



The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 277 – 4th OCTOBER 2018
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD DR DEBORAH BAIRD

A reporter once said to Mother Teresa, "I wouldn't do your job for a million dollars." Her response? "Me neither!" The question is, *what would our response be?* In our culture we value our independence, and we gather to ourselves wealth, we value our jobs and status, and we set our own goals. To loosely quote the *Vanity Fair* TV serial, we 'strive for things that are not worth having,' and we in the West, become empty and lonely. But independence is not a gospel value, the gospel values community, and the longing for community is in all of us. Who doesn't long to love and be loved? "We have to create an environment where it is easier to be good," said Dorothy Day, and we need to be intentional about creating communities that are good for all and not just for some. When we live in community we are able to recognise, and walk alongside, those who need us, because that is what we were made for. Not only does this countercultural attitude give life to others, but it gives us life as well. All we have to do is decide to live differently, in a Jesus-like way, and allow ourselves to be transformed by God.

Every blessing,
Deborah

PEOPLE

- It is with regret that we inform you of the death of **Revd David Stapleton**, retired minister living in Woodbridge, who passed away on 12th September, 2018. David served at Garston, Watford 1955-58; Greenwich 1958-65; Wood Street, Walthamstow 1965-71; Garston, Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green, 1971-74.
- It is with sadness that we advise you of the death of **Revd Peter Blezard**, who died on Saturday 29 September. Peter served in Darwen, Lancashire from 1977 - 2011. Funeral arrangements are not yet available.

FAIRTRADE AT SYNOD – Saturday 13th October

Please order in advance for Advent Calendars - choice of 3 sorts- or catering packs of tea/coffee. See: traidcraftshop.co.uk for details. Order to ian.sylvia@salmon2.co.uk

PRAYER HANDBOOKS AND DIARIES

Prayer handbooks and diaries have now been ordered. Can you please confirm your orders by 10th October so that they can be prepared for the meeting. There are still some spare copies available, if you need to place an order please contact Chris at the Synod Office: Email: admin@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

SYNOD MEETING - SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER

A quick reminder to everyone that the Synod meeting is fast approaching. All those on email will receive their papers today. If you are one of those receiving papers by "snail mail" they should be with you this weekend. Remember if your church rep is unable to attend the meeting another person from your church can attend in their place.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Synod meeting. I still have some spare Prayer Handbooks and Diaries available.

Thank you, Chris

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.

NOTTINGHAM WORLD CHURCH SUNDAY - November 25th, to be held at Bulwell URC at 4pm with "bring & share" tea. Speaker: Pastor Joseph Zulu, on Extending Compassion to the people of Zimbabwe. Note the date - posters available later. For further details contact: ian.sylvia@salmon.2.co.uk

THE DALES - October the 17th, Wed; 7.30pm A Tribute Evening, for the life of Pollyanna Pickering. For many years, Pollyanna & Anna Louise came & gave lovely talks on their adventures for the saving of the Wild Life. Such joyous evenings, sadly not to be had again. The Dales people are so saddened by Pollyanna's death, such a lovely lady, full of wonderful talent, but so humble, always so approachable. The first part of the evening, is to be a short Tribute memorial to Pollyanna, the rest of the evening coffee/ cakes/ cards (made from Pollyanna's create & craft papers). Anna Louise will be attending the event and bringing calendars & cards along on the evening.

DERBYSHIRE

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.

LINCOLNSHIRE

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 : Rev. Alison Boulton and Rev. Penny Marsh. On Saturday November 24th: 9.30a.m. to 4.30p.m.

Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. Tickets £35. To book—click <http://www.ctal.org.uk/sotm.html>

Or email admin@ctal.org.uk

WORSHIP MATERIAL FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A unique resource has been published on the URC website, available as a downloadable pdf. For over 60 years the URC has had a Covenant of Pulpit and Table Fellowship with the Protestant Churches in the Palatinate region of Germany, the 'Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz'. Drawing on this partnership for the 100 years commemoration of the 1918 Armistice, the URC have been working with our German partners to produce a shared resource, which can be downloaded as two separate booklets.

