



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 213 - 4th FEBRUARY 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: HELEN LIDGETT

I wonder if you have thought about sharing in the life of the Synod? There are several groups with different responsibilities e.g. mission, the pastoral care of churches and ministers, finance and property, children and young people, the ministry of lay preachers and Elders. There is also the Synod Trust, the legal entity underpinning the Synod and holding its assets of money and premises, whose Directors are drawn from the Synod's churches. All the groups have a mix of women and men, lay people and ministers, drawn from all geographical areas of the Synod. Synod relies on their knowledge, expertise and experience to guide its life and activities and help it make wise decisions. Group members normally serve for two terms of three years. Some Groups meet two or three times a year for two or three hours. The Pastoral Group with its heavy workload meets every two months. Meetings are normally held at the Synod Office in Nottingham. Travel expenses are reimbursed. Serving on a Synod Group is a calling about which we say very little yet it is an act of faith and an important form of Christian service.

If you think this is something you could do, or if you want to recommend someone in your church, tell us! The Search Group will be looking for people to fill vacancies at its meeting on 25th February. An email or phone call to Chris Willis at the Synod office is all you need to do to volunteer or recommend someone. We will do the rest - identifying a suitable group, sending a role description and an invitation. Please help us to make Synod truly representative of the community of churches in the East Midlands, no longer 'they' but 'us'.

Helen Lidgett (Synod Clerk)

PEOPLE

- We regret to inform you that the **Reverend Kenneth Frank James Knight** died on Tuesday 19th January 2016. Kenneth was ordained in 1982 and served at Corby, Brigstock & London Road, Kettering until 1985. He then moved to the West of Reading Group where he served until 1989. Kenneth lived in retirement in Teignmouth with his wife Christine. Please remember Christine in your prayers. The funeral will be held on Friday, 5th February at 12.30 pm at St. Gregory's, Dawlish. The interment will be at Weston-Super-Mare (family only). Following the funeral there will be a buffet lunch at The Mount Pleasant, Dawlish Warren, Devon to which all are invited. Donations are for the British Heart Foundation.
- It is with great sadness that we advise you of the death of **Jenny Jones**. Jenny died on the 23rd January 2016, she was a lifelong member of the Congregational church moving to the United Reformed church at the joining together of Castle Gate Congregational Church and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1974. During her life Jenny was a committee member, Secretary and finally Chair of the Nottingham Association for the welfare of children in hospital. She went on to become a bereavement support volunteer, with special responsibility for children needing support. In 1977 Jenny became involved in the URC East Midlands Synod, where she was administrative assistant to Revs John White, John Slow and for a short time, Malcolm Hanson, eventually becoming Director of Training for the Auxiliary Ministry, a member of the Council of the East Midlands Ordination Scheme and was chaplain to students, and ordinands. The funeral is at St Andrew's with Castle Gate on Monday 8th Feb at 12-30pm.
- We are happy to hear that since the end of her appointment at Whetstone and Saffron Lane in October 2014, **Revd Frances Ballantyne**, was guided towards the Methodist tradition and is pleased to announce a 5yr fulltime appointment in Spalding, the South Holland Circuit from September.



DERBYSHIRE

FROM MAIR BRADLEY (Temporary Mission Enabler for Derbyshire) - "In the early days of the Christian Church I can well imagine that the new converts were just as elated and "on fire" with their new-found faith! Others around them couldn't help but notice the difference it made and they, in turn, wanted a piece of the action. Some years ago in our Synod we had some young people's weekends entitled "Mission Means Me" which was shortened to MMM. The weekends ran on an annual pattern and eventually changed to a new format (which is great for "standing still" isn't an option) but Mission isn't just for young people it's a matter for the whole church. Mission is reaching out to others to show holistic caring - physical, mental, educational and spiritual. Faith which is alive cannot be hidden - it's like influenza - it's caught not taught! Men and women "on a mission" are energised, re-vitalised, alive and it's noticeable. People will say (or at the very least, think) 'I don't know what they've got but I'd like a piece of the action'. As Elders and Members are we 'walking the walk' or just 'talking the talk' or not doing anything that can be felt or seen? Are we treading water or swimming out? What is it that is holding us back? Faith is woven into our DNA - we cannot separate our faith from our physical being. So let's begin by sharing our stories; being a great, enthusiastic and supportive team, not forgetting that prayer is vital to the success of mission. Let 2016 be the year when we shall be not only Re-formed but re-engaged with mission and experience our faith so that it makes us tingle and re-energises us. If you are willing, I'd like to come and work with you as you re-engage with God's Mission for your church. Look at your church diaries and make some time when you can begin to travel along this exciting and vital journey. Every blessing to you, Mair



LEICESTERSHIRE

CHRIST CHURCH, DUMBLETON AVENUE, LEICESTER. On Wednesday 17th February at 7.00pm we will be hosting a concert by the Westminster Youth Choir from New Jersey USA. This touring choir from The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell, New Jersey, will use music from the 1960's musical 'Hair' to give an original Christian message about the world we live in today. The Westminster Choir is both community and mission oriented. The choir is comprised of 28 young Christians and the adult leaders place a considerable emphasis on Christian fellowship within the group and with the Churches that they visit. On several occasions there have been reciprocal visits to Caldwell. The performers are conscious of the message they bring in their work and they impart it joyously with the enthusiasm of youth. Admission to the concert, which will last about an hour and a quarter, costs £3.

