

EMURCE No: 296 – 11th July 2019
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Revd Peter Meek

Dear Friends,

Whatever our political views, and we have a broad representation, we are a people who are called to take care in our dealings with others. Treating others with respect is vital to Christian living. So it was with dismay that I saw the protest by the Brexit Party at the EU Parliament. Nigel Farage continues to echo Nazi troops (turning backs was done by the Nazi party in the Reichstag in the 1930s before they gained power), think also of the dreadful poster of a long queue of immigrants he used in the EU Referendum (an exact copy of a Nazi poster). He does a disservice to people who voted to leave and to our nation as a whole. I am being so open about this because I think the Church must be very aware of political mood. Things are becoming more and more ugly and this time it is the right wing of politics that is becoming extreme (in the past in Europe following WWII it was the left who became extreme in reaction to ultra right wing nationalism). And that is my other worry - one extreme drives the other. Polarisation is not good for society and we are a people called to "seek the good of the nation we live in" and to "do all we can, as far as it depends upon us to live in peace with our neighbours". More than that we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers. So, perhaps next time we are speaking to a person who seems het up on either side of the Brexit divide we can do our part in bringing a sense of calm and peace. Let us never accept the level to which our politics has sunk and please keep praying for the nations that make up the UK.

With love, Peter

Peter Meek, Moderator

RECRUITMENT OF NEW MODERATOR

Following Revd Peter Meek's decision to retire from stipendiary ministry at the 31st December 2019, East Midlands Synod is beginning the process of recruiting a new Synod Moderator who will serve initially from 2020 to 2027. The Synod Council is preparing a Synod Profile describing the Synod, its churches, and the challenges and opportunities ahead. It will also describe the kind of person we are looking for to lead the Synod over the next few years.

The leadership provided by the person appointed will be important for all our churches and the ministers and CRCWs serving in the Synod. We would therefore like you to tell us what qualities you think we need in a new Moderator and what are likely to be the priorities for the Synod going forward.

You might find it helpful to group your comments in the following categories. Please be brief. No more than two or three points in each category will be enough for us to build up a picture.

1. Needs of the churches in the Synod
2. Challenges and opportunities for the Synod
3. Gifts and skills needed for the role
4. Experience of person to be appointed - in the church and the wider world

The appointment timetable is tight. The earliest a new Moderator can be in post is Easter 2020. To achieve this we must complete our Synod Profile by mid-August.

Send your responses to Mrs Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk, by **26th July 2019** on clerk@urc5.org.uk or by post to the Synod Office.

Mrs Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk

See letter here: <https://www.urc5.org.uk/recruitment-new-moderator>

BAPTISTS TOGETHER

Easy First Steps... in meeting your neighbours of other faiths
Saturday 2 November 2019 at The London Interfaith Centre
125 Salusbury Rd, Queen's Park, London NW6 6RG

or

Saturday 14 March at The Blackley Centre, West Yorkshire, Prospect Vie Elland HX5 0TD
11.00 am to 3.30 pm (Free lunch provided)

Open to: anyone who is interested in discovering what we hold in common with our neighbours from across the faiths

If you are interested in attending one of these free events, please email carole.sired@urc.org.uk

BEING OLD, BEING BOLD - A CHRISTIANS ON AGEING CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Are you interested in making more of life for older people in the Church? You are invited to join us for a conference. This is a rare opportunity to hear what can be done AND to tell us what you are doing.

At: Central United Reformed Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB,

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Cost: £30 including all papers, refreshments and lunch (Members of Christians on Ageing £25 using code in PLUS magazine Summer 2019 or contact info@coa.org.uk)

For information on what the day will include please click on the How to Book link below.

CHRISTIANS ON AGEING is a resource to the Churches and a voice for older people. This conference will help us to plan new ways of giving support, spreading ideas and promoting good practice.

HOW TO BOOK - Visit <https://christiansonageing.org.uk/conference-september-2019/>

THE RIDING LIGHTS

Touring 9 September – 2 November 2019 – Booking Now!

The Kaleidoscope Tour is built for you and your community – let us know how we can help you to best serve those in your area. If you are familiar with our previous Roughshod companies this tour works along the same lines but aims to be even more flexible to your needs. We can offer:

Colourful Performances...

There are performances of almost any length (up to 90 minutes) available for schools and youth clubs, assemblies and church services, prisons and colleges with storytelling and comic sketches to challenge and delight. There is also a brand new full length show *Breaking Ground* available. [Find out more about the show...](#)

Brilliant Sessions in Schools...

We can offer sessions in both primary and secondary schools. A range of performances, lessons, and workshops on a range of up to the minute topics, including social media influencing, violence, image awareness, and transitions from primary school.

Light in Local Prisons...

