



## URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 211 - 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD DR DEBORAH BAIRD

As I write this, it is not only the beginning of a return to work after time away, but also a new year. So, I would like to wish you first and foremost, a New Year full of peace and love. But as a new year gives an opportunity for a new beginning, I would like to offer a quote from Neale Donald Walsch for you to reflect on.

Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that.

You cannot hold onto the old, all the while declaring that you want something new.

The old will defy the new;

the old will deny the new;

the old will decry the new.

There is only one way to bring in the new. You must make room for it.

Some of us may be hoping for a new start for many different reasons, but why not make now the time to make room for the new and let go of the tired or empty. One way we can do this is to listen to what our hearts are drawing us to so that we can trust in our new attitudes and decisions as we share them with God. And if God isn't in it....? Then we know to let it go.

God bless, Deborah

### PEOPLE

- We are very pleased to welcome **Revd Sally Martin** back to East Midlands Synod. Sally will be taking up the pastorates of Ermine, Trinity and St Columba's, the date of the induction service is 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at Trinity at 1.30pm.
- It is with regret that we announce the death of **Revd Barbara Gates**, retired minister in Leicestershire. Barbara passed away on Saturday 12 December 2015 in Leicester Royal infirmary. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.
- We regretfully inform you of the sad news that the **Revd Hugh Kember** died in the morning of 2nd December. He had been suffering from cancer. Hugh was minister at Haslemere 1950-54; Cregagh, Belfast 1954-61; Chester-le-Street 1961-70; Bexley 1970-77; Bookham 1977-87. He was residing in Cranbrook, Kent.
- It is with sadness that we advise you that, **Joan Gamble**, former Secretary at Kilby URC passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Joan's funeral will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at Kilby Church of England at 2pm.

### OTHER

In October the Moderator wrote to the Prime Minister conveying the October Synod Resolution on the Syrian refugee crisis and has received the below reply from the Direct Communications Unit:

'Dear Reverend Meek,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October to the Home Secretary about the plight of Syrian refugees. As I am sure you will appreciate, the Home Secretary receives a lot of correspondence and is unable to respond to each letter individually. Your letter has been passed to the Direct Communications Unit and I have been asked to reply.

The generosity shown by British organisations and families who have offered to shelter Syrian

refugees in their own properties over the last few months has been both typical of the British spirit and extraordinary in its sentiment. To help turn these acts of humanity into reality, the Home Secretary has announced that we will be establishing a register of people and organisations that can provide houses for the settlement of refugees.

We will develop a community sponsorship scheme, like those in Canada and Australia, to allow individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to support refugees directly. And we will use the aid budget and other funds to take the pressure off local services and make sure councils have the money they need.

In the meantime, we would encourage people to continue to offer support to vulnerable people through charitable donations. Those seeking to offer more practical day-to-day help will no doubt find that local volunteer groups which support refugees would welcome their assistance. More information on what the public can do to help Syrian refugees can be found at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/syria-refugees-what-you-can-do-to-help--2>

I hope you find this response is helpful in explaining our position.'

### **SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2015**

These Regulations were approved by Parliament on 15 September and came into force on 1 October 2015. Will all those Churches whose Manses are let, check with their Lettings Agents and ensure that a smoke alarm is fitted to every storey of a let Manse and that a carbon monoxide alarm is fitted in any room which contains a solid-fuel burning appliance. A number of Letting Agents have already contacted local churches and arranged for these alarms to be affixed to let Manses, where they do not already exist, but there may be some churches that have not been contacted in this way. If your church has not, please arrange for the Letting Agent that you use to deal with the installation of these alarms, which are a statutory requirement immediately. Needless to say, the alarms should be checked and tested from time to time to ensure that they are working properly. Although the Regulations do not include Manses occupied by Ministers, local churches should also provide these alarms for the benefit, wellbeing and safety of Ministers and their families, and have them checked and tested on a regular basis.



### **ELDERS GATHERINGS**

An opportunity to meet with other elders to share experiences and ideas with a focus on **WORSHIP LEADING** within our churches.

Derbyshire - Thursday 4th February 2016 from 7.30pm - 9pm at Carlton Road URC

Leicestershire - Saturday 6th February 2016 from 2.30pm - 4pm at Abbots Road URC

Nottinghamshire - Thursday 11th February 2016 from 7.30pm- 9pm at Sherwood URC

Northamptonshire - Saturday 27th February 2016 from 2.30pm - 4pm at Duston URC

Please book by contacting Hannah Bones: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

### **PRAY · DISCERN · WORSHIP · - What is the spirit saying to the churches?**

An invitation to pray for the URC at Bolton Villas URC, Bradford on Friday 15th January 7-9pm. Café & Prayer room open from 5pm, Livingstone Rd, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD2 1PZ

For further details see: [gear.org.uk](http://gear.org.uk), [boltonvillas.org](http://boltonvillas.org) or phone 01925 487851

### **ON THE EDGE** A retreat at the Windermere Centre: God present or absent?

Who or what is God anyway? 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

'On the Edge' is the fourth in a series of retreats exploring Christian faith in the contemporary world.

