was a stormy period in Wesleyan Methodism, marked by bitter controversies upon matters of church government, in which feeling ran high on both sides.” The disputes were serious enough to lead to some congregations seceding from the parent body. You may – like me – be most surprised to learn what was a key factor in the decision to secede.

To quote the book:

... it might appear that Protestant Methodism arose from a bigoted opposition to aesthetic improvement in worship; for the occasion of the secession was a dispute about the installation of an organ in Brunswick Wesleyan Chapel, Leeds. A majority of the trustees, with whom rested the legal right of application for permission, desired its erection, but the great majority of the local ... members ... were opposed to the innovation. Not only was there a fear that the organ would replace the freedom and heartiness which characterised Methodist services by a cold and formal ceremony, but the use of such aids to worship had long since been associated in Protestant minds with Popery. In Nonconformity, and especially in Methodism, this feeling was strong. In Methodism it had been customary to give out at one time only two lines of a hymn, and it was an alarming innovation when a minister ventured on a whole verse. Organs were to be found in only three Methodist chapels in Wesley’s lifetime, and until 1820 it was necessary to obtain special permission of the Conference to erect one.

Reflecting on this piece of church history – part of our own ‘family tree’ history here at The Crossing – I wonder whether, like me, you share a sense of surprise that some of our forebears held such strong objection to an organ that it was sufficient cause for breaking away as a separate branch of the church? Go far enough back in our Reformed Church history and you will discover the objection to the congregational singing of words that are, the argument goes, the composition of mere human beings (rather than the words of Scripture). The central place of congregational singing and music – and the appreciation of the contribution made to worship by the organ – are, I suggest, not something we would dispute in our own setting today. Which leads me to suggest that one lesson we can learn is that with the passage of time views can change and horizons can be broadened. This is not to say that every belief and principle is subject to amendment and change but the acknowledgement that is possible to experience fresh insight. In the spirit of The Nature, Faith and Order of The United Reformed Church we can maintain that, “we affirm our right and readiness, if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union and to make new statements of faith in ever new obedience to the Living Christ”. The same statement goes on to state, “Held together in the Body of Christ through the freedom of the Spirit, we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit’s gifts and uphold the rights of personal conviction. For the sake of faith and fellowship it shall be for the church to decide when differences of conviction hurt our unity and peace”.

May the churches of our Synod be places where horizons are continually broadened, convictions respected and the unity and peace of the Church maintained.

Geoffrey Clarke

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

WELLINGBOROUGH URC - This will be the first venue for Stuart Townend and Band Courage Tour 2018. Date - Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 7.30pm. Ticket price:£15.00 - available from 18th June as follows :
Website: wellingboroughurc.org.uk Email: wellingboroughurc@hotmail.com Tel :01933 278137
Write: ST Tour, Salem Hall, Salem Lane, Wellingborough NN8 4JT
If anyone would like to pay by BACS, please let us know and details will be sent.
Save the date and come hear the composer of "In Christ alone", "Beautiful Saviour", "There is a hope"!

NOTTINGHAM

THE RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS 'GOSPEL STREET it's GOOD NEWS' – On Saturday 17th November 2018 at 7pm at Bulwell URC, Broomhill Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, NG6 9GJ. Tickets: £5
From: 01904 613000 / 07773 335443 or online: ridinglights.org/gospel

Another generation is looking for answers – a rich young executive, an angry gang leader, religious fanatics streaming live, baristas, professors, YouTubers, activists, a surprising refugee and the pizza delivery bloke who bought some seriously expensive jewellery. People are out on the street. Despite their differences and social divisions, everyone wants to meet one extraordinary person: Jesus has arrived on their street. There's always trouble on the street and he's looking to do something about it...

GOSPELSTREET is a powerful mix of theatre, comedy and spoken word – a breath-taking ride through all the important issues of life, death... and miraculous street food. Good news with wisdom, laughter, energy and insight.

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

WEST DERBYSHIRE URC – Invite you to their 150-year anniversary celebration which will take place on the weekend of October 13th/14th this year. On the Saturday there will be an open day from 10am to 4pm with displays and photographs telling the story of the church over the years. There will be craft activities for young and old and of course, refreshments. On the Sunday at 2.30pm there will be a celebration service for all ages with dramatisations telling the story of church life over the years. The service will be led by our Minister Revd Camilla Veitch and church historian and former Moderator of General Assembly Revd Dr Stephen Orchard. The celebration will conclude with a bring and share tea in the adjoining Glenorchy Centre.

