

EMURCE No: 303 – 31st October 2019
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: HELEN LIDGETT

SIX HOPES FOR SOCIETY

When there seems to be so much confusion, anger, sorrow, hate and destruction in our world, it is easy to give up hope. Speaking to Synod Clerks last week, Simeon Mitchell, the URC's Church and Society Officer, warned us as Christians not to indulge in 'the luxury of despair'.

Simeon was speaking to us about the work of JPIT, the Joint Public Issues Team of the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union and the Church of Scotland. Speaking and campaigning with one voice, sharing research capability, providing joint resources and worship material, JPIT strengthens the witness of the churches in our nations and our world.

Simeon drew our attention to JPIT's 'Six Hopes for Society'. They reflect the churches' hopes for a vision of God's Kingdom on earth.

1. A society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre
2. A society that welcomes the stranger
3. A planet where our environment is renewed
4. A just economy that enables the flourishing of all life
5. A world which actively works for peace
6. A politics characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness

JPIT provides all sorts of resources to help us. Go to their website: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk .

Sign up for the monthly newsletter to keep up to date with their campaigns and resources, follow the blog giving personal perspectives from the team, use the prayer material.

Attend the annual Conference on '**Renewal and Rebellion: Faith, Economy and Climate**' on **Saturday 7th March 2020 to be held at the Riverside Centre, Derby**. Details are on the JPIT website where you can also buy your ticket (and buy one for someone else who would not otherwise be able to go). Simeon hopes for a good attendance from East Midlands Synod!

Helen Lidgett

Synod Clerk

PEOPLE

- Following the news of the death of **Revd Norman Compton-Dando**, the funeral details are as follows: 12:00 Noon on Friday 15th November 2019 At St. Michael's And All Angels Parish Church, Cosby, Leicestershire.
- We are sorry to inform you that **The Revd Gilbert William Hallows** died on Tuesday the 22nd October 2019, aged 90. Gilbert served in Birmingham District 1981-90 and at Malvern Link 1990-95. He was a valued member of Malvern Link in his retirement. He was predeceased by his wife some six years ago and is survived by his daughter. Gilbert's funeral will take place in Malvern Link URC on Friday the 15th November at 11am followed by committal in Worcester Crematorium at 1pm.
- It is with sadness that we inform you that **Revd John Edward Thompson** (known as Jack) died on Sunday, 27 October. Jack served at: Worsley Road, Swinton & Farnworth 1989 – 92: Patcroft & Weaste 1993 – 97. Funeral details will follow.

CALL FOR SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

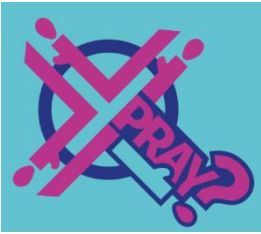
The United Reformed Church General Assembly meets on Friday 10th - Monday 13th July 2020 at the University of Aston in Birmingham. Each Synod is requested to send 16 representatives, of which not more than 10 can be ordained ministers of Word and Sacraments or CRCWs and not more than 10 can be lay people. We must include two young people under the age of 26 and, because of a Resolution passed at Synod in October 2019, at least one person of 40 or under in addition to the two youth representatives. Synod also resolved that the Synod Moderator and the Synod Clerk would be included in our representation.

So are you interested in attending? Is there some one in your church whom you could recommend?

Please send nominations and contact details to Chris Willis, the Synod Administrator, on admin@urc5.org.uk or by post to the Synod office by **Tuesday 7th February 2020**. Please let Chris know if you or any of your nominees are up to 40 years old.

If you are under 26, or nominating someone under 26, please also send the details to Jane Henderson, the Synod CYDO, on cydo@urc5.org.uk.

The Synod Council meeting on 18th February will agree the list of names to be submitted to the Synod meeting on 21st March 2020 for approval.



Y Pray? – 1st – 3rd May 2020 at Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton.

An exciting weekend for women who are interested in exploring prayer creatively.

Sponsored by World Day of Prayer - England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Prayer is an integral part of our Christian life, yet we often find prayer difficult. Come and be inspired, explore different ways of praying and discover links with women from around the world. The programme includes worship, bible study and creative prayer, plus more light-hearted activities and an opportunity to discover what WDP is all about.

