

EMURCE No: 299 – 5th September 2019
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Revd Geoffrey Clarke

Regardless of our personal convictions this has been a week in which our parliament has embodied and symbolised the pain of most of us as and when we find ourselves on opposing sides of an argument. Those dividing lines will, inevitably, be present in our churches (as well as our friendships and families) but I hold to the hope that the Church can be a place where differences of conviction do not prevent us holding together. Bishop Michael Curry, Primate of the Episcopal Church, USA, writes: “I want to see the (Episcopal) Church as a Christian community in which diversity among us is honoured and respected ... We are all kinds of stripes, all sorts and conditions of our common humanity.” (‘Crazy Christians’, Hodder & Stoughton, 2018). He cites Richard Hooker, 16th century theologian, who reportedly said, “I pray that none will be offended if I seek to make the Christian Religion an inn where all are received joyously, rather than a cottage where some few friends or the family are to be received”. Even more powerfully, Curry tells of the powerful effect on his Baptist father of attending an Episcopal Eucharist in which – well before African-Americans were welcomed and embraced as equals, even in church – he experienced being offered the chalice, the common cup *from which everyone drank*. Curry quotes his father as saying, “That’s what brought me to the Episcopal Church. Any church in which black folks and white folks drink out of the same cup knows something about a gospel that I want to be a part of.”

Perhaps at this time the best thing we can offer – as churches – is to be reminded of our calling to be inns “where all are received joyously” and places where all “drink out of the same cup.” And as for our prayers, I commend the ancient prayer of the Church, “Kyrie eleison” (Lord, have mercy)!

Geoffrey Clarke, Deputy Moderator and Ecumenical Officer

GRAHAM SPIBY

Dear Friends

Many of you will know by now that our good friend, **Graham Spiby**, died recently having lived with cancer for some time. Our thoughts and our prayers are with his family, Maxine and Sean and with all in the Synod who knew and loved Graham, not least his church family at Burton Joyce and those at The Dales who also knew him well. Graham played a big part in the life of the East Midlands Synod, not least because he served as the Property & Finance Networker for Nottinghamshire, also serving on the Synod Finance & Property Group which became latterly the Finance Group. Graham was also a Director of the Synod Trust. It is without doubt that Graham will have served on several committees in the old Nottinghamshire District as well as serving on the Office Management Group for the Synod. I think this list gives some idea of Graham’s commitment to the life of the church, both locally and regionally. We will miss him and also miss everything that he offered into the life of the Synod and the local church. His shoes will be hard to fill.

Funeral Details: 2:00pm in the main chapel at Wilford Hill on Friday 13th September.

With Love from Peter Meek, Synod Moderator

Save the Date

Advance Notice and Save the Date

Moderator’s Farewell Service - **Friday 8th November 2019 at 2:30pm**

Sherwood United Reformed Church, Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA

All are welcome to celebrate Peter Meek’s ministry in the Synod as he prepares to move on to the next exciting journey that God has in store for him.

AMANDA LINNEY

The Ordination and Induction of Amanda Linney to The Dales URC, Nottingham will take place on Saturday 26th October, 3:00pm at The Dales URC.

Training and Development Officer East Midlands Synod (Full-time post)

Salary: circa. £35,000 p.a
(lay appointment) or URC Minister's stipend

Are you looking for the chance to play a key role at a time of strategic change in the synod?

The successful candidate will be a key member of the synod team and play a central role in embedding the changes, which are focused on delivering the synod vision of enabling local churches to be fully equipped for mission in their communities.

Success in the role will require a change-orientated, creative, enthusiastic training and development practitioner. They will be able not only to deliver training but to help ministers, local churches and key post holders across the synod determine the training they need and identify the appropriate resources to meet those needs.

Applications are invited from lay or ordained candidates who feel that they can meet this challenging brief.

The role is based in Nottingham but regular travel around the synod is an essential requirement.

For further information, including arranging an informal conversation with the Convenor of the East Midlands Synod Training and Development Group, please contact Chris Willis in the synod office on 0115 960 9241.

An application pack can be accessed via the synod website www.urch5.org.uk or by telephoning the Synod Office.

Closing date for applications: 28th October 2019

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder be a Christian. The post is also subject to an enhanced DBS check.

