



The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 288 – 21st March 2019

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Revd Peter Meek, Moderator

Dear Friends,

Last week at our Synod meeting we passed by consensus a resolution to become an Eco Synod. We will need to explore with the help of our Green Apostle, Charles Jolly and Tom Veitch (both members of our JPIC Focus Group) how to take this forward. One important thing we can do is to encourage our congregations to register to be ‘Eco-Congregations’ themselves as indeed one church in my former pastorate did whilst I was their minister. The Book of Job shows us that God loves deeply all God has made, not just people, but also animals and the world we all depend upon. To be an Eco Synod, will mean all of us doing all we can to reduce our impact on God’s world – it’s the only home we have after all. When I changed my car three years ago, I looked into all the pros and cons and bought the vehicle that had the least impact on creation. Of course it would be better if you and I all only used public transport but that isn’t a realistic option for some of us. But doing all we can and thinking carefully before we buy, use and dispose of stuff, is a very good place to begin. Our world, as we know it, does not have long as Simeon Mitchell told us in his powerful speech to Synod. We all need to act now. May God richly bless you as you do and please “watch this space” as Eco Synod unfolds!

Love in Christ

Peter

PEOPLE

We regret to inform you that **Mrs Lesley Mercer**, Secretary at Grimsby URC sadly passed away on Tuesday 12th March. Lesley served the church for many years and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and with Grimsby URC.

Training & Development - what does your church need, what do you need?

The new Training & Development (T&D) Group wishes to start its work by introducing an annual training planning process for churches and individuals to identify what training and development they would like, to feed into a Synod plan. This can be any sort of training that is associated with any aspect of church life and faith development. Please do not be limited by previous training offers and be assured many of the current events will continue.

Letters about this have been sent to Churches earlier this week, please consider what you and your church might need and return the form by 15th April. We will then start the planning process so that we can ensure that the development opportunities the Synod organises better reflects local church needs.

Pippa Hodgson, Convenor & Deborah Baird, T&D Officer

CAN YOUR CHURCH HELP?

In discussing church membership, the national church has become aware that there are some people who wish to remain members, but live either too far away from a local church, or through lack of transport or ill health cannot get there for worship or fellowship. Synods have been asked to identify local churches who would be prepared to include such people on their list of members. Ideally we would like to identify 1 or 2 such churches in each Area. These "host churches" might, for example send these "distant" members a copy of their church magazine and make an occasional contact, either by phone or e-mail with them.

If your church would be prepared to help, could you please contact one of your Area Pastoral Consultants.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS/SAFEGUARDING RETURNS

Just a reminder to please send in your Church Accounts and return your Safeguarding Returns by **31st March 2019** Thank you

EU Settlement Scheme update

For the latest information on the EU Settlement Scheme for EU citizens living in the UK please click on the link below:-

<https://urc5.org.uk/EUSettlementSchemeupdate080319>

Faith, Fracking and Caring for Creation.

Please take 5 minutes to watch this video produced by Rev Dr Kevin Snyman, Programme Officer - URC Global Justice & Partnerships. It features the Assembly Moderator, Mr Derek Estill, with Rev Kate Gray, Green Apostle for North Western Synod, and others when they visited the protestors at the Cuadrilla fracking site at Preston New Road in Lancashire. The URC has not yet taken a formal position on fracking but many of us feel that fracking is incompatible with the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions rapidly to zero. This is the only way to ensure that the global temperature rises by no more than 1.5 degrees C.

https://youtu.be/t2zs_AG-m_I

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Group would be very pleased to hear from any churches in this Synod which have been affected by or involved in action related to hydraulic fracturing for gas and oil. We want to publicise the stories of churches involved in environmental issues.

The JPIC Group was encouraged both by an inspiring presentation by Mr Simeon Mitchell of Church and Society and the Joint Public Issues Team and by the unanimous resolution of Synod on Saturday to register as an Eco Synod and to work with local churches towards the achievement of an award. Already 8% of U.R.C. churches in the East Midlands have registered with Eco Church and we hope that this decision will inspire many more. Please email charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com or contact any member of the Group for more information.

Charles Jolly, 'Green Apostle'

Future Synod Meeting Dates

Dates for your diary:-

- 12th October 2019 - The Crossing, Worksop, Notts
- 21st March 2020 – St. Andrew's with Castle Gate URC, Nottingham
- 10th October 2020 – Newport Pagnell URC, Milton Keynes

BOOK NOW FOR HOLIDAY FORUM 2019

We'd like to invite you to join us at The Hayes in Swanwick this August for a week of fun and fellowship on the theme of 'A Story Waiting to be Told'.

This year the Theme will be led by Richard Becher.
Worship will be led by Rev Iain McLaren and Steven Neville.

If there are financial reasons why you may not be able to attend then, please get in touch with us. We have our own bursary fund available to assist and we may be aware of other funding options.

If you have any queries on this then please contact Alison Foxwell, the Bookings Secretary by email at bookings@urcholidayforum.org.uk or phone her on 01444 416466.

For more information visit: <http://www.urcholidayforum.org.uk/wpsite/urc-holiday-forum-2019>



RESOURCE FROM CHURCH HOUSE

Youth and Children's work Elders or Church Secretaries as well as Nationally Accredited Lay Preachers should have received a mailing from Church House, containing amongst other things the **One Body Resource**— you will find within this a wide variety of material suitable for use with different ages, and all-ages, in a host of settings. It is excellent and please make sure that all those who may lead worship or work with children and young people in your churches get to see it.

If you have not received it please get in touch with Jane our CYDO, cydo@urc5.org.uk and she will try to help.

IDEAS FOR LENT

If you are thinking of what you can do for Lent please see: www.sharethemiracle.org

It is a simple all-age act of kindness project you could consider – collect Easter Eggs to give away, and share the stories

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>

EVENTS AND EVENT REMINDERS...

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: The Dales URC

Easter Saturday. "Coffee morning" 10-30am-12 noon.

SOME SALES TABLES.

Followed at 12-30pm "LUNCH £5" (choice two soups/ Jacket potato/beans or Cheese/ SALAD, FRUIT CRUMBLES OR TEA CAKE Bread & Butter pudding/ tea/Coffee.

To book a Lunch contact: Janet Clarkson. Proceeds to the "PROJECT Carpet/ Upholstery/ Decorating." in the Church & Quiet Room.

16th April - Afternoon Tea/ Fund Raising for "ACTION FOR KIDS CHARITY". Megan is running in the London marathon to raise money for the above. Contact Janet Beavis for cost & tickets: 0115 911 7115

Is it I Lord?

Ministry Enquirers' Day – Saturday 6th April 2019

10:00am – 4:00pm

Luther King House, Manchester

- Explore opportunities for service through the United Reformed Church
 - Ask the questions that are on your mind and heart
- Hear from people engaged in a variety of lay and ordained ministries
 - Listen for the voice of God as we worship and pray together

FOR FULL DETAILS CONTACT: Vivienne Williams. Tel: 0207 916 8649 Email: Vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk

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

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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