



## URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 216 - 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD PETER MEEK

Dear Friends,

We are, of course, in that wonderful and transformative season of death and resurrection in which we remember with deep gratitude the sacrifice made by our Lord and Saviour and with joy his resurrection. In East Midlands Synod we seek to translate this reality in practical ways and one particular way is through the Mission Fund. When a church makes the decision to close ( death), the proceeds of the sale of the building are fed into the Synod Mission Fund to support work being done in our living churches ( resurrection). The Mission Fund currently helps fund Children's' and Families Workers in Bulwell and Marlpool and funds a myriad of diverse projects in other places, for example in Great Doddington and Ilkeston. May you know this Easter that love is stronger than death and learn what it means to go on dying to self and rising to life in Christ. May God grant us the wisdom to know what it means to be faithful to Christ's Way and may God bless the work of our churches as we are reminded that we serve a Lord who is love and who has overcome death with resurrection life.

Love in Christ, Peter

### PEOPLE

- We regretfully inform you of the death of **Revd Kenneth Davies**, Ken died on Thursday 3rd March. We give thanks for his life and Ministry. Following his retirement in 1993, Ken lived in Petersfield and continued to serve local churches for many years. His Funeral will take place at the Oaks Crematorium, Havant on Friday 18th March at 12:15. Ken leaves a wife, Betty, and three daughters. We remember them in our prayers.
- It is with sadness that we advise you that the **Revd Helen Mary Pullin** died on Friday 11th March. Helen trained at New College and was ordained in 1967. Helen served at Mere, at Foxhole, with the National Christian Education Council, at Banners Gate, Sutton Coldfield and finally at Petersfield & Liss. Helen lived latterly in Plymouth. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary's family and friends. The funeral arrangements are not yet available. Please contact the South Western Synod Office at [synodoffice@urcsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:synodoffice@urcsouthwest.org.uk) or phone 01823 275470 to be advised when we have the information
- We regret to inform you of the sad news that **Margaret Green** has sadly passed away aged 92. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son, Ray, and all the family.
- Congratulations to **Helen and Mike Playdon** on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> March!
- We are delighted to hear that **Daphne Beale** has been invited to be one of the one hundred and eighty recipients of Maundy Money from the Queen on Maundy Thursday. This money is given to elderly men and woman who have been chosen because of the Christian Service they have given to the Church and community. Daphne has been recognised for her inter faith work.
- Congratulations to Betty and John Chadwick who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March!



### LINCOLNSHIRE

**CHRISTCHURCH LEP - ARTS BREAK** at ChristChurch on Finkin Street, Grantham on Thursday 19th May 10.30-11.30am. Grasping the Nettle - a mixture of poems and pictures with Paul

Binney - Poet and Christian Aid Supporter, Admission £3, with coffee. All proceeds for Christian Aid. Please support this event and put it in your diary now!



## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**THE DALES URC** - On April 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> - The Dales Drama Group is again putting on a Revue to raise money for the "Raise the Roof" campaign. To obtain tickets, please contact Janet Beavis 0115 9117115 or Maureen Beavis - 0115 9114718 **ALSO** - On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May - The Dales is holding its Spring Fair in the Hall between 2pm and 4pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend!

## OTHER

### DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DAMP?

The Dales URC had such a problem and instructed a firm named Frank Schrijver UK Ltd. This company uses an eco-friendly method which continuously removes moisture directly from the walls in which it is installed, and decreases the relative humidity level throughout the building. It is a natural way to combat problems caused by rising damp and condensation. There is no damage to the plasterwork and the method can be used on all types of walls. The firm, which is Dutch, has its own web site [www.schrijverdampcontrol.co.uk](http://www.schrijverdampcontrol.co.uk). If anyone would like to have further information, please contact Janet Clarkson at The Dales - email address [kb.clarkson314@gmail.com](mailto:kb.clarkson314@gmail.com).

### @ HOME IN A STRANGE PLACE - SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON MIGRATING

**What it is?** - A resource for sacred conversations on migration: aimed at local churches and/or church related groups to help in the exploring of issues around moving/migrating.

**What are the aims?** - Working the theme 'at home in a strange place', it is hoped that the resources can generate a series of 'conversation points' to help people reflect together on their experiences, stories and encounters, create opportunities for churches to connect faith, worship, advocacy, solidarity and practical engagement.

**Where will these conversations be introduced?** - 'Sacred conversations' (@home in a strange place) will be introduced at key gatherings of the URC commencing at the Multicultural Celebration (September 2015) and followed up at Mission Councils, Synod gatherings, General Assembly 2016 and significant network meetings. We hope these conversations can get fully going until the end of 2017.

A few congregations will be invited to pilot the materials, with the hope that the documented experiences both generate wider interest and sharpen it.