We have illuminating performances and workshops shaped for the needs of prisoners, and a brand new show written specially for prisons too.

Connecting with Your Events...

Do you have events you'd like the team to be present at? Or an event you need help preparing for? Maybe you think a bit of street theatre would really liven up a fundraiser, or have a special service that could use some thought-provoking sketches to bring out the message. Maybe your own drama group could use a workshop ahead of their big performance. Let us know what you have in mind and we'll do our best to help you out.

Kaleidoscope will be as flexible as possible – you can book it for an evening performance, a day of workshops, a few days, a week, or even longer – whatever you and your community need. The tour will be on the road from the 14th September till the 31st October. Prices for the work will vary depending on the amount of time and kind of work that a community is seeking. We never want cost to be a barrier to people if they want their community to access our work, so if you would value a conversation about the cost please do let us know.

BOOKING NOW – Contact us on louise@rltc.org or 01904 655317 today!



RETREAT DAY – SATURDAY 17th AUGUST! St John's Church, Coventry Road, Hinckley. We are holding an intergenerational retreat day, a day where people of all ages, whether they have brought children or not can gather, learn from each other and explore some Psalms together. It is not purely a children's event.

All children and young people who attend must come with an adult who will be responsible for them.

Please encourage your churches to consider attending; it is a new approach that we are trying. Please let Jane know if you are attending on cydo@urc5.org.uk

COME TO EXPLORE SOME PSALMS, ALONGSIDE OTHER GENERATIONS. WITH CRAFT, QUIET, SINGING, WALKING, PRAYER. **17TH AUGUST. 10AM-3PM.** Bring your own lunch.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - Safeguarding training is for all who work with children and adults at risk, including Elders, Pastoral workers, youth and children's leaders.

The new training covers both children and adults at risk in one session. It is the URC training, which is linked with our policies and procedures. It is important that churches attend URC training.

This will take about 4 hours, therefore they will be held on Saturday's with a break for lunch. (Please bring your own lunch).

Please try and attend training local to you, as we do have to deliver it across the Synod.

- Saturday 14th September: Spalding URC, Lincolnshire (1:00pm – 4:30pm)
- Saturday 21st September: Hinckley URC, Leicestershire (10:00am - 3:00pm)
- Saturday 28th September: Mackworth URC, Derbyshire (10:00am – 3:00pm)

Please book by emailing trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

INTER FAITH WEEK 2019

10th - 17th November

An opportunity to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and nonreligious beliefs

Join the many faith, belief and inter faith bodies, community and voluntary organisations, charities, businesses and workplaces, local authorities, emergency services, schools, colleges, universities, chaplaincies, sports organisations and others who will be taking part in Inter Faith Week this year. It's a great way to increase inter faith understanding, make new links and friendships, and to actively educate against prejudice and hatred. The Week is timed to begin on Remembrance Sunday, remembering the service of people of all faiths and beliefs. The Inter Faith Week Toolkit contains many activity ideas for all ages, from dialogue, to arts and social action. If you'd like to chat about a possible event, you can contact us at 020 7730 0410.

For more information visit: www.interfaithweek.org

MESSAGE FROM NEW FINANCE GROUP

The new Finance Group met on 25/06/2019 and, amongst many other items, considered the current M&M payment profiles of all churches, and particularly noted where offers for 2020 had been received, and gave thanks to those churches that have already responded and the generosity being shown.

However, the Group noted that many churches have yet to respond so ask that the latest accounts and M&M offers for 2020 are sent to the Synod Office without further delay.

As before, if any assistance is required or questions need to be resolved please contact your Finance Networker or the Synod Office.



PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE NOTTINGHAM FAMILY DAY OUT

SYNOD FAMILY DAYS OUT

WOLLATON HALL AND PARK, NOTTINGHAM Saturday 27 th July	Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Picnic• Orienteering• Games• Natural History Museum (free entry)• Play Areas• Worship
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Come and Join in the fun at one or both events. Bring a picnic. No entrance fees. Car park fees may apply.

We will meet at 10am and then have free time to enjoy the spaces.

Join together for a picnic at 12:30, brief worship and some games.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane Henderson, CYDO. Mob: 07572 291007,
cydo@urc5.org.uk

Let us know if you are planning to come, so we can look out for you. Email: cydo@urc5.org.uk

INDOOR YOUTH CAMP 2019

At The Dales URC, 63 Parkdale Road, Bakersfield, Nottingham, NG3 7GL

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11 – 17 YEARS

Start: Friday 4th October @ 10pm

Finish: Sunday 6th October @ 11:30am

£15 per person

Games, Competitions, Craft, Prizes, Games Consoles, Large Screen Film, Food, Friends, Worship

FOR INFORMATION & BOOKING, EMAIL: youth@thedalesurc.co.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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