



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 282 – 13th December 2018
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Revd Peter Meek



Dear Friends,

Advent is a time for hope and expectation of God's promise. But we are hearing more and more in our news of the challenges to the natural world that human beings are causing, from air pollution, to soil erosion to global warming. It is easy to slide into despair. The idea that the world exists for human beings is being rightly and soundly challenged nowadays but sadly, as is often the case, monotheistic faith is being blamed. That analysis is wrong. Nonetheless we Christians, need to recover a biblical world view in which we are God's creatures amongst all God's creatures. We need to recover the understanding given in the Genesis creation stories of all creation being good and our role to tend it. I would suggest it is the arrogance of post enlightenment thinking that has led to the sorry state we are now in as a world. Let us then be reminded that in Mary's Song it is the humble and the downtrodden whom God exalts, for they have no one else to lift them up. May our relationship with God's earth be one of humility, love and care. May we be in ourselves, Advent hope to the world because the one in whom we've staked our whole lives is "humble and gentle of heart".

With love and prayers for a peaceful and blessed Advent and Christmas when it comes.

Peter

PEOPLE

- It is with sadness that we share the news that The **Revd Leslie Ivory** of Stowmarket died peacefully on Wednesday 28th November 2018, aged 96 years. Leslie served churches in Chorley (1951 - 54); Long Buckby (1954- 63); Bury St. Edmunds (1963 - 79); Cowlinge (1971 - 79); Hartest (1974- 76) and Rubery (1979 - 86). He retired in Stowmarket and remained active until shortly before his death. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Stowmarket United Reformed Church on Sunday, December 16, at 2.30 p.m. No flowers, but donations to the My Wish Charity may be given c/o. Armstrongs Funeral Service, 43 St. Andrews Street North, Bury St. Edmunds IP33 1TH. Tel. 01284 723889

SSPRG (Synod Structures and Priorities Review Group) – Implementation is happening – why not play a part?

After months of detailed planning and following the agreement of Synod in October 2018 the process of implementation is underway. This is an exciting time as we re-shape the organisation of our Synod to enable us to give even sharper focus on our Mission.

In some areas, such as the new Training and Development Group, transitional meetings have already begun with much enthusiasm. While we hope to have most of the areas up and running by the time of the next Synod meeting our progress will be much faster if we are able to mobilise as much support as possible.

So! This challenge is to everyone in the Synod – will you help us make the changes as quickly as possible?

We need Group Convenors (transitional or permanent), networkers, local enablers, in fact anyone who can offer help.

If you are unsure of what the terms mean or what is involved please contact Helen Lidgett the Synod Clerk (clerk@urc5.org.uk) or via the Synod Office. She will be delighted to answer your questions or put you in touch with another member of the team who will be happy to respond. There is no obligation to take things further after the initial inquiry – so why not make contact?

Yours in Christ, Geoff Shaw

CHRISTMAS MAILING

To all ministers and church secretaries the Christmas mailing will be sent out by post on Friday 28 December.

Please note this will contain a copy of the last Synod meeting minutes, the annual return (**which MUST be returned to the Synod office by 31 January at the latest please**) together with other information. If this has not been received by the secretary by 2 January please contact Chris at the Synod office.

TESTIMONY & TRIAL AN ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS DAY

Part of the Lincolnshire Methodist District's Positive Prevention Strategy

Beth Shalom, The National Holocaust Centre, Laxton, nr Newark

11 January 2019: 9.30 for 10.00 start, 3.30 finish

Eva Schloss MBE - Auschwitz survivor, author and posthumous step-sister of Anne Frank;

Dave Rich - Deputy Director of Communications at the Community Security Trust

Marie van der Zyll - President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews

John Mann MP - Chair of the All Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism

Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich - Nottingham Liberal Synagogue

The Revd Bruce Thompson - Lincolnshire Methodist District

Lunch and museum exhibition visit included. Donations on the day welcome! Attendance by advance booking only through Alison McNish on pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk or 01522 370 126

Synod Vocation Day

Saturday 11th May 2019

10 am – 3pm

Christ Church, Leicester

ELDERSHIP

MINISTRY

YOUNG PEOPLE

EVANGELISM

CHAPLAINCY

CHILDRENS WORK

YOUTH WORK

LAY PREACHING

CRCW

STREET PASTORS



To book please email: modpa@urc5.org.uk

DO SOMETHING SMALL THIS CHRISTMAS AND MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Broxtowe Borough Council are collecting donations for Women's Aid to provide new gifts for children and teens. These presents will be given to the children who are living in refuges over the Christmas period. We are asking for presents for girls and boys of the following age ranges: 0-2, 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, 14-16.

We are acting as a collection point for donated gifts. We will ensure these are appropriately wrapped and passed on to the intended recipients through our links with Women's Aid.

Please call Debbie Johnson on 0115 917 3610 if you are interested in making a donation and we can arrange collection if necessary. If you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to contact us.

THE STORIES OF LAY DISCIPLES

We have received the request below from Revd Richard Church asking for stories of lay discipleship:

We are keen to feature one person each month throughout 2019 by telling their story of whole of life discipleship i.e. faith translated through everyday lives and not just church activities. We need a picture a short account and we will then add a question or two to prompt reflection. The story need not be dramatic but simply of how someone is living out their faith

Please could you send your stories to simon.peters@urc.org.uk as soon as possible so that we can prepare the questions and have them ready to post throughout the new year. If you would prefer, you can send your stories to our Synod Mission Development Officer Revd Robert Bushby: rjbushby12@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION (CRE)

CRE is coming to Event City Manchester, Phoenix Way, Off Barton Dock Rd, Manchester M41 7TB, on Wednesday 13th March 10am to 8pm and Thursday 14th March 10am to 4pm. FREE

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO ALL CHURCH MEMBERS using the link
<https://eventdata.uk/Comp/CRE2019.aspx?TrackingCode=URC>

The URC is running a Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) stall, and volunteers are being sought from the six closest Synods, including East Midlands, to go on a rota to assist on this stall for the whole of the event. Volunteers gain free entry and will only be on the stall for an hour, if we have enough volunteers. There will be two volunteers at one time, and a member of the JPIT team will be there all of the time. So – if you are able to volunteer for an hour on the stall, for either day, please contact Rita Griffiths, Mersey Synod Clerk, on 07838 103310 or

synodclerk@merseysynodurc.org.uk

There will be an information/guidance flyer for volunteers provided before the event starts.



TODDLER GROUP TRAINING

Date and Time: Saturday 26th January 2019, 10:00am – 12:00pm

At the Synod Meeting Room

Come along for a chance to meet other Toddler Group Leaders

See resources, share ideas and talk about issues relating to Toddler Groups.

To book, please contact Jane Henderson. Email: cydo@urc5.org.uk

MESSY CHURCH AND HOLY HABITS DAY

Come along to find out more about family ministry and get lots of ideas!

Saturday 9th March 2019 from 10am – 4pm

The Synod Meeting Room

Bring your own lunch

Booking is essential!

To book your place please email Jane Henderson: cydo@urc5.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: 07.01.2019

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