

EMURCE No: 301 – 3rd October 2019
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Revd Dr Deborah Baird

And with the blasts from the shofar (ram's horn), the two-day Jewish celebration of the *Rosh Hashanah*, or Jewish New Year, began earlier this week. It literally means 'the head of the year', and the biblical name for this holiday is *Yom Teruah*, or 'day of shouting or blasting', hence all the noise. It seems to me that this is a very timely celebration as it is the last e-letter that I will be writing before I retire from stipendiary ministry in December, as it will be a time of celebration for us and the beginning of something new. However, there is much more to this holiday than at first meets the eye. *Rosh Hashanah* begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the ecclesiastical year, but it is preceded by the month of Elul, during which time Jews are supposed to begin a self-examination and repentance, which is a process that culminates in the ten days of the *Yamin Nora'im*, or the Ten Days of Awe, which begin with *Rosh Hashanah* and end with the holiday of *Yom Kippur*. *Yom Kippur* is the holiest day of the year—the day on which we are closest to God and to the very essence of our own souls. It is the Day of Atonement—"For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins". And figuratively speaking, this is where I am now - in the month of Elul, that place of waiting before the new year and a new beginning, wondering where it will take me and looking forward to new challenges. So, while our Jewish friends enjoy their new year celebrations, may we each reflect on the past and look forward to a coming new year with self-examination, faith and confidence in God's plan for us all.

It's been great knowing and working with you all, and may I wish you a happy new year.

God bless,

Deborah

SYNOD MEETING

A quick reminder that our Synod meeting is being held on Saturday 12 October at The Crossing Worksop. All papers have now been issued by either e-mail or post. If you haven't received yours please contact Chris Willis at the Synod office. If you are a Synod Representative for your church and are unable to attend please remember another representative can attend in your place.

Breakfast @ Synod

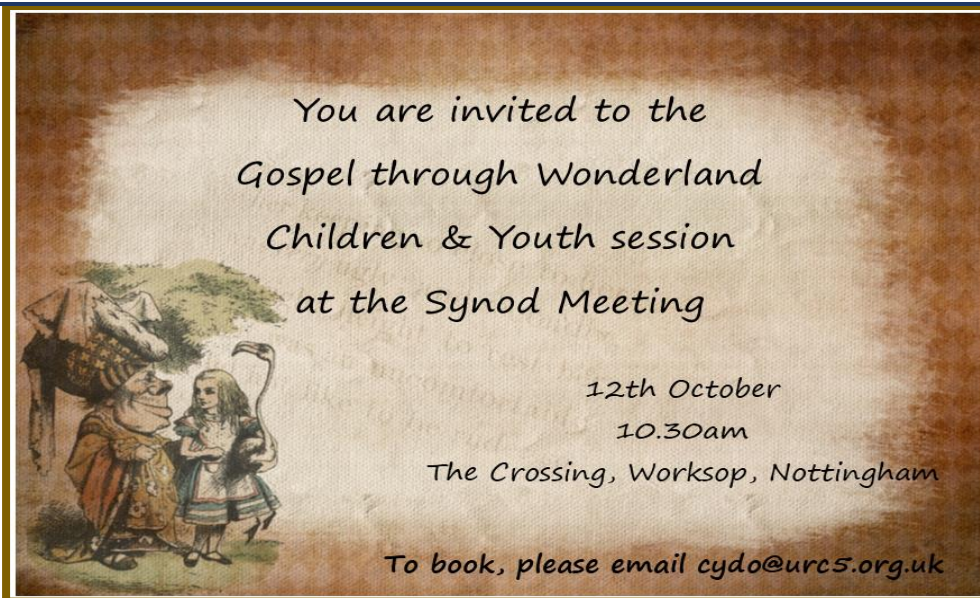
The Youth Exec are hosting a breakfast (pastries and drinks) before the Synod Meeting for a chance to look through the Synod Papers and be prepared for the meeting. This is open to everyone, do let Georgina or Jane know if you are hoping to be there. It will start from 9.15am.



Young People @ Synod



The older young people are welcome to join in the main meeting, please let Jane Henderson cydo@urc5.org.uk know if you are planning on attending by 4th October.



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.

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 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.

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.

MILTON KEYNES MISSION PARTNERSHIP

WITHIN – A day conference on Everyday Faith: A fuller life in God from Sunday to Saturday

On Tuesday 8th October 2019 with keynote Speaker: The Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar at St Martin in the Fields at Church of the Servant King, Dulverton Drive, Milton Keynes, MK4 1NA. For more information or to book visit: www.missionpartnership.org.uk

O God You Search me Great Sacred Music with Revd Dr Sam Wells and St Martin's Voices

Tuesday 8th October from 12.15pm – 1pm at St Martin in the Fields at Church of the Servant King, Dulverton Drive, Milton Keynes, MK4 1NA. For more information or to book visit: www.missionpartnership.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>> .

OLD TESTAMENT IN A DAY

All Welcome – come along to this Bible Study Day led by Revd Dr. Deborah Baird – READING THE HEBREW BIBLE AS STORY

- **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

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/glOMyTZxt.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.

SYNOD OF SCOTLAND – OFFICE MOVE

The Synod and the College have bought new premises and we will be moving into our new office on 25th September, 2019.

The address of the new office is 3/2, Atlantic Chambers, 45 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6AE, there is also an entrance to the building from Cadogan Street. We will be out of communication telephone and email wise for 3-5 days. (24th-29th Sept.)

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

FAMILY WORKER – HINCKLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

We are looking to appoint an experienced leader to work at this busy and vibrant church in this town centre position.

The appointed person will give dedicated time and professionalism to:

- a) Develop the range of ministries presently provided by volunteers but also with the vision to reach out to the community.
- b) Nurture existing young Christians with the church in their spiritual walk.
- c) Develop the relationships and work with the many varied organisations that use the premises.
- d) Foster opportunities for children and families in the community to find and grow in faith.

Hours: 37 p/w

Salary: £21,512 to £24,636 depending on experience.

Email: Tony Wallis at tonywallis2110@gmail.com

For further details please visit

<https://www.hinckleyurc.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HinckleyURCtheBoroughChurch>

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY

You are invited to a training day, to learn how you can use Church Action on Poverty's new *Poverty, Faith and Justice workshops* in your church.

Friday 15 November from 11am-4pm at Church Action on Poverty, 28 Sandpiper Court, Water's Edge Business Park, Modwen Road, Salford M5 3EZ

Poverty, Faith and Justice is a series of five workshops, designed to help people to explore the relationship between their faith and action for justice. The sessions make use of a variety of content including factual information, real experiences, videos, biblical reflection and church teaching from different traditions.

The training day is for people who want to run the workshops for their own church or group. It will equip you with the skills and confidence to deliver the workshops, and answer any questions you may have about what is involved.

The cost of the training day is £20. To book your place visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poverty-faith-and-justice-training-day-tickets-74417397439>

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: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 14.10.2019

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