

**EMURCE No: 300 – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Mrs Jane Henderson**

<sup>4</sup> Listen, people of Israel! The Lord is our God. He is the only Lord. <sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. <sup>6</sup> Always remember these commands I give you today. <sup>7</sup> Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Write them down and tie them to your hands as a sign. Tie them on your forehead to remind you. <sup>9</sup> Write them on your doors and gates.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, International Children's Bible.

Imagine a church community where a child shares with an adult all about their favourite Bible story, an adult shares with a teenager how their faith helped them through a difficult time. A group of all ages sat praying for each other, studying the bible together and listening to both child and adult. A community where junior church is not just the responsibility of a few people called to serve and where the children grow, main church is not just for adults, but where all ages learn and worship together.

All this is intergenerational church.

It could start as simple as a knit and natter group joining with the toddler group or encouraging families to come along, the fellowship group welcoming the teenagers and hearing them talk about their lives and interests and getting to know each other. There are many ways of being intergenerational in church life and worship. It's an area I'm passionate about, do invite me to come and share more about it or lead an intergenerational service, I do have some Sundays available.

At the Synod meeting in October our young people will be joining in the main meeting and there is a group for children 'exploring the Gospel in Wonderland'. They will all be joining in together at lunchtime. Don't just sit with those you know, but if there are children or young people on your table, talk with them, tell them about yourselves, ask them about themselves, what interests them, if they have a favourite Bible character. Let's try and be intergenerational at lunch!

Jane Henderson, [cydo@urc5.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk)

## Breakfast @ Synod

The Youth Exec are hosting a breakfast (pastries and drinks) before the Synod Meeting for a chance to look through the Synod Papers and be prepared for the meeting. This is open to everyone, do let Georgina or Jane know if you are hoping to be there. It will start from 9.15am.



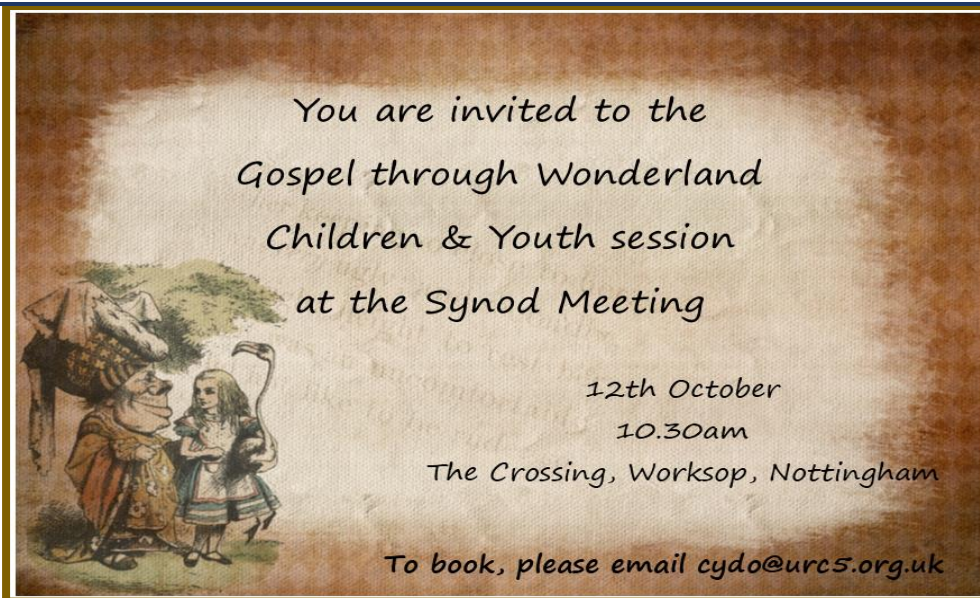
## Young People @ Synod



The older young people are welcome to join in the main meeting, please let Jane Henderson [cydo@urc5.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk) know if you are planning on attending by 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Our Synod's Global Partner is the Botswana Synod of U.C.C.S.A., and we have had many exchanges over the years. This October we will be hosting 2 members of the Botswana Synod- Revd. Mosweu Simane (Synod Secretary) and Revd. Gabriel Tsuaneng (Synod Chairman). It would be good to give them a wide experience of our Synod. If your church would like to invite them to visit please contact me so that I can arrange the programme. Judith. <<mailto:judithnorth64@yahoo.co.uk>> [judithnorth64@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judithnorth64@yahoo.co.uk); 01162862625;



*Save the Date*

**Advance Notice and Save the Date**

Moderator's Farewell Service - **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.urc5.org.uk](http://www.urc5.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.

