

EMURCE No: 305 – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
EDITED THIS WEEK BY: DAVID GREATOREX



We are in a time of 'purdah' in the lead up to the General Election when 'political statements are banned' - at least that applied to me in my role when employed in Local Government. I will however urge all eligible to use their vote carefully and prayerfully!

However, I am able to write about one of our great Christian seasons - that of Advent. Advent commences on Sunday 1 December when we celebrate waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ and to give praise and thanks to God for sending to us His Son.

Waiting is not one of the points most of us are too good at, probably when in queues, and maybe we look to take a short cut to reach our destination more quickly. Advent offers us a gift in waiting – the gift of God in Jesus Christ.

Advent has been celebrated at least since the middle of the sixth century, originally for 6 Sundays leading up to Christmas until reduced by Pope St. Gregory the Great later that century. So now we have four Sundays leading up to Christmas when we can prepare for and have the great opportunity of celebrating of the birth of Jesus.

Without Easter we would not have Christmas. Without Christmas we would not have Advent – so let's look forward to commencing our Advent journey with the Lighting of the first Advent Candle on this coming Sunday.

David Greatorex

Synod Treasurer

## PEOPLE

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Frank Blackburn on 2nd November. The funeral and Thanksgiving service were held on 25th November.

Frank started his church life at Penge Congregational Church, transferring his membership to Blackheath Congregational when he married Pat. When this church closed they moved to Eltham URC where they remained members until in 2009 they moved to Gatley and became members of Christ Church South Manchester.

Frank started as a lay preacher in 1960, and became lay pastor of a church in the late 1960s. He was eventually appointed Lay Preaching Commissioner for south east London, and continued in this role for many years. He became a TLS tutor in 2002 and also served as an interim moderator more than once.

Frank also worked in the Ministries Department at Tavistock Place from 1992 until he retired in 1996.

**URC** spirituality gathering

**Seeking God** in words and quietness

**28 Feb to 1 March 2020**  
Westminster College

[download the booking form here](#)

enabled by  
Mark Argent, Ann Barton,  
Richard Church, Marion Thomas,  
**Susan Durber and Terry Hinks**

Drawing on the resources of **Walking the Way** and the **URC Retreat Group**

The United Reformed Church  
www.urb.org.uk

### URC TWITTER PAGE FOR SAFEGUARDING

After conversations with safeguarding professionals at the URC, the need for sharing news and information across the denomination had a fruitful outcome: a tweet page fully dedicated to safeguarding.

You can follow the page at <https://twitter.com/SafeURC> [1].

### 'CONFLICT AWARENESS WORKSHOP' from Northerly Synods Listening and Reconciliation Service

On Saturday 15th February 2020 from 9.30am - 4pm at The Synod Meeting Room  
Bring your own lunch

East Midlands Synod are delighted that Jim Coleman from Yorkshire Synod, will be leading the day for us and all are welcome to attend. Booking is essential and limited places are available so please let Hannah Holmes know asap if you would like a place: [trainingpa@urb5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urb5.org.uk)

### ACAT TRAINING COURSES

**Being a Treasurer:** The Basics has been freshly updated for 2019/20 and is proving immensely popular. This course will take place on two separate dates in January. Visit: <https://ilink.to/u/1axlrg> to book

\* Saturday 18 January 2020 (10am to 4pm) at St Andrew's Street Baptist Church, 43 St Andrew's Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 3AR

\* Saturday 25 January 2020 (10am to 4pm) at Diocesan Office, Diocese of York, Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moor, YORK, YO30 4XT

This course is essential for new and experienced treasurers alike. With a very practical approach, "The Basics" equips today's treasurer with the knowledge they need for their varied role.

Independent Examination: Our Independent Examination <https://ilink.to/u/1axlri> course is taking place on:

\* Wednesday 5 February 2020 (10am to 4pm) at Oxford Quaker Meeting House, 43 St Giles, OXFORD OX1 3LW

This course provides invaluable insight into what the Independent Examiner is looking for so that your annual accounts are correctly presented according to the requirements of the latest Charity Act. The course also examines who's responsible for what in both financial management and the end-of-year accounts.

The cost of each course is £50 and includes all course material, refreshments and a buffet lunch. We will be delighted to welcome both members and non-members of ACAT to these events.

### Abington Avenue United Reformed Church - CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

On Friday 6th December at 7pm. Come and join us for an opportunity to sing some of your favourite seasonal songs and carols.

Bring own nibbles and drink, Free event, ALL WELCOME!

### FOLK CAROL CELEBRATION

West Derbyshire URC invite you to come and join the 'Folk Carol Celebration' at West Derbyshire URC, Coldwell Street, Wirksworth, DE4 4FB on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.

The Folk Carol Service will be a little different! There will be carols in folk style (some with traditional words, some with new words) mixed with a variety of Christmas readings.

### WALKING THE WAY ADVENT MATERIAL NOW AVAILABLE

As promised, the Walking the Way Advent materials from pilgrims of the recent URC educational visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, literally Walking the Way of Jesus, are now available to view and download here: [https://urc.org.uk/images/WalkingtheWay/documents/IOPT\\_Advent\\_Resources\\_2019.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/WalkingtheWay/documents/IOPT_Advent_Resources_2019.pdf)

The notes are quite extensive, so worship and Bible study leaders are encouraged to use whatever will be most useful in the materials, including the prayers, hymns and other worship suggestions, in their own contexts.

Any questions, feedback or stories which people would like to submit would be most welcome. Please encourage people to e-mail [wtw@urc.org.uk](mailto:wtw@urc.org.uk) or call 020 7520 2718.

### URC - JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The following URC vacancies are live on their website. Please follow the link for more information and details of how to apply.

- \* Principal Westminster College, Cambridge
- \* Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)
- \* Secretary for Education and Learning
- \* Administrative Assistant (Safeguarding)

<https://urc.org.uk/vacancies.html>

### PROPERTY OFFICER AND TRUST OFFICER

Part time - 15 hours pw, Salary £12,307 pa, Based at the Nottingham office of the East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church.

#### Responsibilities include:

oversee the property portfolio of 123 church premises and 56 manses  
undertake transactions related to the properties as required  
advise local church management teams on their responsibilities for the buildings in their care  
provide administrative support for the Synod Trust Company.

#### We are looking for someone who is:

An excellent administrator  
Educated to degree level or equivalent  
Understands the legal requirements involved in property administration  
Has some experience of charitable trusts  
Has empathy with the church

Application packs available from the Synod Office - [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: 12.00noon, Tuesday 3rd December 2019 Interviews: during week of 9th -13th December 2019 in the Synod Office

**Christmas ukulele concert**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**at 7pm**

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

Join us for a singalong  
 concert  
 with  
 the Nottingham Ukulele  
 Orchestra

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

Tickets £3 (or pay on the door)  
 contact - Joy Rice - [riced@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:riced@hotmail.co.uk)

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





nottinghamukuleleclub.com

**CALL FOR SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020**

The United Reformed Church General Assembly meets on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 someone in your church whom you could recommend?

Please send nominations and contact details to Chris Willis, the Synod Administrator, on [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk) or by post to the Synod office by **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk).

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

**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](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

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