

## EMURCE No: 310 – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### Edited this week by: David Greatorex

One of the preachers at my church last Sunday said most of our 'celebration times' are during a 6 month period - that we are now in - from Advent to Easter and just beyond.

We have times of preparation, celebration, contemplation, sacrifice and celebration. So, what do we do as individuals and churches in this time? No doubt as many responses as individuals reading this and then wondering where it is going.

Last week we held a meeting of the Synod Finance Group. Many items to keep us engaged and putting our best efforts to managing the Synod's finances.

It was very pleasing to see that the response from the churches for the M&M Fund had been very positive and a big *thank you* is given for the continued support. The timetable for 2021 offers (yes already!) is set out elsewhere in this E-letter.

We looked at income and expenditure for 2019 and a full report is being prepared for Audit at present, with the draft figures being presented at Synod next month.

The Synod is now registered for 'Gift Aid' meaning that it will be possible to reclaim tax for any gifts of money from tax paying individuals, subject to the necessary 'form filling'.

We thought 2019 would be a difficult year to manage, and to some extent it was ending the year with a deficit, but this was much reduced from that of the agreed budget.

2020 will be another challenging year and it is very likely we will have some serious demands made on the planned budget. We go forward in the confidence of prayer that we can face the challenges together.

David J Greatorex, Treasurer.

#### 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.

#### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING CANCELLED

We are sorry to have to inform you that the following Safeguarding Training events have had to be cancelled. Replacement dates to follow:

27<sup>th</sup> February – Trinity, Lincoln - **CANCELLED**

7<sup>th</sup> March – St Andrew's, Peterborough – **CANCELLED**

#### FLOWER FESTIVAL

Duston United Reformed Church, Main Road, Duston NN5 6JF invite you to their Annual Flower Festival and Church Anniversary on 29th February and 1 March. This year our theme is 'Around Great Britain' when 25 Flower Arrangements will depict different towns or cities in Great Britain. Refreshments will be served all day on the Saturday when we are open from 10am until 4.30pm and Teas will be served on the Sunday afternoon when we are open from 2pm, to 4.30pm.

Marlpool URC Theatre Company Present

**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC**

An Evening of songs from musicals, film and pop

Marlpool United Reformed Church Community Hall

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 at 7.30pm - Tickets: £6.00

Available online with no booking fee at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/murctc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/murctc) or telephone: 01773 712749

*Children and Youth Session at Synod Meeting*

Take a visit to the 100 Acre Wood and see what Winnie-the-Pooh and friends have in common with Jesus' teachings.

21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

St. Andrew's with Castle Gate URC, Nottingham

To book or for further information, please email:

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



From 20<sup>th</sup> February bookings to: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

**M&M ITEM**

M&M timetable during 2020, for 2021 offers.

- By end of March Churches send accounts to office;
- By early May Central email out of letters to Treasurers, with copy of letter to Ministers and Secretaries;
- May to July Churches consider and return details;
- From June Finance networkers likely to contact church treasurers;
- Up to end of September Finance networkers follow up with church treasurers;
- By end of October Return is made by Synod to Church House.

This timetable is based around the 'standard' URC financial year. Churches with any general concerns and particularly those with different timetables should make early contact with their Finance Networker to discuss.

### THE CHANTRY CHOIR – REFLECTIONS

John Stainer—The Crucifixion  
Also featuring music by *Mendelssohn, Bach and Elgar*  
Saturday, March 14th at 7.30pm  
Christ Church, Dumbleton Avenue,  
Leicester, LE3 2EG  
Cost: £10

### WALKING THE WAY

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 and give numbers 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)

### SHAPED BY WELCOME: GENEROUS WORSHIP

5th annual conference by The Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain. Bookings through  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shaped-by-welcome-generous-worship-tickets-84866300389>  
[1]

Being held on Wednesday 11th March 2020. Doors open 10.30 am for 11 am - 3.30pm  
Venue: St. Aloysius Church hall, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, London, NW1 1TA (next to Euston Station)  
Registration: £25 includes lunch, Facilitated by Michael Harvey

### A NEW COURSE FROM ACAT

#### ***Trustee Responsibilities -Risk and Health & Safety Management***

This Health and Safety course (£50 per person) is designed to provide a grounding in health and safety management in churches for anyone responsible for exercising the church's duty of care to its staff, volunteers, congregation and the wider public. It is therefore suitable for anyone in a position of responsibility for managing the church's operations, activities or premises, and in particular is recommended for trustees and anyone in a managerial or facilities role.

**Sat 29 Feb 2020 - 10.00-16.00 Nottingham**

For information on all upcoming ACAT courses and to book please visit: [www.acat.uk.com](http://www.acat.uk.com)

### 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.

## CHAPLAINCY LECTURE 2020

We would be very pleased to welcome you to this year's Chaplaincy Lecture, which will be held on Monday 16th March 2020 beginning at 5.30pm in the Rattray Lecture Theatre, University of Leicester.

Light refreshments will be served at the Gatehouse Chaplaincy Centre (opposite Mayor's Walk on University Road) following the lecture. RSVP please.

Our speaker this year will be Professor Clive Marsh and the title is: Why God Stories Really, Really Matter...Even in 2020

Clive is currently Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, and has worked in the fields of theological education and lifelong learning for over 30 years. His most recent publications are *A Cultural Theology of Salvation* (Oxford University Press 2018) and, with Barbara Glasson, *So What's the Story...?: A Resource Book for Christian Reflection and Practice* (Darton Longman and Todd 2019).

Do get in touch with us if you would like any further information or to RSVP. Any updates will appear at:

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/institution/chaplaincy/special-events>

## MARRIAGE CARE

### PART TIME TEAM LEADER (APPOINTMENTS SERVICE) – NOTTINGHAM BASED 26 HOURS

Marriage Care is seeking to appoint a Team Leader to lead the Appointment Service ensuring an effective service and high quality experience for clients and volunteers.

#### Key responsibilities:

The Team Leader will be a key member of the staff team based in Nottingham and will report directly to the Director of Relationship Support. Responsibilities include ensuring the service responds effectively to the needs of clients and volunteers and delivering consistently good levels of customer service to the standards agreed.

#### Skills and competencies:

We are seeking someone with excellent IT skills and preferably experience of using 'Salesforce' or similar Customer Relationship Management platform. Ability to liaise effectively and empathetically with members of the public and volunteers is essential, as is experience of line-management or working with a team to develop and implement effective operational processes.

Understanding and experience of the Voluntary sector is desirable.

This role is offered on a part-time basis, 26 hours per week, Monday to Thursday (with some flexibility).

The closing date is Thursday 27th February 2020      Interviews will be held in Nottingham on 10 March 2020

If you are interested in this position and want to know more, please download an [Application Pack](#). Please note we will accept CVs with a covering letter, expressing your suitability for the role as per the job description and person specification which can be found in the pack.

**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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