



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 221 - 26th MAY 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD DAVID DOWNING

I do love a murder mystery on TV. Not all of them, but ones like 'Midsomer Murders'. I never really try to work out who it was that did the deed, or the many deeds! We as a nation seem to be gripped by murder mysteries. Not just twee English countryside ones: French, Nordic, American... Most of them have one main character but nearly all of them have a team of people. I guess in many ways like Jesus and his disciples. Sometimes the disciples seem to get it wrong as often as the police staff! But building a team is always important... Morse, Lewis and Barnaby were all chuffed when their 'sidekick' came good! What does Jesus feel when we 'come good'.

This summer I will be leaving the Synod and I am fortunate to have spent so many hours trying to 'come good' with others in the kingdoms causes. I guess the aim of our work in the Synod is not to find out who the wrong-doer is (I'm hoping there's nobody who needs outing as a murderer), but to work together to make Jesus chuffed. I hope that I get to work with people just as brilliant in my next Synod.

God bless, David

PEOPLE

- It is with regret that we inform you of the sad news that **Jim Reid** died on Thursday 19th May. Jim died peacefully at home surrounded by his family after a short battle against cancer. His funeral will be at Old Brumby United Church on Friday 3rd June at 2.15pm. Jim had been Secretary and Synod Rep at both Old Brumby United Church and prior to the amalgamation at St Andrews URC.
- We regretfully inform you of the death of the **Revd Peter Geoffrey Blake Barker**. Peter passed away peacefully in his sleep in hospital on 13th May. Peter has left his body to medical science. A thanksgiving service will be held at St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF, at 2pm on the 3rd of June. Peter was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacraments in Ghana by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, in which he served from 1963 to 85. Upon his return to the UK, his ministry were at the following places: South Erewash Valley Group: URC churches in Derbyshire - 1985 to 96; St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Cheam - 1996 to 99; Trinity Congregation, Presbyterian Church of Ghana in South London - 1998 to 2001. Peter served in much wider areas than these listed and on many and varied committees and wrote books, several of them related to Ghana. Until his demise and in his retirement, Peter was a member at St Andrew's Cheam for around 20 years.
- The funeral arrangements for **Revd Keith Forecast** have now been finalised for Thursday 26th May at 1.30pm - **COMMITTAL** (for family and close friends only) at Colwyn Bay Crematorium. This is to be followed at 2.15pm, by a Service of Thanksgiving at Old Colwyn United Reformed Church, Berthes Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 9SL and afterwards refreshments in TAPE, which is adjacent to the church, parking around the church is severely limited, so folk should allow plenty of time to find parking in the town.



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



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

BURTON JOYCE COMMUNITY CHURCH - Invite you to join them for their 2nd Anniversary celebrations on Sunday 5th June when Revd Malcom Fife will be taking an all -age service at 10:30am followed by a bring and share savoury lunch, with free cream teas from 3pm-5pm.

The Church will be open during the day, and also on the morning of Friday 4th June when coffee and cakes will be served from 9.45 to 11.45. We invite everyone to join us at some point over the weekend!

ST ANDREWS WITH CASTLE GATE URC - Our Junior Church will be performing Bugsy Malone on Saturday 2nd July 2016 at 7pm. Tickets available on the door or in advance from the Junior Church Co-ordinator: fiona.logan@ntlworld.com (£4 for adults, £1 for children and students)

OTHER

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, A DAY AT THE BEACH - 'FOLLOWING JESUS UP THE SHORELINE'

On Saturday 13th August from 10am - 4pm, we will be bringing the beach to Westminster College and looking at the theme 'following Jesus up the shoreline'. Activities include: drama, parachute games, crafts and soft play zone and much more! All ages welcome. A packed lunch will be provided: Food for infants can be brought along on the day but will need to be pre heated if required. Prices: £10 per adult, £7 per child (12 years and under), £30 family ticket (1 adult and 3 children or 2 adults and 2 children), Infants 2 years or under go free. For more information contact: Nicola Grieves (01223 830770) or Sam White (01223 330633) To book contact: Abbie Lawson (all45@cam.ac.uk) Children remain the responsibility of their parent/designated carer at all times.



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

SAFER SACRED SPACE FOR LAY PREACHERS

All Lay Preachers are welcome to join us from 10am - 4pm on Saturday 17th September at St. Andrews, Ledbury Road, Netherton, Peterborough, PE3 9RF, for Safer Sacred Space Training. Booking is essential and lunch is included. Please contact Hannah B: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241 to book your place.

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, Wharnccliffe Road URC, led by Revd Ruth Allen. For more information please contact Ruth on 07787 939404

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON MIGRATION

A collection of resources to enable 'sacred conversations on migration' is now online and 'live' at <http://www.urc.org.uk/at-home-mission> .

Titled @home in a strange place, this collection offers a variety of exciting conversation points for which we have also provided some suggested models for conversations. The resources are intended to help us explore issues around moving/migrating with the hope that through conversations we would help reflect together on our experiences, stories and encounters of moving and finding home. Please consider these conversations as opportunities to connect faith, worship, advocacy, solidarity and practical engagement.

A special feature is the film titled 'when truth is blind' (a play written by Richard Becher). However, it is only one of the resources. And we expect to add others, including your own. Should you come across other resources that would be suitable for this specific conversation, please let us know. [Wendy Cooper <<mailto:wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk>> or Michael Jagessar <<mailto:michael.jagessar@urc.org.uk>>]

So friends, I kindly invite you to visit the webpage and peruse the resource. Greater joy though for us, would be if you are able to use the resource in some way to enable and shape a series of conversations in your churches.

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

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Please note that from Sept 2016 Burton Joyce Community Church services will start at 10.15am instead of 10.30am.

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: 06.06.16