TOLLER URC SUNDAY SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Please note that as of 1st September, the Toller United Reformed Church Sunday Service time is changing to 10:30am.

PRIZE DRAW - In aid of the Mead Centre, Newport Pagnell

- 1st Prize: Photoshoot worth £60 by Thomas Fabian Photography
 - 2nd Prize: Artwork by Steve Urwin
 - 3rd Prize: Family ticket to Bletchley Park

Plus many more exciting prizes! Tickets only £1 each! Contact victoria.paulding@urcnewportpagnell.org for tickets. The winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday 5th October.

SONGS OF PRAISE IS COMING TO LEICESTER!

Your chance to sing along with the stars at this recording of the much-loved BBC One flagship series Songs of Praise showcasing the UK's Favourite Hymn chosen by YOU the public.

Aled Jones hosts and introduces some special guests including **Russell Watson**, **Lesley Garratt** and Britain's Got Talent Winner **Colin Thackery**. Local University gospel choir DMU and the Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year Champions Perfect Pitch are also performing.

The recording will be broadcast on BBC1 on Sunday 29th September.

RECORDING: Wednesday 11th September, 6:30-9:30pm

At: Demontfort Hall, Granville Road, Leicester, LE1 7RU

Tickets cost £11 each and the ticket line is open Monday-Saturday from 10:00am-6:00pm

To purchase tickets call: 0116 2333111 (standard geographic charges from landlines & mobiles apply)

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. **Tickets, priced £5 each, available from The Crossing Church or by email from Geoffrey Clarke (minister@thecrossing.co.uk)**

International Day of Peace, 21 September 2019.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 21 September International Peace Day, a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. In 2015, 17 Sustainable Development Goals were agreed, and this year's theme is 'Climate Action for Peace' (Sustainable Development Goal 13). This is a call for immediate action by all to lower greenhouse emissions, build resilience and improve education on climate change. For further information please see: <https://www.un.org> > events > [peaceday](#). Ideas for worship can be found on the Church of Scotland website: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk> > [weekly_worship](#) > [monthly](#) > 2019.

An Introduction to Bibliodrama

Saturday 28th September 2019 10am to 4pm
Belief welcomes David Tatem to run a workshop

A whole person experience of engaging with sacred texts: using body, mind and soul.
Offering a one-day workshop giving an introduction to the principles of Bibliodrama, its underlying philosophy and approaches and including a complete working session. £10 per person – All booking in advance
belief@standrewsbedford.org

At St Andrews Church Centre Kimbolton Road Bedford MK40 2PF. Places limited.

URC Music Network – Annual Music Day: Saturday 5th October – Palmers Green URC North London

The aim of this year's annual music day is to discover how music can help bring joy and relief beyond the spiritual refreshment we should all feel during our Christian worship. Our three workshops will help us understand more about how music can heal as well as inspire and provide opportunities for sharing experience and musical gifts. We will explore the place of singing and music in supporting people living with dementia, their families and carers.

We invite you to come and join us. For further information go to www.urcmusic.org.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

AN EVENING WITH PAUL KERENSA

Saturday 5th October 2019 7.30pm

Newport Pagnell United Reformed Church

Tickets £10 in aid of the Mead Centre available from www.urcnewportpagnell.org

* Licensed Bar * Prize Draw * Laughter galore *

* Co-writer 'Not Going Out' BBC1 (RTS Award winner) and 'Miranda' BBC1 (British Comedy Award winner) *

* Regular contributor on Radio 2 'Pause for Thought' *

"If I was a gag-thief, I'd be shinning up Paul Kerenza's drainpipe." – Milton Jones

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 Salisbury, 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.

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

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

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING REMINDER (please book by emailing: 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. 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)

Prayer Handbooks and Diaries

Would you like to place your church order for Prayer Handbooks and Diaries? If so I need **ALL orders** submitted to me by Wednesday 25 September at the latest. Prices for items are as follows:

Prayer Handbooks (Prayers from the Heart) - £4.99; Pocket Diaries (blue or purple cover - please specify) £6.99; A5 diary £9.99 (blue or purple cover).

These **MUST** be collected and paid for at our Synod meeting on 12 October at The Crossing Worksop. (Any items not collected will have postage and packaging charges added).

Please submit your orders to: admin@urc5.org.uk or call Chris on (0115) 960 9241

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: 16.09.2019

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