



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 220 - 12th MAY 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: HELEN LIDGETT

WATER OF LIFE



Ascension Day - and with it begins the Well Dressing season in Derbyshire. Tissington wells are decorated and blessed, ready for the thousands of visitors who flock to see the wells with their flower decorated panels, admire the houses and gardens, buy a cake from the Christian Aid stall and enjoy cream teas in the village hall. Thereafter for the next four months people in village after village across the county will put their imagination and craft skills to work to decorate their wells - no longer a source of water, except in Youlgrave, but a source of income. Well dressing means summer is beginning and with it the tourist industry gears up. The visitors to

grand stately homes and industrial heritage sites, the walkers and climbers, the motoring tourists and motorcyclists are a major source of income for the county. The churches get in on the action with flower festivals to accompany the well dressings and the offer of home-made cakes and fair trade tea to refresh weary travellers. They raise money of course, they are part of this industry, but they also bear witness to the risen and living Christ. As our churches prepare for the influx of visitors, pray for them as they prepare to offer not just tea but living water. "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never again be thirsty. The water that I shall give will be a spring of water within them, welling up and bringing eternal life." (John 4, 13-14)

Helen Lidgett

PEOPLE

- It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of **Revd Keith Forecast**. Keith had embarked on a cruise ship holiday with friends who were concerned when he did not appear for breakfast. Keith was found to have died in bed. Keith was Ordained in 1960, and served, Arley Bristol (1960-64), Derriford (1964-70), Cardiff, Roath Park (1970-76), Secretary for Christian Education (1976-81), Palmers Green (1981-92), Moderator, General Assembly (1989-90), Moderator, North Western Province (1992-2000), Training Officer - Synod of Wales (2000-05). Of course, Keith served in much wider areas than these listed and on many and varied committees. No funeral arrangements yet, but these can be obtained, once known, from the Synod Office (office@urcwales.org.uk)



DERBYSHIRE

CENTRAL URC, DERBY - BBC Radio 4's "Any Questions". Following various postponements, we are pleased to report that the BBC Radio 4's Any Questions will be broadcast live from Central United Reformed Church, Becketwell Lane, Derby, DE1

1JW on Friday 22nd July. Tickets are free but limited. To obtain a ticket send a sae to the church. Alternatively, tickets can be picked up from the church office.

RIPLEY AND ALFRETON MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY - Present a Concert Performance of 'Jesus Christ Super Star,' Lyrics by Tim Rice, Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber on Friday 10th June at 7pm and Saturday 11th June at 2.30pm and 7pm at The Cabinet of Curiosities, Derby Market Place, DE1 3AH. Tickets are £10. Box Office - Joyce - 01773 745082 Alison - 07966 011965 Online booking: ticketsource.co.uk/ramtc

MARLPOOL URC - are organising a series of Social Events in order to raise funds for the Church and for their Youth & Families project!

- Tea at the 'Marlpool Ritz' on May 28th, 2-5pm (Afternoon tea with cake stands and tea pots- bring your mum!)
- A Street Party! On June 11th, 1-4pm (Tea outside with games, face paints, Punch and Judy, crafts...)
- Puddings and Promises, on July 9th, from 7pm (Pudding and cakes, recipes and auction of promises)

All are welcome! For further details, please feel free to ring Val Smith on 01773 715205



LINCOLNSHIRE

CHRISTCHURCH, GRANTHAM - On Thursday 19 May at ChristChurch on Finkin Street, Grantham from 10.30am-11.30am, you are invited to 'Grasping the Nettle' - A mixture of poems & pictures with Paul Binney - Poet & Christian Aid Supporter. Admission £3 including coffee. All proceeds for Christian Aid. All are warmly invited!



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

THE DALES URC - are so proud of their team of unpaid leaders. What a blessing to have such enthusiasm and dedicated youngsters. Special thanks go to Arran & Rebecca for their leadership in this accolade. The Dales Have been awarded a plaque & certificate as a CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH, not an easy thing to achieve. It was a lovely evening at Cafe Church, when Jane Henderson came to present the award. We are so proud of them all.

ALSO AT THE DALES - Revd Malcolm Fife recently visited Jamaica and during his time there he met Indian Minister, Sudhir Parker. Sudhir will be speaking at the Dales on Tuesday 17 May at 2pm during their Tuesday fellowship. All are welcome to attend. There will be a charge of £1.50 to cover refreshments.

OTHER

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATORS BLOG

John Ellis, Moderator of General Assembly, recently visited Wigston Magna URC. Read 'Champions!' his reflections on the church and Leicester City, in the latest Moderators Blog on the URC website: <http://assemblymoderators.urch.org.uk/>



WHAT'S THE POINT OF CHURCH? - East Midlands Synod Study Day with Lawrence Moore Study Day with Lawrence Moore, Director of the Windermere Centre on Saturday 16th July 2016 from 10am - 4pm at Rose Hill URC, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 1JN.

