



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 283 – 10th January 2019

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Natalie Gibbs

The new year brings with it new beginnings, new opportunities and aspirations for the upcoming year.

For the Children and Youth work team, 2019 kick starts with Youth Assembly on the 18th January, and brings with it a new start for Katie and I as we start our role as URC Youth Assembly Moderators. The theme for this year is One Body: we're all in this together and has clear links to the passage in 1 Corinthians 12. URC Youth is, for many, a family and Youth Assembly is an opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones. Young people are more connected than ever before - both globally and closer to home. With topics to be explored at Youth Assembly ranging from climate change and the environment, celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity within the church and advocating for social justice, this year's youth assembly reflects this culture of looking outwards and challenging the status quo.

Just as the body is made up of many parts, the church is made up of a wide and diverse range of people who are all of equal importance, from the oldest member to the youngest. Please uphold Youth Assembly in your prayers and if you know any young people attending I'm sure they'd be more than happy to share their experiences with you.

Natalie Gibbs – URC Youth Assembly Moderator-Elect - urcyamoderator@gmail.com

PEOPLE

It is with regret that we inform you of the sudden death on, Sunday 16th December, of the **Reverend Alyn Owens**, a retired minister living in Chippenham.

Alyn served at Eccleston, St Helens 1963-67; Wycliffe, Leicester 1967-69; Halesworth 1969-75; Doddridge Memorial, Northampton 1975-79; Abbey Road, Torquay, Marldon & Babbacombe 1979-82; St Mark's, Mount Pleasant 1982-87; & Rye 1982-88; St Luke's, Silverhill 1992-94; St Andrew's, Eastcote 1994-2003; and was very active as a hospital chaplain in retirement.

A Thanksgiving Service was held on Tuesday, 8th January 2019 at Immanuel URC, Swindon.

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

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Trust Secretary, Yorkshire – Part time – 20 hours pw

Salary £19,026pa /Permanent

Based at the offices of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church in Morley, Leeds. Responsibilities include:

- Carrying out the responsibilities attached to the post of Company Secretary
- Acting as Secretary to the Annual General Meetings of the Trust Companies
- Preparing Trust papers and agendas
- Being the principal point of contact with the Synod's solicitors
- Working with the Property Officer to take the lead in transactions relating to land and property

We are looking for someone who is:

- An excellent administrator
- Educated to degree level or equivalent
- Able to prioritise work in the face of conflicting demands
- Familiar with church structures
- Able to represent the Synod and the United Reformed Church

Application pack available from the Synod Office - office@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Noon, January 31st 2019.

Interviews: February 26th 2019 at the Synod Office



"Whom Shall I send"

This is the day for you if you feel God is calling you to serve in some way but you are not sure what or where or how.

Here is an opportunity to come and hear from people engaged in a range of ministries who will share their stories and answer questions you might have.

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

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 Leaders Meet Up!

Come along and join us for the Toddler Group Leaders Meet up! Share ideas, meet new people and enjoy fellowship.

Led by our CYDO, Jane Henderson

Saturday 26th January 2019, 10.30am – 12.30pm, The Synod Meeting Room, Sherwood, Nottingham

To book contact Jane: cydo@urc5.org.uk or

Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

Core Skills Training

Core Skills Training for Youth and Children's Leaders will be running at Bulwell URC on:

- Saturday 16th February 2019 (please note that this is a change from the previously advertised date of 23rd March), 10:00 – 16:00 (please bring your own lunch)
- Saturday 23rd March 2019, 10:00 – 16:00 (please bring your own lunch)

For more information or to book contact Jane Henderson: 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: modpa@urc5.org.uk

Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 21.01.2019

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