

**EMURCE No: 308 – 23rd January 2020**  
**Edited this week by: Jane Henderson**

Dear all

I am using this opportunity to highlight news in relation to Safeguarding.

Next week after many months of work the new safeguarding guidance for the URC, Good Practice 5, will be published, and should make its way to your churches over the next few weeks. Unlike Good Practice 4, there is only 1 document being sent which forms the URC policy guidance for both Children and Adults. Please do take time to read though it. There are appendices and sample forms which are available on the URC website <https://urc.org.uk/good-practice-policy-and-procedures.html> The appendices are the latest versions and will be updated as necessary, there is also a standardised incident reporting form, appendix A8, which we would like all churches to start and use. There is also a sample policy for churches to use when reviewing their church safeguarding policy. An electronic version of GP5 will also be published on the website when available.

The safeguarding returns were sent out with all the church annual returns, paper E. Please pass these to your safeguarding coordinator who will complete and send back to the Synod office. If anyone needs any help with form E please get in touch with me.

Safeguarding training has also been reviewed and we are now rolling out the new full day training which covers both children as well as adults. Please look out for the dates near you and try and attend.

Church house are now using Twitter, please follow @SafeURC, so if you do use twitter please follow them.

Please continue to keep safeguarding on all your church agendas so that we can keep all those in our communities safe.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks

Jane Henderson, Synod Safeguarding Officer 07572 291007 [safeguarding@urc5.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urc5.org.uk)

**Dates**

Saturday 8 February -Bulwell 10.30-3.30

Thursday 27 February – Trinity URC, Lincoln, 10.30 – 2.30

Saturday 7 March – St Andrews Peterborough, 10.30 – 3.30

Saturday 2 May – Desborough URC, 10.30 – 3.30

Please book with Hannah, [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

**PEOPLE**

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of the death of former GA Moderator, **Revd Edmund Banyard** on 6th January, 2020. He was ordained in 1949, so has celebrated the 70th anniversary of ordination. He served at Marlpool 1949-1957; Stowmarket 1957-1973; Hutton and Shenfield 1973-1987. Moderator of General Assembly 1988-1989. His funeral arrangements are as follow: Committal at West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St Edmunds, Friday 31st January at 11am, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Diss United Reformed Church at 1.30pm.

## MODERATOR'S INDUCTION SERVICE

Revd Geoffrey Clarke will be inducted as Moderator of East Midlands Synod on Saturday 16th May 2020 at ChristChurch Grantham. The service will be at 3.00pm. Revd Nigel Uden, one of the Assembly Moderators, will preside. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

## TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MODERATORIAL COVER

Synod has put arrangements in place to provide moderatorial cover until Geoffrey takes up his post as Moderator on 1st May.

Essential tasks will be covered by a team of three people: Revd George Mwaura, minister of Christ the Cornerstone Local Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes, Revd Dr Peter Stevenson, minister of ChristChurch Local Ecumenical Partnership Grantham and Stamford United Reformed Church, and Mrs Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk. They will have the advice and support as necessary from Revd Steve Faber, Moderator of West Midlands Synod, and Revd Kevin Watson, Moderator of Yorkshire Synod.

George will be available to provide pastoral support to ministers. Peter will chair the March Synod meeting and meetings of Synod Council. Helen will oversee the ongoing work of the Synod. Ministers are advised to contact the office as usual to report sick leave or other pastoral concerns, such as requests for compassionate leave. Hannah Willey will direct queries to the appropriate person. Local churches - there is no change! Your first port of call is your Pastoral Consultant who will either deal with the issue themselves or refer it on if they need additional advice or help. Safeguarding issues should be reported to Jane Henderson, the Synod Safeguarding Officer, as usual.

Please remember in your prayers all those taking on additional responsibilities during this transition period.

## NEW SYNOD PROPERTY OFFICER



**Mr Geoff Milnes** has been appointed as Synod Property Officer, working 15 hours a week and based in the Synod Office. He starts on 18th February 2020 for a 'hand over' period before Robert White retires on 31st March. We will confirm his working days before he takes over the role fully on 1st April.