**IF YOUR CHURCH MAY BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT** - please contact Michael Jagessar or Wendy Cooper for more information: [michael.jagessar@urc.org.uk](mailto:michael.jagessar@urc.org.uk)  
[wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk](mailto:wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk)

### FREE TO BELIEVE 2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

April 1st-3rd at the High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts

The URC Mission Council is concerned about reaching the missing generation in its churches - the 20-45. We are also committed to age diversity in FTB so we are making a special offer of a booking for £90 to anyone in that age range. Might be an ideal opportunity for anyone who has never been to one of our conferences or to introduce a friend. We will also still accept (and indeed welcome) full price bookings! This year's speakers are: Susan Durber - Christian Aid, Leslie Griffiths - Methodist minister, life Peer and broadcaster, Lawrence Moore - Director, Windermere Centre, Andrew Bradstock - Ex-Church and Society Secretary, United Reformed Church, Convenor, Centre for Theology and Religion in Public Life at the University of Winchester, Chair - Alison Micklem, Worship - Martin Camroux . The cost is £175 or £90 (20-45 years old), Bookings to Linda Harrison: 2 Rembrandt Way, Colchester, CO3 4QS Email: [linda.harrison@colchsfc.ac.uk](mailto:linda.harrison@colchsfc.ac.uk)



## RURAL MISSION SUNDAY

Last year at the Arthur Rank Centre we began Rural Mission Sunday, a real opportunity for rural churches to celebrate who they are and give thanks for their community. This year the date for RMS is July the 17th, but you can mark this at any time over the summer to suit you and those you work with. This year the theme is 'Sow and Grow' so why not celebrate the seeds you sow as a church? Material can be found here: <http://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/about-arc/support-arc/item/9407-rural-mission-sunday>



## STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

The Student Christian Movement are asking for your help in circulating a survey about church engagement with university students. The survey aims to establish a context for student ministry that will enable more churches of varying sizes and traditions to grow and improve their work with students. They want to measure churches' engagement with students from first point of contact to any long-term impact after graduation. It assesses the levels of support available to church workers, and asks what factors might be hindering church growth when it comes to attracting university students. They hope that findings from this research will inform a broad and far-reaching report into the state of student outreach among churches, which will include recommendations and training materials. They would be grateful if you could take part in this survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MSSRRXQ>

## CHURCHES' LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICE (CLAS)

The Charity Commission issued an alert on 11 March 2016, as regulatory advice to trustees, warning them of online extortion or 'ransom' demands currently affecting UK businesses. Charities could also be vulnerable to attack and so are encouraged to be vigilant.

**What to look out for** - a number of businesses throughout the UK have received online extortion demands from a group calling themselves 'RepKiller Team' the group have sent emails demanding payment of between £300 - £500 in Bitcoins [a form of digital or 'crypto' currency] by a certain date and time if their demand is not met, they have threatened to launch a cyber-attack against the organisation and damage its reputation by automating hundreds of negative reviews online the demand states that once their actions have started, they cannot be undone

**Action to take** - If you have received such a demand, or receive one in the future, you are advised to: NOT meet their demands and pay the ransom, make a report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via their website [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk), retain the original emails (with headers) and make a note of the attack, recording all times, type and content of the contact.

## SAFEGUARDING

Good Practice 4 'Adults at Risk' is now available. Copies will be posted to Church Secretaries but it can also be downloaded from the main URC website <http://www.urc.org.uk/good-practice-policy-and-procedures.html> If you have any questions please contact Jane Henderson: [cydo@urc5.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### DIRECTOR OF CUMBRIA CHRISTIAN LEARNING, GROWING DISCIPLES FOR MISSION

Cumbria Christian Learning has been created to serve the ecumenical God for All strategy, which at its heart is about the evangelisation of Cumbria and the development of Christian people as all-life disciples along with support and training for lay and ordained ministries. CCL seeks to serve and lead in the re-imagining of church in Cumbria through an innovative, flexible, integrated and contextual range

of learning opportunities.

The Director of Cumbria Christian Learning will need to be a person of faith, imagination and resilience with a vision for the future of the church and its ministry and mission in a time of change, and have the ability to work with people from different church traditions and denominations. S/he will need a passion for mission, a strategic mind, an instinct for collaborative work, a love for people and a desire to grow disciples for their life in Christ.

Background information and application papers from [www.carlislediocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/jobs).

Applications should be sent to the Bishop of Penrith's office, % [vicki.grant@carlislediocese.org.uk](mailto:vicki.grant@carlislediocese.org.uk).  
For more background or an informal conversation contact: Robert, Bishop of Penrith - 01539 727836.  
This vacancy is open to lay or ordained people.

Closing date for applications: Thursday 31 March at noon. Interviews on Friday 8 April in Kendal, with an opportunity the previous evening to meet colleagues and others.

Package negotiable, based on £42,500 salary and generous non-contributory pension. Relocation package including removals and resettlement grants.

### **PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR CHURCH HOUSE, LONDON PERMANENT CONTRACT 21 HOURS PER WEEK SALARY: £24,417**

A vacancy has arisen in the United Reformed Church's communications department and we're looking for an enthusiastic, self motivated individual to join our team in the publications office.

Ideally, you will have a love of books and will be able to help resource and inspire the denomination with good quality and relevant printed resources. You will also be highly organised with strong administrative skills, excellent communication and customer service skills and an ability to work on your own as well as within a team. Experience of all MS Office packages is essential together with a working knowledge of social media platforms. Experience of online selling, working with publishers and e-marketing campaigns would be a distinct advantage. If you are interested in working for us and can meet all of the above requirements please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs): Deepti Upadhyaya, Human Resources Office, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT T: 0207 691 9871 E: [recruitment@urc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@urc.org.uk)  
W: [www.urc.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.urc.org.uk/vacancies) Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 1 April 2016  
Interview date: Friday 15 April 2016

### **YEAR BOOK CHANGES**

- Please note that the Sunday morning service time for Well Street Church, Buckingham is now 10.30am.
- Please note that the landline telephone number for Mrs Sharon Lesley Sardeson, Secretary at Trinity URC was misprinted in our last e letter. The correct number is: 01522 874985

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.  
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