Arrival at Monday's lunchtime (1300 hours) 25th April: departure on Thursday after lunch 28th April 2016. Some may want the option of arriving on Sunday evening.

Price Guide: The Centre operates a 'Pay What You Can' policy. There is a 2 page explanation of the rationale of this policy on the website - aimed at helping people who genuinely cannot afford the full price. For those who can pay, as a rough guide, the median cost would be about £200 per person.

Booking: Please book directly with the Windermere Centre and pay the £50 non refundable deposit.

Email: [windermere.centre@gmail.com](mailto:windermere.centre@gmail.com) or visit: <http://windermere.unc.org.uk>

## ROADSHOWS

**EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD** - Invite you to join us at one of our Road shows during 2016.

Come along to share ideas and find out all about Mission, Training, TLS, Training for Ministry, Community work, Evangelism, Children's and Youth Work and so much more!!!!

**Wednesday 20th April 2016** - Castle Hill URC, Northants, 2pm- 4pm or 7pm-9pm

**Thursday 28th April 2016** - Marlpool URC, Derbyshire, 2pm- 4pm or 7pm-9pm

**Thursday 5th May 2016** - Hinckley URC, Leicestershire, 2pm- 4pm or 7pm-9pm

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016** - Riverside Church, Sleaford, 2pm- 4pm or 7pm-9pm

Booking is essential, please Contact Hannah B to confirm your place: [trainingpa@unc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@unc5.org.uk)



### FRESH EXPRESSIONS VISION EVENT

At Sleaford on Saturday 5th March 2016, 09.45 for 10.00-16.00 with Linda Rayner. Fresh Expressions vision events are dynamic ways to explore new ways of being church and how to form them. Over 6,000 people in over 80 places in the UK and worldwide have discovered more about fresh expressions of church and have come away with a real desire to work with God and develop their dreams.

Vision events are ideal for complete beginners, those with real questions about fresh expressions and mission-shaped church, people who have started something new and need some practical help, and Christians from all churches and traditions. The day is free, including refreshments and a buffet lunch. Please book places so that we can organise catering. Contact: Peter Harding, Email: [pgh77@outlook.com](mailto:pgh77@outlook.com) 07590 309245 or visit: [freshexpressions.org.uk/vision/sleaford1](http://freshexpressions.org.uk/vision/sleaford1)

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DURING 2016

#### Nottingham

Thursday 21st January 2016 at Friary URC from 7pm - 9.30pm

#### Leicester

Thursday 4th February 2016 at Christ Church, Leicester from 6.30pm - 9pm

#### Lincolnshire

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Riverside Church, Sleaford from 10am - 1pm

Saturday 12th March 2016 at St Andrew's, Peterborough from 10am - 1pm

More dates to follow! To book email Hannah B at the Synod Office: [trainingpa@unc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@unc5.org.uk)

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**EVANGELISM AND VISION DEVELOPMENT WORKER** at Abington Avenue United Reformed Church, Northampton, NN1 4QA

"Come and help us fulfil the Great Commission."

We are an established church with an existing ministry to young families and the elderly.

We want to develop our worship, evangelism, discipleship and community relationships to attract the 18-40's. Could you be the person to help us do that?"

**Conditions** - Full time, Three Year Contract, £18700 - £22250 pa depending on qualifications and experience, 35 days holiday pa allowing for bank holidays. Gross salary based defined contribution pension scheme

### **Brief job scope**

To develop worship and community relationships/activities focussed on the 18-40 age group, in order to bring new Christians into the Church.

**The main elements of the role are:** To develop worship together with the existing leadership team, to build community relationships, to bring new Christians into the Church and to help them develop and establish an authentic relationship with Jesus.

### **Personal Qualities and other requirements**

Must enjoy meeting people and be able to build relationships with a wide variety of people, both individually and in a group setting, should have good knowledge of social and digital media, must have some form of theological training or have relevant experience, must show some evidence of understanding of different ways of worshipping with some experience of leading worship, must be able to work on their own initiative in consultation with the leadership team, must enjoy starting new things and be able to be reflective and evaluative

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a practicing Christian  
For a more detailed Job Description and an application form, please contact the Church Office at office.aaurc@btconnect.com or 01604 604623. Closing date for applications is Friday 22nd January 2016. Interviews will be conducted in February 2016 with the successful candidate starting as soon as mutually agreeable.

## **YEAR BOOK CHANGES**

- Please note that the address for Revd Sally Martin, Minister at Ermine, Trinity and St Columba's (as of 16.01.16) is: 9 Oakleigh Drive, Lincoln, LN1 1DG Tel: 01522 538434 Mob: 07484 710597 Email: sally.martin5@btinternet.com

AND FINALLY: - Please send any comments or feedback on this e-letter to: admin@urc5.org.uk  
The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA.  
Email address for E-Letter Editor: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk) Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 18.01.16