Geoff is a recently retired Chartered Surveyor. He has worked as a Surveyor for 40 years and has also had experience as an estate agent and office manager. He is Elder and Treasurer of Melton Mowbray United Reformed Church and a Locally Recognised Lay Preacher for Leicestershire. He is currently Synod Property Networker for Lincolnshire. He is Secretary of the Assembly Listed Buildings Advisory Committee and has served in the past on the Assembly Section 'O' Panel for disciplinary matters. He has undertaken training in Conflict Resolution. He has spent most of his working life dealing with a variety of property matters from purchase and sale, forensic surveys, boundary disputes and as an Expert Witness for Court matters.

Geoff is also a Board member, in an advisory capacity, of Leicestershire County Cricket Club, and has served on committees of local sports and social clubs. Having said that, he has had a season ticket for Leicester Tigers for over 20 years and is a regular attender at Welford Rd!

Geoff will bring great gifts, wide experience and a deep personal faith to the role of Property Officer and we look forward to welcoming him to the Synod team.

## ANNUAL RETURNS

All Churches should now have received their Annual Returns. Can you please ensure that the Annual Return is sent back to the Synod Office by 31 January 2020.

## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF CHURCH HOUSE

On 9 February 1945, the church office that stood on this site was destroyed by a wartime bomb, and ten people lost their lives. We intend to hold a short commemorative service to remember this event and these people on Monday 10 February from 11.30. All who work in the building and would like to join us will be very welcome, as will any friends from the wider Church who wish to attend.

We also hope to display a small exhibition of relevant historical material for a week beforehand and a week afterwards.

## VACANCIES AT CHURCH HOUSE

Church House currently have the following vacancies for:

- \* Personal Assistant
- \* Administrator
- \* Digital Content Officer

For more information or to apply for the post please visit: <https://urc.org.uk/vacancies>

## CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION Request for volunteers to help at the stand

The Church House comms team has an agreement with the Christian Resources Exhibition to give free publicity to them, in return for a free stand at the exhibition.

Their next event is CRE Midlands, at Stoneleigh Park, near Coventry, Wed-Thurs, 4-5 March 2020.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the URC stand please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

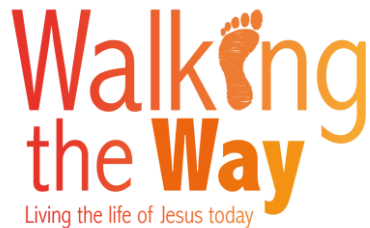
## MAYFLOWER 400 CELEBRATION SERVICE

Members of Synod are warmly invited to a service to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower Pilgrims' voyage at Gainsborough United Reformed Church at 2pm on Saturday 13 June 2020. The service will be followed by a tea. Gainsborough United Reformed Church was built as a memorial to John Robinson, known as the 'pastor of the Pilgrims.'

Last year the church opened a Mayflower Room which contains an all-age exhibition about the history of the Mayflower Pilgrims and the building of the church. The Mayflower Room will be open on the afternoon of Saturday 13 June. Visitors are also welcome to church Heritage Mornings on the first and third Thursday mornings of every month, 10am-11.30am.

Places for the Celebration Service are limited. Please e-mail or phone Janet Gilbert:

mj\_ [gilbert@talktalk.net](mailto:gilbert@talktalk.net), Tel. 01427 610358 to book your place. If you would like to arrange a group visit to the Mayflower Room outside Heritage Mornings, please contact Susan Bee by e-mail [bee.susan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bee.susan@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01427 811258.



With Revs. Sally and Andrew Willett

A free event exploring the Holy Habits

**'Making more disciples'  
& 'Prayer'**

@ Christ Church URC, Barbara Road, Leicester LE3 2EB.

on Saturday 7th March 2020

'Making more disciples': 10.30 - 12.30, 'Prayer': 1.30 - 3.30.

Come to both or just one!

Bring a car load from your church! Arrivals from 10.00am, bring a packed lunch.

To book contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

More info: [www.praytheway.org.uk/events](http://www.praytheway.org.uk/events) or [andrew.era@gear.org.uk](mailto:andrew.era@gear.org.uk)

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

**JPIT NEWSLETTER AND EVENTS**

There is lots going on in 2020 including JPIT's 2020 Conference, 'Renewal and Rebellion: Faith, Economy and Climate'

To see what's happening and book on to events please visit their website :

<https://jointpublicissues-news.org.uk/1MV9-6OU5T-D2MT4M4G69/cr.aspx>

**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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