

**EMURCE No: 298 – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019**  
**EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Mrs Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk**

We planted a tree on Sunday. Planting a tree and hanging up a bird feeder on another tree was part of last Sunday's sermon at St Andrew's URC Chesterfield. The tree is a rowan, or mountain ash, native to the UK which grows especially on northern hills. Its leaves and flowers provide food for caterpillars and insects, and the bright orange berries are a rich source of food for birds in the autumn. While we were there, a family of blackbirds lurked in the undergrowth waiting for us to get out of the way of their search for that day's food, bumble bees thronged the lavender and butterflies circled the buddleia. In church we had each written a promise of something we can do, however small, to address climate change and the destruction of our God-given planet. We hung the cards on a tree made of dead branches gleaned from local hedgerows. In a few weeks time we will check how we are doing. A sermon of few words, but telling action. It was all part of our commitment to become an Eco-Church.

Becoming an Eco-Church isn't only about caring for creation but is part of our mission. It gives us the opportunity to demonstrate to people around us what we have been doing quietly for some time to cut the church's carbon footprint. We can explain why we are doing this as a Christian church and form partnerships with other organisations working on similar issues. As A Rocha, which runs the Eco-Church programme reminds us, climate change is a justice issue. "Those who have the least economic and political power, and the least responsibility for the changing climate, are affected the most." So one small tree links to other aspects of our mission, for example our participation in Commitment for Life and support for Christian Aid. In the vision of the city of God in Revelation 22 we read: "On either side of the river is the tree of life, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

Let us each play our part together in the healing of the nations.

Helen Lidgett

#### OFFICE CLOSURE

This is a note to inform you all that the Synod Office will be closed on **Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th** August 2019.

#### Charity Registration Guidance

The Charity Registration guidance has been updated to reflect the Charity Commission's updated website and can now be found at:

[https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/Guidance\\_Local\\_Church\\_Registration\\_-\\_August\\_2019.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/Guidance_Local_Church_Registration_-_August_2019.pdf)

#### ORGAN RECITAL - Given by: Christian Schoen

at Wellingborough United Reformed Church, High Street, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 4HR  
**Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 7:00pm**

Having studied organ at the University of Michigan, Southern Methodist University, Capital University and the University of Texas, Christian has performed extensively throughout the United States and the United Kingdom

Admission: Donations



**RETREAT DAY – SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk)

COME TO EXPLORE SOME PSALMS, ALONGSIDE OTHER GENERATIONS. WITH CRAFT, QUIET. SINGING. WALKING. PRAYER. 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST. 10AM-3PM. Bring your own lunch.

### Comedy Night with Paul Kerensa

Hosted by The Crossing, **on Friday 13 September, 7.30 p.m.** The event is an ecumenical one, organised by Churches Working Together in Worksop, as part of the 'One Life' Mission of the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham.

An evening spent with **Paul Kerensa** is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face. It is an excellent opportunity to invite non-church friends to a quality night out.

Details of what Paul calls his 'CV' can be found at <https://paulkerensa.com/cv.php>. Paul was winner of the BBC Radio Entertainment Contract Writer Titheridge Prize and writes and script-edits for many comedies for BBC TV, Sky and other channels. He was on the British Comedy Award-winning writing team for Miranda, and has written on each series of Lee Mack's sitcom Not Going Out, among other shows. He won the ITV Take the Mike Award in 2002 and has been described as "Ingenious" by the Evening Standard. Paul is also one of the few to perform stand-up at both comedy clubs and churches, in bearpits and pulpits, as well as contributing regular "Pause For Thought" slots on Chris Evans' Radio 2 Breakfast Show.

### ACAT - GIFT AID & GASDS

This is written and presented for ACAT by Andrew Burgess, an expert in Gift Aid who joined our training team last year.

An afternoon event, delegates will enjoy a buffet lunch together ahead of the workshop itself being held:

at **Oundle Road Baptist Church, Oundle Road, PETERBOROUGH PE2 9PB** on **Tuesday 24 September 2019.**

This venue has its own car park and is around a mile from Peterborough railway station, so we hope it will be convenient for everyone.

