



## URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 215 - 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2016

**EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD GEOFFREY TOWNSEND**

It's not often that I come across a book that I find hard to put down, but recently I've been reading "My journey so far" which describes the remarkable life and ministry of Andrew White, perhaps better known as "The Vicar of Baghdad." Although brought up in a Christian family, his father was a staunch Calvinist and his mother was from an Assemblies of God Pentecostal background. On a Sunday he attended a Strict Baptist Church and Sunday School and then in the afternoon and evening attended services at the Assemblies of God. When in Primary School he was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he replied an anaesthetist and a priest. Leaving School, despite poor health he qualified as an anaesthetist and worked successfully at St Thomas' Hospital in London. Whilst there he felt a strong calling to become a priest in the Church of England, despite the fact that he had not been confirmed and thought most Anglicans were not Christians! He went on to be a parish priest before becoming heavily involved in peace and reconciliation first at Coventry Cathedral and then in the Middle East despite being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. It's an incredible story of how he has overcome many difficulties and has had an incredibly varied ministry.

Geoff Townsend (Convenor of Pastoral)

### **SYNOD MEETING 19 MARCH 2016**

To All Members of Synod - The Synod papers are being e-mailed to all delegates today (if you are not on e-mail your copy will be sent 2<sup>nd</sup> class post). If you do not receive an e-mail can you please advise Chris on [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk) as soon as possible. **If you have any questions about the Synod Group Reports can you please contact Chris before 15<sup>th</sup> March so they can be passed onto the relevant convenor. Questions may still be asked at Synod but if a fuller answer is required we would like to give the convenors time to find any necessary information.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S EVENTS DUE TO RUN ALONGSIDE SYNOD HAVE NOW BEEN CANCELLED

### **FAIRTRADE AT SYNOD**

Advance orders can be taken for The Real Easter Egg (3 varieties - I can supply in singles) or for catering packs of tea, coffee & sugar sticks. Details can be found on the Traidcraft website: [traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk) Contact Sylvia Salmon on 0115 9275208 or [ian.sylvia@salmon2.co.uk](mailto:ian.sylvia@salmon2.co.uk) by Monday March 7th. As well as the usual selection of goods there will be a few Palestinian Clerical Stoles available.



### **DERBYSHIRE**

**REPTON URC**, Pinfold Lane, Repton, Derbys, DE65 6GH - invite you to join with us at a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication of the Old Schoolroom following its refurbishment On Sunday 13th March at 3.00pm This will be followed by a buffet tea. All Welcome!

**THE CHURCH ON OAKWOOD** - Celebration Weekend on Friday 22nd April 2016 at 7pm With Fiona Simpson & Brian Adams. Fiona & Brian are christian musicians based in Altringham, Cheshire, they are committed to proclaiming the love of Jesus through song, testimony and humour, their music is contemporary and aimed at leading audiences into a relationship with Jesus whilst encouraging those who already know Him. Everyone Welcome! Free Admission!

We would appreciate an indication of numbers so that we have a rough idea for seating and refreshment purposes, please contact Peter & Cathy Bates: 01332 664456 or 07967928234  
Optional retiring collection for Church Funds



## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

A Day exploring Your Christian Heritage - Marking 400 years since the death of Richard Clyfton, pioneer of 'nonconformity', First leader of the 'Mayflower' Pilgrims congregation, Pastor of Bassetlaw churches at Marnham and Babworth, One of the first to 'separate' from the Church of England, Leader of the Scrooby congregation, Effective founder of the Congregational tradition on May 14th (Saturday) Coach picks up in Worksop at 09:15, Retford at 09:30.

We invite you on a day out with a difference as we trace and celebrate Clyfton's life in north Nottinghamshire, commemorating him and hearing the story at the historic churches of Marnham, Babworth and Scrooby. With inputs from Revd Geoffrey Clarke and guided by local author, Adrian Gray. Great fun and fellowship! Learn about your own heritage, Visit some beautiful places and Take part in an historic commemoration. The full day out costs £25 including the coach, lunch and a coffee break. Places are limited, so book early! To make reservations: contact Adrian Gray (07470 366689 or [Adriangray@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk](mailto:Adriangray@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk)) or Revd Geoffrey Clarke at The Crossing, Worksop. Cheques can be made out to 'Pilgrims & Prophets Christian Heritage Tours' and sent c/o The Well, Hospital Road, Retford DN22 7BD



## LEICESTERSHIRE

**MELTON MOWBRAY URC** - Edgars Cuzinskis and Friends Spring Concert - Saturday 19th March 2016. Edgars will be playing piano pieces by Frederic Chopin, Franz Liszt and Ludwig van Beethoven and will be joined by the excellent vocal group Old Dalby Quartet and a number of young musicians from Melton. Starting at 7.00 pm admission is free (a collection will be taken for church funds). Refreshments will be served at the interval. An evening not to be missed

**WIGSTON MAGNA URC** - Come and help us celebrate! Wigston Magna URC is celebrating 350 years on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2016. You are invited to send representation from your church to attend the 4pm service, which will be led by the Assembly Moderator, Mr John Ellis and will be followed by tea and cake. Please send numbers attending to the church secretary as soon as possible for catering purposes, Mrs Eileen Williams: [ewchurchsec@aol.com](mailto:ewchurchsec@aol.com)

## OTHER

### URC HOLIDAY FORUM

The theme for 2016 is At Home in a Strange Place from 20th - 26th August and the theme leader is Revd Michael Jagessar who was Moderator of General Assembly from 2012-2014. More details about Forum 2016 at the Hayes Conference Centre are available from:

<http://www.urcholidayforum.org.uk/wpsite/> If you would like to reserve your place for next year you can book via the Booking Form on the website or by emailing [bookings@urcholidayforum.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcholidayforum.org.uk) to ask for a form to be sent to you. Holiday Forum has in the past been described by some as a "Jewel in the Crown" of the URC but to remain so we need your assistance in making the wider church aware of its merits. If there are members that would benefit from a Church holiday for the whole family and the price would be an obstacle, get in touch with us as we have our own bursary fund available to assist.

### CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE - 'HOPE IN A CHANGING PLANET'

A two day, non residential Conference, from the 15-16th April, 2016 at Central Hall Coventry.

The conference aims to help people think what the next steps in climate action, after Paris, might be for churches and individuals.

Speakers include leading climate scientist Myles Allen; theologians Michael Northcott, Martin Poulson, Rosalind Selby and Ruth Valerio; climate communicator George Marshall; climate advocates Paul Cook and Mark Letcher, and church leaders Jo Herbert, Bishop William Kenney, Rachel Lampard, and Bishop

Graham Usher.

The website is at <http://www.ewdc.uk/booking/> and we are on Twitter at @ewdc2016.

You can book two ways: by Credit or Debit Card online via Eventbrite by Cheque using the booking form from the conference Booking Form

The cost of the Conference is £90 or £60 for Students and Unwaged. We are also offering a day rate of £45/£30 if you are not able to attend on both of the days.

The conference is organised by a group of churches and non government agencies such as; All We Can, Arocha, Christian Concern for One World, Christian Aid, Commitment for Life, Global Justice Now, Operation Noah, Progressio and Tearfund



### **MUSIC AT THE CROSSING**

Tickets for 'A Concert Prelude to The Crossing's 10th Anniversary' by the national and world-wide award-winning CANTAMUS GIRLS CHOIR on Saturday 23rd April, 7.30pm are on sale at The Crossing. Cantamus tickets are £15, £14 Concessions, £5 Under 16s. Orders by email to [david.jordan@thechurchbridge.com](mailto:david.jordan@thechurchbridge.com) Previous Cantamus concerts have been a sellout!

David Jordan (01909 475421 or txt/call 07976

773016)

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

### **NEWS FROM JENNIE CRANE (CRCW) AT CASTLE HILL**

I finally finished my Level 1, 2 and 3 for Kitchen Supervisors just before Christmas, in the early New Year I was approached by Elsie's Café, they are a part of a national initiative which 'rescue' food that is heading for landfill sites, the food has reached the end of its sell by date but, not use by date. We were asked if we would be agreeable to start a joint venture.

On the 29th January we opened up, food had been prepared and we had 2 customers! 5th February, not feeling disheartened we opened our doors and had 24 customers, 12th..... 30 and 19th 40!!!! We are all blown away by how Our Lord is blessing the work at CH, and, it is all being achieved by the generosity of supporters from the wider church and different communities.

We have volunteers from both CH URC, Street Church, Elsie's Café and the local community, we operate on a pay as you are able, so no-one is excluded.

This really has become an extension of the work we are doing on a Tuesday evening, what started 3 years ago as a small group has now extended to about 55. Many of which are of NFA and are reliant on hand outs as they are not entitled to benefits. We have also been donated a large amount of clothes,

these are also shared on a Tuesday.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you along on a Friday for your lunch, we serve 11.30am - 1.30pm. As Jesus said: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"  
Jen xx

## **BULWELL URC, NOTTINGHAM - YOUTH WEEKEND**

From 18th—20th March 2016 for 9 to 16 year olds, £25 per person

Weekend leader: Dave Dennis, Activity leader: Eleanor Rice

Fun, Games, Late Nights, Food, Laughter, Quiet & Loud Times, Exploring, Developing, Learning & loads more. Online booking at: <http://bulwellurc.org.uk/youth.html>

Once you have paid online—You will receive a booking form & more details about the event.

For more information contact Dave Dennis: [dave@bulwellurc.org.uk](mailto:dave@bulwellurc.org.uk) Tel: 07783 695857 or visit: [www.bulwellurc.org.uk](http://www.bulwellurc.org.uk) Facebook: Bulwell United Reformed Church



## **DETROIT TRIP - 12th - 21st July 2016 - Don't miss your chance to register!**

During 2016 will you be 18 - 25 years old? Would you like to visit Detroit? Would you like to go on an amazing mission trip?

Synod hopes to take a group to Detroit for a 10 day trip in July. This will involve sharing in mission with a church in Detroit and working in their community!

If you would like to register your interest please email your name, date of birth and contact details to Hannah Bones: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**



### **DEPUTY DIRECTOR MCYM (0.6)**

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Midlands institute for Children, Youth and Mission team based at St John's Nottingham in the senior role of Deputy Director. This is a 0.6 role with usual working days Monday to Wednesday. We are looking for a JNC qualified youth worker to be our professional practice lead and someone with a Masters degree to share in postgraduate teaching across CYM. Job description and application available from [mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk) Application deadline noon 31 March, interviews 12 April

## **YEAR BOOK CHANGES**

- Please note that the email address for John Henley, Secretary at Loughborough URC, has changed to: [jh030343@gmail.com](mailto:jh030343@gmail.com)
- Please note that Trinity URC, have a new Secretary: Mrs Sharon Lesley Sardeson, 32 Cranwell Street, Lincoln, LN58AJ Tel: 01522 8749985 Mob: 07847495764 Email: [sardeson@ntlworld.com](mailto:sardeson@ntlworld.com)

AND FINALLY: - Please send any comments or feedback on this e-letter to: [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto: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: 14.03.16