



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 279 – 1st NOVEMBER 2018
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: HELEN LIDGETT

WHAT COLOUR IS YOUR POPPY?

The hanging baskets of flowers have all been taken down and every lamp post in our village now sports a large red fabric poppy. The railings around the war memorial are also adorned with poppies.

A few days ago I was involved in a conversation about the use of animals in warfare, horses of course, millions of them in the First World War. Also cats deployed to catch rats in the trenches and pigeons as messengers. Dogs too in a variety of situations. “Did you know” said one young woman, “there are purple poppies for animals killed in war?” Another responded “Really? I’m going to wear one with my red poppy.” Seizing my chance I added “You can wear a white poppy too.” The first young woman looked surprised “What are they for?” she asked. I told her they are peace poppies. Before I could tell her they were first introduced in the 1930’s and are sold by the Peace Pledge Union, another colleague, a former history teacher, said: ‘They’re also for conscientious objectors’. He went on to explain the different types of conscientious objectors, many of whom were Quakers, those who were willing to drive ambulances at the front, care for the wounded and bury the dead; those who worked the land to provide food for the population; and those who refused to do anything that could be construed as helping the war effort and were imprisoned. Some who were refused exemption were conscripted anyway.

The Peace Pledge Union website explains:

“There are three elements to the meaning of white poppies: they represent remembrance for all victims of war, a commitment to peace and a challenge to attempts to glamorise or celebrate war. In wearing white poppies, we remember all those killed in war, all those wounded in body or mind, the millions who have been made sick or homeless by war and the families and communities torn apart. We also remember those killed or imprisoned for refusing to fight and resisting war.”

So you can wear your red poppy to remember members of the British armed forces killed in war whose names are poignantly listed on war memorials across the country and in many of our churches. Perhaps too you can wear a purple poppy in remembrance of animals drafted into war service, like Michael Morpurgo’s “War Horse” immortalised in book, play and film. And you can wear a white poppy, demonstrating commitment to peace making and remembering the many who die in wars even today, not just armed combatants, but millions of civilians.

Purple poppies are produced by Murphy’s Army: purplepoppycampaign.org (they are now sold out and recommend purchasing them from their ebay account).

White poppies can be bought from the Peace Pledge Union: www.ppu.org.uk

Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk

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

NOTTINGHAM

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

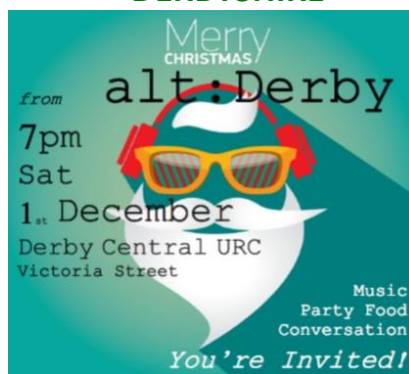
THE RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS 'GOSPEL STREET it's GOOD NEWS' – On Saturday 17th November 2018 at 7pm at Bulwell URC, Broomhill Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, NG6 9GJ. Tickets: £5
From: 01904 613000 / 07773 335443 or online: ridinglights.org/gospel

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.svlvia@salmon.2.co.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.

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.



SYNOD ADVENT REFRESHER



On Saturday 1st December 2018, from 10.30am – 2.30pm at The Synod Meeting Room, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA. Bring your own lunch.

This event is led by our Training and Development Officer, the Revd Dr Deborah Baird and all are welcome. Come along to share ideas, join discussions with other churches and be led in bible study and advent reflection. Booking is essential, please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office to book your place: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

NEWS FROM TRAIDCRAFT AND TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE

Traidcraft plc is in serious financial difficulties due to the fall in the value of the pound against the US dollar following the 2016 European Union Referendum. Following its ethical principles, Traidcraft refused to reduce the amount it pays its producers, unlike many of its UK competitors, and experienced rapidly rising costs and consequent serious financial losses. It is now exploring a new business model which does not include buying products from many of the craft producers who have been supplying them in recent years. Further the Board has announced that it is in consultation with its staff about restructuring and has issued redundancy notices. The Board must make a decision on the future of Traidcraft plc by 31st December 2018. At the recent East Midlands Synod meeting, the Moderator asked for prayers for the Traidcraft Board, the staff facing redundancy and the many producers around the world.