For further information visit: www.wwdp.org.uk

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON PROMISES MADE BY ELDERS

In 2018 General Assembly passed a Resolution proposing the addition of an extra promise to those made by Elders at ordination and induction. As this would involve changes to the Basis of Union it was referred to local churches for consideration at Church Meetings. The General Secretary, Revd John Proctor, wrote to Church Secretaries in early September 2018 with details of the Resolution and asked for responses to be sent to him by 31st December 2019. We brought this Resolution to Synod on 12th October 2019, having given time for local churches to discuss it before we brought it to a synod meeting, as recommended by the General Secretary. As a great many members of Synod at the recent meeting claimed they had not received the letter, I draw your attention to it now. John Proctor points out that churches still have two months to discuss the proposal and send their comments to him by 31st December 2019.

The letter can be found here: <https://www.urc5.org.uk/content/promises-made-elders>

Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk



'Pioneering'



In new housing areas



Join us to find out more about Pioneer ministry with Sue Steer, Pioneer Community worker who will share her experience of working in new housing developments in Lubbesthorpe, Leicester.

Saturday November 23rd, 2-4pm, Methodist Church, Grantham Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincs, LN4 2LE

"Employed by Churches Together in Leicestershire, Sue has been pioneering in New Lubbesthorpe since the first house foundations were laid in 2016. By being a welcoming presence to residents as well as working alongside the developers, builders and community organisations, she has worked for the common good of the community with anyone who wants to join in! Three years into the development a vibrant and healthy community has grown and residents work with Sue to create activities and events as well as just sit and have tea together! Alongside these community groups we have a small Christian community that meets in homes and gathers together as Messy Church ..."

Sue brings together all that's happening in this reflection – 'We're out there at the very beginning seeking to build something that is of God'.

<https://www.newlubbesthorpe.co.uk/> https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/506195/LubbesthorpeProject_Leicestershire.aspx

CHRISTMAS POETRY BOOKLET

Joy Rice (Bulwell URC) has produced a Christmas poetry booklet - A5 containing 36 pages featuring poems that are quirky, secular, religious and hopefully amusing!

The booklets are being sold to raise funds for Polio Survivors in Sierra Leone and are pay what you can afford.

Contact Joy - joyricepoet@gmail.com

NOTTINGHAM WORLD CHURCH SUNDAY

Nottingham World Church Sunday 24th November, Boulevard URC 4-6 pm

Speaker: Nicky Vadolia from Open Doors on considering the situation of women who are persecuted both for their faith and their gender.

All welcome, Further details from ian.sylvia@salmon2.co.uk



To sign up for Youth Assembly please follow this link: <https://urc.org.uk/urcya>
Please also let Jane Henderson know if you are booking: cydo@urc5.org.uk



United Reformed Church
Broomhill Rd/Brooklyn Rd
Bulwell, NG6 9GJ
www.bulwellurc.org.uk

Saturday November 16th – 10.30am



Christmas
Coffee Morning

Many stalls – gifts – toys – toiletries
bric-a-brac - prize every time stall
preserves - refreshments – cakes.

We will be serving Bacon cobs,
vegetarian option & warm mince pies!

Come along and bag a bargain!

We are a Fairtrade Church



Christmas ukulele concert

Saturday 7th December

at 7pm



United Reformed Church,
Broomhill Rd, Bulwell, NG6 9FL

Join us for a singalong
concert

with

the Nottingham Ukulele
Orchestra

nottinghamukuleleclub.com



Tea/coffee/juice included.
Home-made cakes to buy.

Tickets £3 (or pay on the door)

contact - Joy Rice - riced@hotmail.co.uk

Proceeds to our Christmas appeal
supporting Framework and Joshua
Orphanage in Malawi



JOB OPPORTUNITY

SECTOR MINISTER – DIRECTOR – MK CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

£36,500 plus pension (if ordained a stipend at denominational rates, housing and pension) Permanent, Full-time

A unique and exciting opportunity to explore and develop new approaches to mission and church through social enterprise. As Sector Minister – Director of MK Christian Foundation you will:

Hold, develop and communicate, with others, the mission, vision and values of the MK Christian Foundation, with our particular expression of the Christian Faith and way, with its emphasis on the practical outworking of the gospel;

Ensure the growth and development of the community of our staff, trainees, volunteers and other service users enabling them to participate in delivering our mission and values;

Oversee the on-going sustainability of the organisation, working with others to develop projects, new enterprises and expanded contracts that deliver our mission and Strategic Plan.

For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.charityjob.co.uk/jobs/mk-christian-foundation/sector-minister-director/668033>

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

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