What's the point of Church? - What's the answer to that question if church is not already your home, your family, something you've always done, or the place where you find a sense of belonging? What would you say to a young person who has never been involved with church, or to someone who has left church because of a bad experience, or simply because it's boring, irrelevant and out-dated?

Here's an answer that works for me: "Come and be part of God's people, transformed by the gospel, making a difference for Christ's sake!" These are the words of the Catch the Vision statement, which is the answer the United Reformed Church gave to the question, "What's the point of our continuing as a separate denomination?"

Unless the Christian Church is making a Jesus-shaped difference in the lives of the communities, it has no business existing, and we as members cannot justify the amount of time, energy and money that we spend to keep it going. There is far too much poverty and need and pain in the world that ought rightfully demand our time, attention and resources.

Belonging to the church ought to mean being a part of a global family whose reason for existing is to change the world. That is what Jesus taught us to pray for: "Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth ..." That's mission, and mission is Spirit-business. This study day will help equip you to ask the big questions about your mission and how you can make a difference, and to listen to discern where the Spirit is leading you and your church. Booking is essential - to book contact Hannah Bones at the Synod Office: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

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

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)

THE BIG CHURCH SWITCH

Christian Aid, Tearfund and CAFOD have come up with a great idea to help the transition to a low carbon world and to save your church money. Basically, when churches across the Country club together they can negotiate a better energy deal. Already more than 500 churches have signed up.

It is very simple and by registering now you are not under any obligation. Register your details with church energy experts 2buy2 on the big church switch website

www.bigchurchswitch.org.uk/christian-aid

They will find the best 100% renewable deal for your church. By using the collective buying power of all churches who've registered they can secure more affordable clean energy deals for your church. As your contract comes to an end (whether that's in a few weeks or a few years) 2buy2 will provide your church with your energy quote. Now you can make the decision whether to switch your church to renewable energy.

I'd be really interested if you could kindly let me know if you register (or have registered!) Charles Jolly, (Church and Society Officer) 'Green Apostle' Email: charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com

ACAT TRAINING DAY - SOUTHWELL

Jubilee House, 8 Westgate, Southwell NG25 0JH on Saturday 9th July 2016

The topics covered are - The Role of the Treasurer, Legal & Financial Overview, Budgeting, Principles of Charity Accounting, Systems, Records and IT, Employment, Gift Aid and GASDS, Year-end Routines, VAT and LPWGS. Whether you are new to the role or have been in post for many years, you will find something on the course to benefit you. The cost is £45 and includes all course material, refreshments and a buffet lunch. Registration will be from 9.30am onwards for a prompt start at 10.00am and the day will finish at 4.00pm. The Foundation Course is always popular and we recommend that you book early to ensure your place. You do not have to be a member of ACAT to take part in our training. To book a place on this Foundation Course visit : <http://acat.uk.com/southwellfound.html>

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S LEADERS WEEKEND

After the success of last year's weekend East Midlands Synod are holding another Youth and Children's Leaders Weekend at The Wilson Carlile Centre, Sheffield from Friday 30th September (6pm) - Sunday 2nd October (1.30pm) 2016.

WORSHIP IDEAS - TIME TO REFRESH - IDEA SHARING - BIBLE STUDY - SOCIAL TIME

If you are a youth and children's leader and would like to register your interest please contact Hannah Bones at the Synod Office: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

Plans for the 2017 BIG DAY OUT: FEASTS AND FESTIVALS are well underway!!!

The venue for the day's Festivity is Drayton Manor - home of Thomas Land and a veritable Feast of thrill rides. Part of the URC's Feasts and Festivals celebration calendar of events, alongside the park attractions there will be a wonderful pavilion area, offering the prospect of workshops and activities and where we can meet friends and celebrate worship. It's a perfect venue for celebrating 'Feasts and Festivals' the whole church theme for 2017.

A great day out for all church families to share along with Pilots. Book the date NOW - May 20th 2017

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Vacancy for Synod of Wales and Northern College Training Officer/Support & Development Tutor

This is an exciting new opportunity for a URC minister to work 50% as the Training Officer for the Synod of Wales (South), and 50% in a new post for Northern College as a Support and Development Tutor. Together the Synod and College are looking for someone to inspire and support the learning and formation of lay people, existing ministers and students of the college. A track record of inspiring others and forming positive relationships is crucial for this shared role. With a base in Cardiff, the successful applicant would need to be willing to travel extensively in South Wales and beyond. An information pack is available from the Synod of Wales office: office@urcwales.org.uk

If further details are needed on the College element of the role, please contact the Principle, Rosalind Selby: Rosalind.selby@lkh.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 3rd June 2016. Interviews will take Place during the week of 20th-24th June.

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Please note that Daventry URC, has now changed from two services each Sunday to one service. New timing for this service is 10.00am.

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.

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