



The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 286 – 21st February 2019

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Geoffrey Clarke

It is good to see the afternoons staying lighter for longer. Although it is, of course, an annual phenomenon and nothing new it still crops up in conversations to the extent. On late afternoon walks with the dog it makes a change to remark, "It's staying light longer" rather than "It's cold (or warm) today".

In her wonderful book, *One hundred wisdom stories from around the world*, Margaret Silf shares the tale of *Signs of Daybreak*:

A rabbi once asked his students how they could tell when night had ended and day was on its way back.

'Is it when you can see an animal in the distance, and can tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?'

'No,' answered the rabbi.

'Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance, and tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree?'

'No.'

'Well then,' the students demanded, 'when is it?'

'It is when you look on the face of another human being and see that he or she is your brother or sister. Because if you cannot do that, then no matter what time it is, it is still night.'

At the current time, when there appears to be an unhealthy flourishing of sectarianism, it is tempting to conclude that we are still living in the dark and daybreak is far off. As people of faith, affirming that every person is our neighbour, we have a vital contribution to make. It is not an easy or simple task – or one that will win acclaim and applause - but unless we speak up and speak out only the hostile voices of division will be heard. The world and the limit of our love and kindness must not be as small as 'our people' or 'those who agree with us'.

May God enable us to be willing to look on the face of other human beings and to see therein the face of Christ, our brother. Doing so will certainly hasten the coming of daybreak.

Geoffrey Clarke

CHURCH ACCOUNTS

By this time of year most churches should have completed the accounts for 2018, or at least be well in the process of completing them.

A polite reminder to send a copy to the Synod office when approved - an email copy (to admin@urc5.org.uk) is acceptable, preferably as a .pdf file - by 31 March 2019.

This will assist us in the preparation of M&M offers for 2020. The request for the offers will be sent in a few weeks' time.

If your church accounting year has a different year end then please send a copy of the approved accounts within 3 months of that year end.

If any help or advice is needed please contact your local Finance Networker or the Synod office.

David J Greatorex
Treasurer



PEOPLE

We would like to congratulate **Hannah Holmes** and her husband, Danny, as they welcomed their little girl, *Ember Leigh Holmes*, into the world on Saturday 2nd February weighing 6 pounds 14 ounces.

Nottingham University Hospitals 
NHS Trust

Department of Spiritual and Pastoral Care.

We are looking for volunteers to support our service to patients at Nottingham City Hospital and Queen's Medical Centre. Would you be able to:

- Come along once a month on a Sunday morning (9:30am -12:00pm) to take Holy Communion to patients on the wards?

and / or

- Visit on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning (9:30am – 12:00pm) every week, to spend time on the wards with patients who are looking for spiritual and pastoral care, and a listening ear?

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Rev Kay Cattell:

E-mail: kay.cattell@nuh.nhs.uk Telephone: 0115 969 1169 x.56187

Post: Department of Spiritual and Pastoral Care, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Hospital Chapel – N17, City Hospital Campus, Hucknall Road, Nottingham, NG5 1PB

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 rjbushby12@gmail.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.urc5.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.urc5.org.uk/content/synod-structures-and-priorities-review-group-ssprg-%E2%80%93-implementation-happening-why-not-play>

HOPE AT EASTER

Please click on the link below to the HOPE Easter Resource:

<https://hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/256559/Easter.aspx>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN RETFORD...

Invite you to 'There are no Ordinary People' – an Evening with Jeff Lucas & Searchlight Theatre Company. A unique blend of comedy, story telling, theatre and music that promises to leave you entertained, inspired and encouraged.

Wednesday 27th March, 7:15pm at The Well, Hospital Road, Retford, DN22 7BD

Tickets £8 available through local churches or The Well Special – book before 28th February all tickets 2 for £10.50. After 28th February online and on the night £10.50

<https://searchlighttheatre.org/jeff-lucas-tour> Online code: BOGOF

EVENT REMINDERS...

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

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

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



Bulwell Youth Weekend "at the Movies"

This year we will be looking at different films, and what message is behind the film

Bulwell URC - 8th - 10th March 2019

£25.00 per person

This includes all activities, Trip into Nottingham & food.

9-16 Years

Bulwell, Nottingham

For More Info contact: dave@bulwellurc.org.uk or eleanor@bulwellurc.org.uk

Core Skills Training

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

- **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>

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

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

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