The cost is £50 and includes all course materials, refreshments and a buffet lunch. Registration and lunch will be from 1pm onwards and the course will finish by 4.30 pm.

Please <https://www.acat.uk.com/courses/course2.html> for further information, to view the location on a map and to reserve your place. You can book instantly online using Paypal or a credit/debit card, or print out a postal booking form to send with a cheque

### Mental Health - Healing and Ministry

'Binding up the Brokenhearted' - **Saturday 19th October 2019**

A Practical Day of Resourcing your Church

10am - 4pm at Christ the King, Deeble Rd, Kettering, NN15 7AA

Workshops exploring:

Emotional Healing \* Wellbeing Cafes \* Parish Healing Ministry Course \* • Churches as places of healing

With guest speaker Becky Harcourt - Author of 'Walking on Water'

Open to all. No booking necessary. £10 donation for the day. Bring your own packed lunch. Beverages available.

Further details from Philip Evans Tel: 01604 616375 Email: [prevans@standrew.co.uk](mailto:prevans@standrew.co.uk)

## BAPTISTS TOGETHER

Easy First Steps... in meeting your neighbours of other faiths  
Sat 2 November 2019 at The London Interfaith Centre, 125 Salusbury Rd, Queen's Park, London NW6 6RG  
or  
Sat 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 have we hold in common with our neighbours  
from across the faiths

If you are interested in attended one of these free events, please email [carole.sired@urc.org.uk](mailto:carole.sired@urc.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](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

## NOTTINGHAM WORLD CHURCH SUNDAY

On **November 24th** 4-6pm at Boulevard URC. A speaker from Open Doors will be talking about persecuted Christians. Further details and posters available soon. Contact [ian.sylvia@salmon2.co.uk](mailto:ian.sylvia@salmon2.co.uk)

## Stepwise Update:

Take a leap of faith and join us on a new journey! Every Stepwise journey begins with *Faith-filled life: Discovering our place and purpose*. Faith-filled life takes about three months to complete and involves being a member of a local group; following guided material via the Stepwise Hub; and having meetings with a stepwise mentor. Further information can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/how-does-stepwise-work> or on You Tube at <https://youtu.be/gIOMyTZxt.Q> Registering is easy via the URC Stepwise page, or contact Revd Samuel Silungwe for further information. Revd David Salsbury, the Stepwise Programme Manager will be joining us at the October Synod to explain further and offer more information. Look forward to seeing you there.

## 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.

## CREATION TIME:

Creation Time (or Season of Creation or Time for Creation) approaches. This is an opportunity to celebrate God's wonderful creation and to explore our responsibility to protect and care for life on this amazing planet.

Creation Time includes the five Sundays that lie between 1st of September and 4th of October 2019. This year they are all in the 5-Sunday month of September.

There is a great variety of material on the web, but I'll mention a couple of resources that appeal to the 'Green Apostles':

Once you get over the culture shock, the United Methodist Church in America has released an excellent set of resources based mainly on the Jeremiah readings from the lectionary:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/season-after-pentecost-part-4-worship-planning-series>

And the Church of Scotland have asked a talented Creation Time writing team to produce the Weekly Worship resources for the five Sundays:

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly\\_worship/monthly/2019\\_09\\_september](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly_worship/monthly/2019_09_september)

Have an inspiring and stimulating Time, Charles Jolly, 'Green Apostle'

## GREEN JOURNEY:

As you know, Green Journey offers a free energy survey and bulk buying of gas and electricity from 100% 'green' suppliers. <https://www.urc5.org.uk/greenjourney>

I would be very interested to hear about their experience from anyone who has taken up the Green Journey offer.

As far as I know, this is the best deal on offer to United Reformed churches and so I would also be interested to hear from anyone who has found a comparable deal.

Charles Jolly, 'Green Apostle' [charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com](mailto:charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com)

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING REMINDER (please book by emailing: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk) )

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 will begin to be delivered in September, it 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)

**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

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