**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 (please specify).

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: <mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk> admin@urc5.org.uk or call Chris on (0115) 960 9241

## THE ART OF SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Does your heart long for a little time and space to pray, reflect and consider what God might be wanting to say to you? Do you find people open up to you and want to share something of their faith journey, prayer life and spiritual walk with you? Would you like to learn more about spiritual accompaniment and explore the possibility that God might be calling you to a ministry of spiritual direction? If the answer to any of those questions is yes then the Derby Diocesan Spirituality group are running a twelve session course over six months beginning in January that might also be of interest to people in the URC. The course will introduce you to listening skills, different ways of prayer and various spiritual traditions as well as enabling you to grow in self-awareness and the ability to discern God's voice, action, prompting and calling in your own life and the life of others. If you want to chat about whether this might be for you or not then please give Nicky Fenton a ring on 01332 486100.

## URC Music Network – Annual Music Day: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.urcmusic.org.uk)

## NEWS FROM ACAT

ACAT are pleased to send you a website link to our latest ACAT Newsletter– in which we announce details of this year's Annual Conference and AGM. Please <<https://ilink.to/u/190dg1>> click here to view.

The Conference theme this year will be Faith, Finance and the Future: Enabling Your Mission and it will be held in Methodist Central Hall, in Westminster, London, on Saturday 19 October. It will allow opportunity to discuss how best to enable your church's mission and there will be presentations from the Charity Commission, the Ecumenical Council for Responsibility (ECCR) and Christian Aid, among others.

Please do reserve your place at this year's conference, which costs £60, at your earliest convenience. You can download a booking form or pay through our website –Click here to book <<https://ilink.to/u/190dg3>> .

## AN EVENING WITH PAUL KERENSA

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019 7.30pm

Newport Pagnell United Reformed Church

Tickets £10 in aid of the Mead Centre available from [www.urcnewportpagnell.org](http://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 Kerensa'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.

## 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)

### LETTER FROM THE JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM

16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you for signing the [Churches' letter to the Prime Minister](#) expressing concern about the impact of a No Deal Brexit on families locked in poverty.

Can I ask you now to help me try to get the Prime Minister to respond?

It's been 7 weeks since leaders from seven Christian denominations wrote to the Prime Minister, expressing urgent concern that a no-deal Brexit would hit those held back by poverty very hard.

### **We are yet to receive a response from the Prime Minister**

The publication of the [Yellowhammer Brexit planning document](#) last week confirms that a No-Deal Brexit is likely to cause disruption to our food supply and that "*Low income groups will be disproportionately affected by any price rises in food and fuel*".

While this indicates we were right to be concerned about the welfare of families held back by poverty, it provides no actual evidence or assessment of what those impacts might be.

The Government normally produces impact assessments which tell Parliament and the public who is expected to gain or lose when a policy is introduced. These assessments pay particular attention to disadvantaged groups such as low-income families.

It is extraordinary that current Government policy is to accept leaving the EU without a deal in less than 7 weeks without having assessed the impact of this on disadvantaged groups, and shared these assessments with Parliament the public. **We believe this evidence should be at the heart of our discussions on Brexit – but it remains absent.**

I contacted my MP last week asking her to write to the Prime Minister, to ask him to respond to our request for evidence of the impact of a no deal Brexit on the poorest in our society. She has now written to him.

But we need more MPs to ask the Prime Minister for evidence, particularly as they cannot now ask him in the House of Commons.

**Could you [contact your MP today](#) and ask them to encourage the Prime Minister to respond to our concerns and publish evidence about the impacts of a No Deal Brexit on families already held back by poverty without delay? You can find some suggested wording [here](#).**

And then, could you let me know if you've contacted your MP? You can email us on [enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk). If you haven't contacted your MP before, take a look [here](#) for further support.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. It is vital that those who are the most disadvantaged in our society should not be disregarded in our discussions about Brexit.

Yours,



**Rachel Lampard**

**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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