



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 218 - 14th APRIL 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: DAVID GREATOREX



Just after Easter 2 at time of writing. On a frosty yet sunny morning I went to church with my daughter and grandson some 3,500 miles west of the East Midlands, in Oshawa Ontario.

The congregation was a few down on the 300 plus for Easter the week before but nevertheless a significant time of worship and praise at Kingsview United Church.

The service was based around thoughts, considerations and music about praise and continued unannounced, being led by the organist and choir. We sang (part of) 32 hymns and praise songs all to do with praise, many linked to

Psalms. It was a joyous occasion and fitting for the time of year. References were made to the various traditions forming the United Church in Canada. We can recognise these as 'our' denominations but over around 100 years since formation the old 'badges' are no longer prominent! During the service I was reminded of some words from the Roger Jones piece 'Mary Magdalene' (sung on Palm Sunday at Alvaston URC in Derby) - 'Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving, make music to our God'. Hopefully we all make our joyful noise when we sing - and play - music to the honour of our Lord and Saviour.

Next Sunday is 'Holy Humour Sunday' - think I told you about that a year ago.

Weather note - the bright sunny Sunday morning 'changed' a little before school time on Monday, as shown in the picture!

David J Greatorex

PEOPLE

- On a very sad note we have to inform you of the death of **Mr Alan Gilby**. He died 5th April in the Stroke Unit of Lincoln County Hospital with his wife Sheila and one of their sons with them. Alan was a much loved and respected member of the church. He was a Lay Preacher and Non Serving Elder and was heavily involved with the F&GPC and oversaw all our updating to the church building over the last 5+ years. He also had Authorisation for Lay Presidency at Communion. He was also made Elder Emeritis in April 2014. The Funeral will take place on Wednesday 27th April, 11:10am at the crematorium followed by 12:30pm at Trinity URC, Lincoln.
- It is with the deepest regret that we inform you of the death of **Revd John Arthur** in East Kilbride on 5th April 2016. John was the last General Secretary of the Congregational Union of Scotland and the first Synod Moderator of the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church (2000-2005) - a man who served both his earlier pastorates and his denomination with distinction, good judgment and great sensitivity. He will be sorely missed both by those in Scotland and many in the wider URC.

LEICESTERSHIRE

MIDLANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL: The Boys' Brigade National Brass Band Association is holding its Midlands Music Festival in Oadby Leicestershire this coming Saturday, 16 April 2016 in the Baptist Church. All welcome to a great day of music making.

Full details available at <http://natbrass.boys-brigade.org.uk/musicfestival/index.html>

LINCOLNSHIRE

ST ANDREW'S URC, PETERBOROUGH EVENT:

FREE FAMILY FUN: PENTECOST FESTIVAL on Saturday 14th May, 11am-4pm at St. Andrew's URC, Ledbury Road, Peterborough, PE3 9RF. A free community event hosted by St. Andrew's URC. Includes: Art exhibition & competition (open entry); Labyrinth; Performance by U3A Harmonies Group; Craft activities; Free refreshments. Further information and art competition entry form from: www.standrewsurcpeterborough.org.uk Email: Pentecost@standrewsurcpeterborough.org.uk

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

WELLINGBOROUGH URC EVENTS:

- **CONCERT BY THE NORTHAMPTON MALE VOICE CHOIR:** On Saturday 14th May 2016 at 7.30pm Wellingborough United Reformed Church, High Street presents a concert by The Northampton Male Voice Choir supported by Lydia Hennessy. Tickets: Adults £10 and Concessions £8. You can prebook Tickets now by calling the Church Office on 01933 278137. Tickets will also be available for sale on the door. Refreshments are included.
- **VOCAL RECITAL BY ISOBEL GRAY:** Wellingborough United Reformed Church, High Street will be hosting a Vocal Recital by Isobel Gray, mezzo soprano at 7pm on Friday 27th May, 2016. The Recital will include music by Mascagni, Handel, Bryd, Gounod, Tallis and Barber. Admission to the performance is FREE, with a collection to support church funds. Everyone is most welcome.

OTHER

SYNOD QUIET MORNING

'SUMMER TIME, AN' THE LIVIN' IS EASY': You are invited to the next Synod Quiet Morning on Saturday 2nd July from 10am - 12.30pm at Ilkeston, Wharncliffe Road URC, led by Revd Ruth Allen. For more information please contact Ruth on 07787 939404



STOP

SYNOD DEVELOPMENT ROADSHOWS!



LOOK



GO

There's a Roadshow happening near you!

Are you interested in: *Evangelism * Ministry * Mission * Youth and Children's * Community * TLS*

All Welcome!!!! Come along to find out more at:

- Castle Hill URC - 20th April 2016 - 2pm - 4pm or 7pm - 9pm
- Marlpool URC - 28th April 2016 - 2pm - 4pm or 7pm - 9pm
- Hinckley URC - 5th May 2016 - 2pm- 4pm or 7pm - 9pm
- Riverside Church - 3rd November 2016 - 2pm - 4pm or 7pm - 9pm

If you are planning on coming along please remember to book by contacting Hannah Bones at the Synod Office: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

LAY PREACHERS GATHERINGS: This year's Lay Preachers Gatherings are taking the shape of Safer Sacred Space Training! Find out more about - Self Care in Ministry - Boundaries and much more.