Traidcraft Exchange, Traidcraft plc's partner charity, a campaign organisation fighting injustice in trade, is not affected and has sent a letter to all their supporters explaining what they are doing to mitigate the effects. They write:

We have been working alongside Traidcraft plc producers since our very beginning and are concerned for the future of these small businesses, their employees and their families. Our immediate mission is now three-fold:

- 1. To use our expertise in trade to support those producers worst affected*
- 2. To secure enough support and funds to continue our work this year in helping over 300,000 very poor people get a better deal from trade*
- 3. To continue to fight for a world where all trade is fair.*

We are urgently considering how we can use our limited charity resources to support craft producers who have relied on sales to Traidcraft plc for their livelihoods. This situation has developed rapidly so we can't tell you yet exactly what this support looks like, but it's likely to involve helping the most vulnerable groups find new buyers for their products, so their businesses can survive into the future.

If it is to do this, Traidcraft Exchange needs financial resources and has issued an appeal for support. To find out more go to www.traidcraft.org.uk

SYNOD MISSION FUND PLAQUES

The Synod Mission Fund was created in 2008 and has distributed funds provided by the Synod Trust to 28 churches and 3 ecumenical mission projects in the 10 years since then. Several churches have applied for and been awarded further grants after the success of their first application. The Panel's assessment of applications is rigorous and not every application is successful. Applicants must now involve their Mission Enabler in preparing their application which has improved the quality of applications. Representatives from the church are now to be invited to meet the Panel to discuss their project and respond to questions before a decision is made. This has proved helpful to both the Panel and the applicants. At its last meeting the Panel agreed that a church applying for a grant for Children's or Youth work must get the support of the Synod's Children's and Youth Work Development Officer. Details of how to apply for a grant are on the Synod website under "Mission Resources".

The Synod Treasurer has identified several funds within the Synod Accounts which are available for projects in particular areas or counties. The Panel is sometimes able to add a grant from these to a successful applicant for a Mission Fund grant.

The Panel recently purchased plaques for churches to display. The plaques feature the United Reformed Church logo and state: "Mission made possible with funding support from the East Midlands Synod". At the October Synod the Moderator presented plaques to representatives from Bulwell URC, the ELM Pastorate (Eastwood, Marlpool and Langley URCs), Fountain Square Church Tideswell (URC/Methodist), Gainsborough URC, Gregory Boulevard URC Nottingham and Well Street United Church Buckingham (URC/Baptist/Methodist). Further plaques will be presented at Synod meetings for projects due to begin work later or awarded grants in future.

If your church received a grant in the past and would like a plaque to display, please contact Chris Willis at the Synod Office. She will ask you to make arrangements to collect your plaque as they will be expensive to post. Please note that if your church is a listed building or in a conservation area you must have permission to display your plaque. Contact the Synod Listed Buildings Advisory Group through Robert White at the Synod Office for advice.

Helen Lidgett, Convenor, Mission Fund Panel



SING – MUSIC WEEKEND

URC Youth are hosting a Music weekend for young people aged 14 to 25 from 23 to 25 November 2018, costing £75. It is being held at Whitemoor Lakes, Barley Green Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 8QT

The weekend is sure to be full of music making, worship and workshops exploring how we can use music in, and as, worship. We will also be discussing how to create more musical opportunities for young people within the URC in the future. On the Saturday evening we will be holding a talent show so please bring along something prepared or use the free time to join up with friends and create something to show. It doesn't have to be a musical act, it can be dance, drama, comedy or anything else you'd like to share.

For more information contact: Children and Youth Work Office, Email – children.youth@urc.org.uk

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: 12.11.2018
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