Entitled 'One hundred years after the First World War: Looking back, looking forward', the first booklet contains personal stories, reflections and poems written by British and German contributors. It includes a pilgrimage to the Somme this year undertaken by Pfarrer Martin Henninger from the Pfalz and the Revd David Pickering, Moderator of the Synod in Scotland. Their grandparents served on opposing sides during World War One. An accompanying booklet provides worship material: meditation, prayers, newly written hymns and biblical reflections and closes with a commitment to peace building.

Download by following this link: <https://urc.org.uk/british-german-remembrance-resources.html>

GOPSEL CHOIR OF THE YEAR AND SONGS OF PRAISE – AT THE ALBERT HALL, NOTTINGHAM

THE SPECTACULAR GOSPEL CHOIR OF THE YEAR 2018 – Is taking place at the Albert Hall, Nottingham on Saturday 20th October, from 6.30pm – 10pm. Tickets are free but limited so book now at: songs.of.praise@avantimedia.tv or call: 0161 873 7073.

With special performance from The Kingdom Choir, conducted by Karen Gibson, who recently performed at the Royal Wedding.

Come and be part of the TV audience as David Grant hosts The Songs of Praise Gospel Choir of the Year. Five choirs will compete in front of the celebrity judges, but will they pick your favourite?

SONGS OF PRAISE – Is taking place on Sunday 21st October, from 6.30pm – 9.30pm at The Albert Hall, Nottingham. Join us in a celebration of hymns and songs with some very special guests. Get in touch to book your place: SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv or call: 0161 873 7073.

UPDATE ON STEPWISE

Stepwise now has its own button on the home page of the URC website and the latest information is available here: <https://urc.org.uk/stepwise.html>

We are looking for up to 15 “early adopter” groups for Faith-Filled Life between now and Christmas, please get in touch if you are interested.

Stepwise are also very happy to introduce the newest member of the Stepwise Team.

- The Revd David Salsbury has joined the team as the Stepwise Programme Manager. He will largely be working from his home in North Wales, although coming to Church House on a frequent basis. Some of you already know him from his previous post as a pastoral minister and Synod Training and Development Officer in North Wales. His direct e-mail address is david.salsbury@urc.org.uk and his direct line is 07547 983 063.
- Ms Marion Brown has been in post since 1st August as the Stepwise Programme Assistant. She is working three days a week, based at Church House. Her usual working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Her e-mail address is stepwise.assistant@urc.org.uk and her direct line is 0207 916 8648

ENERGY SAVING – ADVICE FROM JPIC (Justice Peace And Integrity Of Creation Group)

Summer is definitely over now and many of us have started using the heating again – both at home and at church. October is a great month to think about how we use our energy, and more importantly what we can do to keep warm in the most efficient way. Here are a few suggestions:

- At Church: The URC is working with an project called Green Journey who are helping churches both to get the best deal for their electricity and gas (100% renewable energy) and to help congregations work out the best way of saving energy in their building. Contact Mark Rudhall by email: mark@greenjourney.org to arrange an energy audit or ring Charles Jolly 01298 22557 to talk through what they do.
- At Home: The Energy Saving Trust offers lots of useful advice. From thicker curtains (and closing them at dusk) to making sure that your boiler, radiators or thermostats are set correctly.
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

In the Community: If there are old or vulnerable people in your community you could possibly help them to keep warm this winter, while hopefully saving energy. Citizens Advice gives support on a range of energy issues www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/ ... and look out for Big Energy



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

UPCOMING SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Synod Safeguarding training sessions currently planned are as follows:

October 6th – Newport Pagnell URC, 10am – 1pm

October 10th – The Dales URC, Nottingham, 6pm – 9pm

October 27th – Spalding URC, 1pm – 4pm

To book a space on these sessions please email Hannah Holmes trainingpa@ur5.org.uk

If you would like training in your church the training team are very happy to travel across the synod to deliver training.

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

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