- Saturday 16th April 2016 - 10am - 4pm - Christ Church, Leicester
- Saturday 17th September 2016 - 10am - 4pm - St Andrew's, Peterborough

Please come along to one of the sessions, where lunch is included! Booking is essential, please contact Hannah Bones at the Synod Office to secure your place: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

RETIRED MINISTERS/WIDOWS GATHERINGS & LUNCH DATES:

The annual Retired Ministers Gatherings are being organised. Please note the dates below.

- Northants/MK Area: Thursday 16th June, 11:30am-2:00pm (Venue TBC: Abington Avenue URC)
- Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire Area: Tuesday 21st June, 11:30am-2:00pm (Venue TBA)
- Leicestershire Area: Wednesday 29th June, 11:30am-2:00pm (Venue: Abbots Road URC)
- Lincolnshire Area: Thursday 14th July, 11:30am-2:00pm (Venue: Riverside URC, Sleaford)

Letters will be sent out very shortly.

MILTON KEYNES MISSION PARTNERSHIP

THEOLOGY FORUM

Milton Keynes Theology Forum invites you to 'Faith in Education' on Monday 23 May, 7.30 - 9.00 pm at Christ the Vine, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, MK6 5DD

This is an open discussion for thinking Christians with contributions by Huw Humphreys and Sherry Gladwin. What is the place of faith in education today? Is religious education appropriate in a secular society? Should Christianity be taught to young children? Is poor RE worse than no RE? Should assemblies be religious? How should Christians teachers express their faith? What difference does a Christian worldview make? Is the National Curriculum helpful to faith? Is teaching the Christian faith relevant in a multi-faith community? Are faith schools the answer? How can local churches relate to local schools? All Welcome!

coMPass COURSES SUMMER 2016

Details of our coMPass courses for the Summer Term are now available. This term we are offering something a bit different: we have two one-day events, plus two short courses.

- **The Bible at the Museum** - Saturday 7th May at The British Museum, London
- **Hymns: Do the words matter?** Exploring faith through the words we sing - Wednesday 18th and Wednesday 25th May at All Saints, Milton Keynes Village (daytime)
- **Joy and forgiveness, mercy and love:** Reflecting on our lives as Christians - Saturday 4th June at St Michael's Priory, Willen
- **Art and Spirituality** - Thursday 9th and Thursday 16th June, venue tba (evening)

All these courses are FREE! Do take a look at the leaflet on our website

www.missionpartnership.org.uk/compass/ and share this information within your churches.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN



PILOTS DAY OUT!

Come to Belton House for a fun day out with Pilots on Saturday 14th May 2016! Come and play in the adventure playground, ride on the miniature railway, look round the house, play in the park, kite making activity and nature trail! Bring a picnic and join in the fun, in worship, kite flying and games. Costs: National Trust members and under 5's are free. House and Grounds: Adults - £11.70. Children - £7.90, Family (2+2) - £34.60 Grounds only: Adults - £9.70, Children - £6.50, Family (2+2) - £27.50. Arrive at 10am, picnic at 1:30pm. To book contact Hannah Bones for a booking form: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk by 30th April. All who book through Hannah will receive commemorative badge and exclusive competition details!

SONGS TO SHAKE US UP - An unusual and unique worship resource by John Campbell

200 new hymn texts with well-known tunes to challenge church and society.

Over the last 23 years John Campbell has been writing new songs for the URC worship settings to tunes that are already well-known to the worshippers. John has only ever written songs for specific occasions, usually as a response to a particular Bible passage. Yet, somehow, the songs have developed an afterlife in other places, mostly in United Reformed Churches.

Now with the help of Kevin Meyhew, the hymn publishers, 200 of them have been polished up and helpfully presented in a proper spiral-bound hymn book format with printed music, comprehensive indexing and accompanying CD and CD-ROM to make it easy to find and use a song which fits the moment. Song words can be clipped into service sheets and used with a CCLI Licence whilst the organist plays from the book. Order from: www.kevinmayhew.com Price: £29.99 (1400539)

TRAINING FOR LEARNING AND SERVING

You may have heard that there are some changes to TLS this year.

The good news is that we are still very keen to enrol students to commence next September.

The One Year courses will be available as usual. Details on the National web-site or contact me at charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com or phone 01298 22557 or ask at one of the Road Shows.

If you wanted to take TLS Foundation, maybe as a preparation for Gateways into Worship or another one year course, then you will need to take TLS LITE as preparation instead. Again, please contact me or ask at one of the Road Shows.

Although the deadline for applications is the end of May we would welcome hearing from you soon so that we can make preparations in good time.

Charles Jolly, TLS Regional Organiser

REQUEST

CHERISHING OUR HERITAGE - I am hoping to compile a directory of buildings in our Synod area that have associations with notable/famous people Preachers, poets, artists, authors, scientists, philosophers and many more. Have your buildings featured in film or television?

Do let me know with pictures where appropriate, dates, references or locations. The Methodist church produce heritage trails for those with an interest in the past or history. We may be able to produce a simple guide if sufficient buildings of interest are submitted.

Many thanks,

Peter Rippon, Loughborough URC & Synod Property and Finance member Email: p_rippon@sky.com

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Revd Peter Jupp - as from 18 April 2016, Elisabeth and I will move to 44, Ashwell Road, Oakham LE15 6QG. Our email will continue to be pcjupp@btinternet.com and ejjupp@btinternet.com but our phone number will be changed to 01572-722624.
- Please note that from 21st April Revd Mike Playdon's new address will be: 43 Grange Drive, Glen Parva, Leicester, LE2 9PH. Telephone number and email address remain the same.

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: 25.04.16