OTHER

TLS PROSPECTUS 2016

The prospectus for 2016 is not being printed in paper form this year. Please click on the link below, which will take you to the online pdf prospectus on our website:
<http://www.urch5.org.uk/tls2016prospectus>



ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH ACCOUNTANTS AND TREASURERS

The January Newsletter is now available on the ACAT Website. You can view and print it from here: <http://acat.uk.com/membership/newsletter.php> we hope you and your treasurers find it beneficial. Some of the subjects covered in this issue are: Gift Aid changes; Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Grants and changes to Audit Thresholds.

2016 Training Schedule - We have now opened bookings for our 2016 training programme, there are 16 Foundation courses and 8 Workshops taking place between April and October. Please visit <http://acat.uk.com/training.html> to find out more and book your place. I'm also attaching a

printable version.

Replacement Handbooks - If you or your treasurers need a replacement Handbook we have them in stock. Please send a cheque for £22.00 made payable to ACAT to the address below and we will post one to you. Please send your cheque, together with your name and address to: Mrs S Bye, ACAT Handbook, 22 Byrne Court, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6RN

Trustees, Trainers and Volunteers - The work ACAT does is only made possible by the hours of work generously given by our trustees, trainers and volunteers. If you feel you have skills and experience that could help ACAT develop then please contact our Coordinator, Dan Russell at dan@acat.uk.com.



ISLAM & CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM ENGAGEMENT - Day Course

Saturday 27th February **OR** Saturday 17th September from 9.30am - 4pm at St Philip's Church, Evington road, Leicester, LE2 1HN. Taught by Mr Dilwar Hussain (founding chair of New Horizons in British Islam) and Dr Tom

Wilson (Director of St Philip's Centre). To book or for more information Email: admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk This is a free course, please bring your own lunch.

FINDING OUT ABOUT BELIEFS

Newport Pagnell URC are holding a series entitled 'Finding Out About Beliefs' which begin on Sunday 14th February at the URC in Newport Pagnell at 6pm, the series will run for 6 weeks. Each week a person who holds the beliefs of the faith (or no faith) will speak about what they believe and how they live this out in today's world. We are having speakers who are Christian, Atheist, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish. And on the 6th week we will talk about what we have learnt etc. The more we understand other faiths and beliefs, the more we can understand ourselves and the more tolerant of difference we become. Please share this information and help us learn together. All ages welcome.

For more information contact: revdjmills@btinternet.com or call 07703485017

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT

You can receive a Daily Devotion giving a reading, reflection and short prayer every day between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday. The Devotions have been written by a wide group of people from the Northern and North Western Synods and are designed to give a positive, reflective, focus to Lent. They will also be posted on the Northern Synod website. If you would like to receive them please sign up by going to: <http://eepurl.com/bKR8mz> [1] If you don't want the email to look more like a webpage (html format) please choose "plain text" when you sign up.

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 3rd November 2016 - Riverside Church, Sleaford, 2pm- 4pm or 7pm-9pm

Booking is essential, please Contact Hannah B to confirm your place: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk



TWO UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

My hope is to get £1,000 sponsorship for the sleep out and to exceed the audience expectation of 50 for the concert. Any help in getting there will be valued. Tony Richmond - Volunteer Community Fundraiser and Chairman of Trustees

Sleep Out 4th March 2016

Link to online details: Tony Sleeps Out for Hope Nottingham

Link to on line sponsorship: <https://my.give.net/TonySleepsOutforHope2016>

Music for Pleasure Concert 23 April 2016

On line details at: Music for Pleasure Classical Song Concert



PHOTOGRAPHY DAY WITH JOHN POTTER

Saturday 7th May 2016 from 10am - 4pm at St Deny's Parish Centre, Evington, Leicester. Do you enjoy taking photos and would like to explore ways to make use of them alongside your faith? If so, then this day is for you. Led by former professional photographer, Revd John Potter, we will look briefly at how images can enhance our faith, some tips on taking better pictures, and an opportunity to get snapping. You don't need expensive equipment, just a camera and enthusiasm! To book please contact Hannah B: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

CHURCH ANNUAL RETURNS

All annual returns should have now been sent back to the Synod Office. We still have just over 30 churches that have not sent theirs back. Can you please ensure that they are back with Chris, at the Synod Office, by 11th February, as we want to ensure all details on our database are correct before we produce the Synod Yearbook.

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Please note that St Thomas, Woughton, have a new Treasurer: Mr D Mahon, 29 Pyke Hayes, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, MK8 8PQ Tel: 01908 265067 Email: treasurer@woughton.org
- Please note that the Treasurer at Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes, Mr R Collard, has a new email address: bob.collard@cornerstonemk.co.uk
- Please note that Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes, have a new Secretary: Mr Mark Okor, Christ the Cornerstone, 300 Saxton Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES Email: mark.okor@cornerstonemk.co.uk
- Please note that The Dales URC, have a temporary Treasurer, Mr K B Clarkson, 12 Third Avenue, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 1PE Tel: 0115 9875605 Email: kb.clarkson314@gmail.com
- Please note that Long Eaton URC, have a new Synod Rep: Revd Mair Bradley, 4 Ordish Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby, DE21 6QF Tel: 01332 603762 Email: mair.bradley@googlemail.com
- Please note that Revd Heather Pollard, Woughton Ecumenical Partnership, has a new email address: heatherpollardwep@gmail.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 Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 15.02.16