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

MINISTRY ENQUIRERS' DAY - IS IT I, LORD?

Saturday 10 November 2018, 10am – 4pm, Westminster College, Cambridge.

Explore opportunities for service through the United Reformed Church

- Ask the questions that are on your mind and heart
- Hear from people engaged in a variety of lay and ordained ministries
- Listen for the voice of God as we worship and pray together

For full details contact: Vivienne Williams T: 020 7916 8649 E: vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk

GERMINATE NEWS AND EVENTS FOR 2018

There's lots going on at Germinate, The Arthur Rank Centre in the next couple of months and we'd love you to join us! Up first at the beginning of October is the beginning of the 2018 Germinate Leadership programme; Then a week or so later we have the third Germinate Conference, featuring Rt Revd David Walker and our very own Claire Maxim! For the full list of events and news visit: <http://germinate.net/>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

The Record of Assembly is now available online here:

<https://urc.org.uk/images/General-Assemblies/Assembly2018/RECORD-2018w.pdf>

CREATION TIME 1ST SEPTEMBER TO 4TH OCTOBER

If you have not yet 'discovered' the Season of Creation (and if you have!), the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Group would like to draw your attention to the wealth of material readily available to enrich worship, prayer and discussion:

Eco-Congregation Scotland (which of course includes the URC) has published excellent resources based on the Lectionary for each of the 5 Sundays: control-click www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time and scroll down.

To explore the ecumenical celebration of the season: www.seasonofcreation.org

Visit Tearfund for a 'light service' www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/action/light_service_redirect

For a comprehensive over-view of resources and more links go to: www.ctbi.org.uk/creation-time-2018

We would be delighted to hear how your congregation has marked the Season!

Charles Jolly 'Green Apostle' charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com

TLS LITE FOR LAY PREACHER TRAINING

A study group will be commencing in Northampton in early September. There are spaces, if anyone in the area wishes to join. If so, please contact me without delay.

Any church can set up a TLS LITE study group. It is simply a matter of finding someone appropriately qualified to lead the group and then obtaining the study materials from the publishing department via www.urc.org.uk

It is, however, also important to let me or the Synod Training Officer know at the start so that we have a record of those taking the course. This is essential for anyone who hopes to proceed to Synod or National accreditation as a lay preacher.

Charles Jolly, East Midlands TLS organiser. charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S EVENT AT OCTOBER SYNOD

Come along and discover more about **THE FEAST OF THE TABERNACLE!**

For Children and Young People aged 5yrs-25yrs on Saturday 13th October 2018 from 10.30am – 4pm at Marlpool United Reformed Church.

Join in with others from across the Synod to discover more about this Pilgrimage Festival.

- Games
- Craft/Fun
- Build a Tabernacle

Booking is essential, to book please email Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office for a booking form:

trainingpa@urc5.org.uk or Telephone: 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

THE CROSSING CHURCH AND CENTRE - CENTRE MANAGER

This is a permanent position

Role Title: Centre Manager Pay: £13 per hour

Hours of Duty: 28 hours per week, to include evenings and weekends when required (for which no additional payment is made)

Responsible to: The Crossing SEC board of Trustees

Location: The Crossing Church and Centre

Key Objectives:

- To work in partnership with a range of agencies to ensure the successful operation of The Crossing in its vision, mission and values.
- To work in partnership with others to ensure the sound economic future of The Crossing.
- To ensure good communication with board members and stakeholders.
- To ensure effective and efficient management of staff.
- To ensure effective and efficient management of volunteers.

Please apply in writing enclosing your cv and a covering letter detailing your suitability for the role to Anne Taylor at The Crossing Church and Centre, Newcastle Street, Worksop, S80 2AT or by e-mail to anne.taylor@thecrossing.co.uk .

Closing date is 28th September 2018, aiming for a starting date of 1st December 2018.

Anne will be available for an informal chat with any prospective applicant, please contact at the above e-mail address or telephone: 01909 473375 to make an appointment.

ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR PETERBOROUGH AND RUTLAND

Are you inspired by the vision of Christians of different traditions working together? Are you a great networker, solution-finder and administrator? If so, this post may be for you.

£29,400 pa pro rata plus 10% pension contribution, home based, 10 hours a week

Details can be found at: www.shireandsoke.org.uk Closing date: 25 September 2018

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: 17.09.2018

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