



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 278 – 18th OCTOBER 2018
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: CHARLES JOLLY

Good news! You will have heard of the recent special report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Maybe you thought of Isaiah 62:5 – 'Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels.' Climate scientists (some literally in tears) warned that we must make every effort to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C. What particularly struck me is the very clear link made with eliminating global grinding poverty. On the one hand, meeting the Sustainable Development Goals is essential to limit global warming. On the other hand, the climate change following a temperature rise of 2 degrees C will have 'negative consequences' for hundreds of millions of poor people.

The trumpet call is good news because there is still (just) time to act to prevent catastrophe! There is indeed hope that, with God's help, we can change the wasteful life-styles of the rich nations (= us). We are, however, warned against 'cheap grace' and there is no room for 'cheap hope'. Look at the heart-rending devastation resulting from an earth-quake and tsunami in Sulawesi or the millions of children on the brink of starvation as a consequence of the wicked war in Yemen. I'm sure that many churches will be raising funds to do what we can to help, but we will be overwhelmed by the needs unless global warming is controlled. That is why the JPIC Group commends congregations to register with Eco Church and lovingly to integrate resolute care for God's Creation within their worship and action.

Charles Jolly, Commitment for Life Advocate and 'Green Apostle'

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

TRAIDCRAFT STALL - Eastwood United Reformed Church, Alexandra Street, Eastwood NG16 3PB (small car park accessed from Queen's Square) On Saturday 3rd November from 10 am - 12 noon

LINCOLNSHIRE

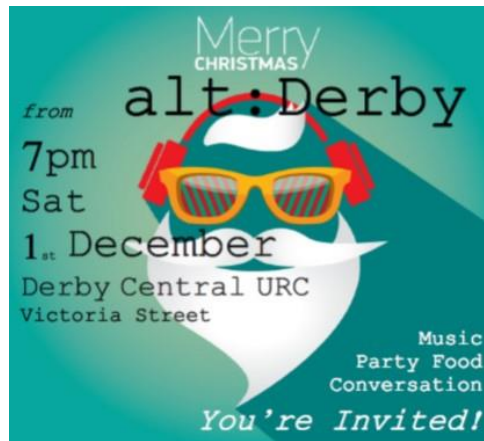
STEPPING OFF THE MAP - Engaging with New Housing Areas. A conference for churches and individuals keen to share Christ's love in Lincolnshire's 100,000 new homes.

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

DERBYSHIRE



You are invited to - XMAS BASH! alt: Derby at 7pm on Saturday 1st December at Derby Central URC, Victoria Street, Derby.

Come along for music, party food and conversation. With special Guest Speaker Dave Tomlinson, Author of: Post Evangelical, Re-enchanting Christianity, How to be a Bad Christian, The Bad Christian's Manifesto, Black Sheep and Prodigals, Still Waters & Sky Scrapers.

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (DEC) LAUNCHES INDONESIA TSUNAMI APPEAL

Leading UK aid agencies (including Christian Aid), have launched a joint fundraising appeal to help the survivors of the 7.4 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that struck Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, the Friday before. Over 1,300 people are confirmed dead and 200,000 people are in urgent need of clean water, food, medical care and shelter.

Homes and entire communities have been destroyed after the earthquake and a tsunami with waves travelling at over 400 miles per hour left a trail of destruction in their wake in one of the worst Indonesian disasters since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami.

As rescuers struggle to reach outlying communities, authorities fear that casualties and the number of people displaced by the disaster will rise in the coming days. Up to 1.5 million people may have been affected.

The DEC Indonesia Tsunami Appeal was launched on 4th October and was shown on all major UK broadcasters including BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky.

To make a donation to the DEC Indonesia Tsunami Appeal visit: www.dec.org.uk

Stay up to date with developments in Indonesia, the emergency response and the fundraising efforts with the DEC on twitter: www.twitter.com/decappeal or on Facebook via www.facebook.com/DisastersEmergencyCommittee

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

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - Educational Visit to Israel & Palestine 18-28 September 2019

Successful applicants will participate in a guided educational visit to Israel, the occupied West Bank, annexed East Jerusalem and Golan Heights, to learn about their peoples, religions, politics and cultures. There will be a particular focus on meeting with Palestinian Christians, in order to appreciate the immense challenges faced by the indigenous churches and their members. The visit will explore some of the principal historical sites relating to the Abrahamic faiths. There will be periods of reflection and bible study throughout, and especially by the Sea of Galilee towards the end of the visit. Experienced guides will accompany the party.

Funding has been secured to cover flights, transfers, accommodation, meals and transport whilst in Israel and Palestine. Successful applicants will be responsible for providing personal spending money, and for the arrangements and costs of internal UK travel [and accommodation, if necessary] prior to the outward flight from London Luton Airport and following arrival of the return flight. In addition, each person will be required to commit to raising £500 towards the cost of the visit. Participants are not expected to fund this amount from personal finances but to raise the money locally, as this will raise awareness of the purpose of the visit.

It is hoped that the group will include one representative from each synod and two from URC Youth. There will be three leaders plus General Assembly Moderator, Derek Estill. Synod representatives will be selected by application form. The aim is to put together a diverse group of experience and backgrounds. The visit is open to both lay and ordained people. Applicants are **not** required to have great prior knowledge of Israel and Palestine. **But** participants will be expected to prepare in advance and to share experience and learning from the visit widely within their synod on return. One practical point, the itinerary will be physically demanding; there will be a good deal of walking, sometimes on steep and uneven surfaces with many steps to climb!

Application Forms and further information obtained from URC Church House by emailing carole.sired@urc.org.uk
Closing date for the return of completed application forms is **Tuesday 18 December 2018**

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>

The resources are also available to purchase via the URC shop (<https://urcshop.co.uk/>) and are priced at:

- One hundred years after the First World War: Looking back, looking forward - £1.00 each
- Accompanying worship material - £0.75 each

ELDERS GATHERING

East Midlands Synod are holding an Elders Gathering on Saturday 10th November from 11am – 2pm at Castle Hill URC, Northants. This is an opportunity for Elders to meet to share experiences and be led in Bible Study by our TDO, Revd Dr Deborah Baird.

To book your place please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office – Email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk
Telephone: 0115 9609241.

Refreshments will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

MISSING A COAT?

There were 3 coats left behind at the Synod meeting held on 13th October at Marlpool URC. Is 1 of them yours? If you think it is then please contact Chris at the Synod Office so that you can be reunited.

Email: admin@urc5.org.uk Telephone: 0115 9609241



UPCOMING SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Synod Safeguarding training sessions currently planned are as follows:

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

Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 29.10.2018

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