



The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 285 – 7th February 2019

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Helen Lidgett, Clerk

Candlemas is celebrated on 2nd February. It is not a Christian festival we pay much attention to in the United Reformed Church. It is officially the end of the Christmas season and according to Wikipedia is exactly halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox when traditionally the church's candles were dedicated for the year.

Candlemas celebrates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple which happened as was customary 40 days after the baby's birth. So it celebrates not just the presentation of the baby and the associated ceremonies, but the ritual cleansing of his mother, Mary. Many years ago when my husband was a young minister in his first church he was asked to 'church' a new mother. Without being 'churched' the new mother felt unable to attend church. Superstition? Perhaps. Some gynaecological basis, maybe, as bleeding following the birth would normally stop at about 6 weeks. A feminist issue? Most of us now would strongly deny that a woman is 'unclean' because she is bleeding and yet many traditional societies still hold to that belief. In the mountains of Nepal for example, women are told go into a hut away from habitation during their periods and there have been reports of young women dying in the bitter cold of a Himalayan winter. We wouldn't do that, would we? But here in Britain, there are girls suffering 'period poverty', unable to afford sanitary protection and consequently staying away from school. In my church we have two boxes for donations, one for the food bank, the other for 'Baby Basics' for new mothers unable to afford the basics needed for themselves or their baby when they have given birth.

It is shameful that in our society it is poverty driven by the politics of austerity, not traditional beliefs of women being unclean, that can lead to women and girls hiding away from school, or work or social life during their periods or when they have given birth. Jesus's words and actions challenged those who piled up riches and drove the poor into destitution just as much as those who turned people away because they were disabled or sick or a haemorrhaging woman.

Helen Lidgett

SYNOD MISSION FUND

Are you developing a mission project which would benefit from the support of a grant from the Synod Mission Fund? Grants of up to £30,000 as a one off or over one to three years are available. Download the Guidance Notes and Application Form from the Synod website under Mission Resources. Ask your Mission Enabler to visit to talk through your project and give his support to your application. If your project concerns children, young people or families speak to our Children's and Youth Development Officer (CYDO) so she can advise and add her support. Applications must be sent to Mrs Chris Willis at the Synod Office by 14th March for consideration at the next meeting of the Panel on 24th April.

Mission Enablers

Revd Robert Bushby randkbushby@aol.com

Revd Simon Ellis revsellis@uwclub.net

Revd Marcus Hargis marcushargis@outlook.com

CYDO

Mrs Jane Henderson cydo@urc5.org.uk

SYNOD OUTREACH FUND

Do you have a small project for work with your local community needing some funding? Grants of up to £1000 are available for outreach projects. This is a rolling programme and decisions are made quickly. The Guidance Notes and Application Form are on the Synod website under Mission Resources. The Mission Enablers and the CYDO are able to help you prepare your application. As part of the Synod restructuring, applications for an Outreach Fund grant will be decided by members of the Mission Fund Panel. The Panel will also be reviewing the application process to see if it can be simplified.

For both Funds go to the Synod website: www.urc5.org.uk

John Betjeman Award 2019

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (S.P.A.B.) invites entries for its annual Award given in honour of Sir John Betjeman. The Award is given in celebration of excellence in conservation or repair of places of worship in England and Wales. Fabric, fittings or fixtures demonstrating the highest standards of conservation craftsmanship completed in the last 18 months are eligible. The Award is a scroll designed by John Piper. **Closing date for entries is 26th February 2019.** Details are provided on the flier and entry form at:

<https://www.unc5.org.uk/johnbetjemanaward2019>

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

The various leaflets explaining the new structures are now available here:-

<https://www.unc5.org.uk/content/synod-structures-and-priorities-review-group-ssprg-%E2%80%93-implementation-happening-why-not-play>

PEOPLE

South West Synod have informed us that sadly two of their Retired Ministers have died:

- **Revd Bert [Herbert] Jones** died on 15th January 2019. He served at Avebury Chapel Centre 1972 - 99 and will be remembered for writing poetry and hymns. Bert went into a Nursing Home in Swindon in the autumn of 2017 and Joan, his wife, was with him when he died.
- **Revd David Mapp** died on 22nd January 2019. He served at Bude 1993 - 97; and Bickington 1997 - 05

Wessex Synod have informed us that sadly two of their Retired Ministers have died:

- **Revd Malcolm Ryland-Jones** died on Tuesday 22nd January. Malcolm served at Presbyterian Church of Malaysia 1966-67; Service Overseas 1968-1980; West Kirby 1981-99. Malcolm was living in Witney near Oxford with his wife, Anne. *The Thanksgiving Service for the late Revd Malcolm Ryland-Jones will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Woodgreen, Witney on Thursday 7th February at 3.00 pm.*
- **Revd Norman Vivian** died on 23rd January. Norman served at Worksop 1992-96; Poulton le Fylde 1996-2001; Ryde (Isle of Wight) 2001-2011; Alkington & Provident 2011-2017. Norman retired to live on the Isle of Wight. *The funeral will take place on 12th February 2019 at 12pm, Bembridge Methodist Church, Isle of Wight, followed by a private burial. Any donations (in lieu of flowers) to be made to the Mountbatten Hospice (these can be made via cheque (care of William Hall Funeral Directors) or via the JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/normanvivian>).*

DESBOROUGH URC - LEGO - Build & Show <https://facebook.com/LegoBuildAndShow>

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th February, 10:00am - 4:00pm at Desborough United Reformed Church Hall
Entry £2 per person per day. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Buggies shall need to be left outside.
+ Lego Displays + Lego Building & Competitions + Refreshments + Tombola
Come along and build one of the 1000+ kits we have available, or design your own model in the free build section.
We provide the Lego, you provide the imagination.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Children and Youth Development Practitioner Yorkshire Synod

An exciting opportunity has arisen within The United Reformed Church Yorkshire Synod, to appoint an experienced Children and Youth Development Practitioner.
For full details please visit:

<https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Advert-Youth-Jan-2019.pdf>

The Closing date for applications will be Thursday 28 February 2019. Interviews and practical assessments will be held on Thursday 28 March in one of the Yorkshire churches. Candidates applying for the post are asked to keep this date free.



The
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Moderator North Western Synod

Salary: Minister's stipend
Full time, 7 year term

(Nominations/applications will be considered for those not able to fulfil the full term)

General Assembly wishes to appoint a United Reformed Church minister to serve as North Western Synod Moderator from a date no later than January 2020.

The synod includes Cumbria, most of Lancashire and Greater Manchester and small parts of Cheshire and Derbyshire; it embraces a large variety of communities and churches.

We seek a collaborative leader to take forward the synod's missional discipleship strategy and help to develop and embed new patterns of ministry and leadership - lay and ordained - in every area of synod life. Your leadership in these transformational changes will demonstrate pastorally grounded sensitivity to the needs of ministers and of diverse churches and communities.

You will be a discerning listener and gifted communicator, who models good team working and is able to evaluate and reflect spiritually about the life of the church in its various settings. You will have a passion for social justice and advocacy for communities facing challenges and demonstrate a strong commitment to building relationships ecumenically and with other faith groups.

An information pack and application form can be found on the Jobs page of the website: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

If you wish to nominate a minister for this post, please write to Deepti Upadhyaya at recruitment@urc.org.uk by 1 March 2019

If you wish to apply for this post, please complete an application form and send it to:

Deepti Upadhyaya at recruitment@urc.org.uk by 12 noon, Friday 12 April 2019

Human Resources Office, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT T: 020 7691 9871

Interview date: Wednesday 22 May 2019

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Minister of the United Reformed Church

SYNOD VOCATION DAY

Saturday 11th May 2019 – 10:00am – 3:00pm at Christ Church URC, Leicester

"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.

OLD TESTAMENT IN A DAY

All Welcome – come along to this Bible Study Day on one of the dates below!
Led by Revd Dr. Deborah Baird – READING THE HEBREW BIBLE AS STORY
Saturday 29th June 2019, 10:00–4:00pm at St. Andrew's URC, Peterborough
Saturday 2nd November 2019, 10:00–4:00pm in the Synod Meeting Room

Please Bring your Lunch or alternatively there is a Fish & Chip shop next door...

Booking is essential - please contact trainingpa@urc5.org.uk or telephone Hannah Willey at the Synod Office



BULWELL URC YOUTH WEEKEND

Bulwell URC - 8th - 10th March 2019

£25.00 per person

9-16 Years

Bulwell, Nottingham

For More Info contact: dave@bulwellurc.org.uk or eleanor@bulwellurc.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 in the Synod Meeting Room

Please bring your own lunch. Booking is essential!

To book your place please email Jane Henderson: cydo@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 February), 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 contact Jane Henderson: cydo@urc5.org.uk and to book click this link, <https://bulwellurc.churchsuite.co.uk/events/zsk0py48>

SAFEGUARDING RETURNS

The annual safeguarding returns have been sent out, thank you to all those who have returned them so far. If you have not please could you do this as soon as possible. The returns are seen by the Safeguarding Officer, Jane Henderson, and are useful for planning training and also to offer support. If you are a safeguarding coordinator and have not yet received a return, please contact Jane Henderson on safeguarding@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: 18.02.2019

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