



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 222 - 9th June 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: TONY HUDSON

Last Saturday I went to our annual family get together. We started these in 1963 for my Grandparents Golden Wedding and we have met every year since, making this year the 54th time. Not everyone has survived but 21 have and of the three generations and 38 family members who attended 18 were from that first meeting. During the time we were all together I noticed several things. Firstly, several of the family were doing their best to have a word with everyone there, to ensure no one was left out. Nobody set out to try and impress others with their own importance. All those listening to others were showing real interest in what was being said. When someone fell over, care was given with love. No one was ignored. As I looked round I could see people who had been involved in serious disputes with family members but the family has never split nor had a falling out. I thank my Grandmother for the family unity, she refused to have in-laws, all were her children. She treated every one equally and insisted everyone in the family did the same. I learnt a lot from her.

As I looked round I thought, "Wouldn't it be nice if every Church family in the country was like this?"

No cliques, no one wanting to be top-dog, everyone talking to everyone else with no one being ignored or favoured. No one trying to impose their will on others. People listening to others and actually caring.

We are God's family. God gave us the commandments, Jesus taught us how to live. Let us try to reach that standard. Constant prayer will help us to achieve it.

Tony Hudson

PEOPLE

- We were sorry to receive the sad news of the death of **Mr John Culley**. John died in a nursing home in West Bridgford on Friday 27th May. John had been a Lay Preacher in the Church for 60 years, had chaired the former District Pastoral Committee for many years, steering them through some very difficult times and had been one of the founders of 'the Friary Drop-In Centre'. He served as Chair of the Board at the Drop-In for many years and continued to support and encourage their work with his always wise and gentle counsel. He will be much missed. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held at Friary URC on Thursday 23rd June at 3.00pm and we extend a very warm invitation to all to join us for that Service.
- It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of **Revd Andrew John Mackereth** who died on 2nd June at home. John served at Westhoughton 1989 - 95. He leaves his wife, Margaret and a grown up family. There will be a private cremation at Charnock Richard followed by a service of Thanksgiving at Chorley URC on Tuesday 14 June at 11.0am.
- Please note that the Thanksgiving Service for the life of the **Revd Keith Forecast** will take place at Palmers Green United Reformed Church on Saturday 27th August, commencing at 2pm.
- We send our best wishes to, retired minister, **Revd Ralph Eveleigh** and his wife Doreen on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary!
- We would like to congratulate the **Revd Douglas Watson** and his wife Sheila as they celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 18th June 2016!
- **Bernard Stonehouse** has now retired as an assembly accredited lay preacher. We thank Bernard for his many years of service and wish him well in his retirement from this role.



LEICESTERSHIRE

BRAUNSTONE, ENDERBY & EARL SHILTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES - Please do come along and enjoy a time of laughter, sharing, learning and fellowship with members and friends in the BEES group of churches for our BEES SPECIAL DAY to be held at Earl Shilton URC with ANDREW WILLETT from GEAR on Saturday 9th July from 10am to 4pm, On the subject of "SINGING OUR FAITH"! Exploring the meaning behind the words - to look more deeply at some hymns, those who wrote the lyrics & what we can learn about our faith through their words and witness. Please bring your own packed lunch. Hot & soft drinks & biscuits will be provided. You would also be most welcome to the Service continuing the theme on Sunday 10th July at 10.30 a.m. For further details, please contact Mary Burgess 0116 2849623 or mary@spiritualseekers.co.uk

ENDERBY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - are having an 'Afternoon Tea' at: 51 Equity Road, Enderby, LE19 4NN, On Saturday 18th June 3pm - 5pm. An opportunity to meet our two visitors from Botswana. Everyone welcome!



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

TOLLER URC - Civic Society Blue Plaque - On Sunday 24th July 2016 the Civic Society will be unveiling a Blue Plaque which they are placing on our church. The plaque says that we were the first non-conformist church in Kettering. It is a great honour to have the plaque on the building. Members of the Civic Society will attend morning worship along with the Mayor of Kettering and it is planned to have the unveiling and dedication of the plaque immediately after the end of worship. Our Minister, Helen, will be leading worship on that day. The plaque is going on the stone wall on the Meeting Lane side of the church, approximately where the original door into the church would have been. Everyone is invited to stay for the ceremony, which will take place in Meeting Lane. After the unveiling and dedication, there will be a cake and drinks reception in the garden (weather permitting), or in the Maidwell Lounge.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SHERWOOD ART WEEK - We open with The Secret Garden Craft Fair and Music Festival at Sherwood United Reformed Church on Saturday 18 June from 11am-6pm in the grounds of Sherwood URC. Once again, Sherwood is transformed with yarn bombing and Art in Shops, with over 90 businesses donating their shop windows for artists to display their work. Look out for the Art in Shops trail leaflet to map your journey. Throughout the week, there are morning, afternoon and evening 2hr taster workshops at various venues. They book up fast, so do call and book your place in advance. Exhibitions will take place on the final weekend Friday 24-Sunday 26 June. The grand finale is the Remarkable Recycling Gala at Sherwood Community Centre on Sunday 26 June. A lovely day out for the whole family with workshops, performances and craft stalls, all with a recycling theme.

ST ANDREWS WITH CASTLE GATE URC - Our Junior Church will be performing Buggy 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

BOTSWANA PARTNERSHIP

I am delighted to report that we will be having two visitors from our Partnership. Revd Keleneithwa Kgerathwa, Synod Secretary, and Revd John Motswai, will be with us from Friday 17th June until Sunday 26th June. It would be lovely to enable them to see the whole Synod, so if you have a meeting or get together during that week and you would like to invite them to join you please let me know as soon as possible. Judith North 0116 2862625; judithnorth64@yahoo.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The Moderator of Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, Revd Lis Mullen, will retire in July of this year and a search process has been under way for some months to nominate her successor. Last Friday the Nominating Group, drawn from both Northern Synod and the wider United Reformed Church, interviewed a short list of candidates and agreed unanimously to put forward the name of Revd David Herbert, presently minister in North Northumberland. The Group was impressed by David's long and varied experience in the URC, by the ways that he has grown and learned through contact with the world church, by the high quality of his application papers and references, and by the thoughtful, committed and caring approach to ministry that was obvious throughout our meeting with him. David's name will now be brought before the General Assembly of our Church in July of this year, and Assembly will be asked to appoint him to the role of Northern Synod Moderator, with effect from October.

John Proctor, 29 May 2016



CHRISTIAN AID AT GREENBELT

Christian Aid are looking for volunteers to help deliver their presence at Greenbelt festival from 25th-30th August.

In return for working about 6 hours a day, you'll get a free ticket to the festival, meal vouchers and a shower pass! If you'd like to come with a friend they can make sure you have the same shifts.

For more information visit christianaid.org.uk/greenbelt. Contact Emma Carney on 01509 754766 or email eastmidlands@christian-aid.org.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN



FAMILY MINISTRY COURSE

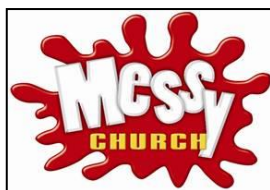
Our CYDO, Jane Henderson, is leading a Family Ministry Course at South Wigston College, Leicester, from 8-13th October 2016 (7-9pm)

For more information contact Jane Henderson: cydo@urc5.org.uk

To book contact Hannah Bones: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

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. For more information or to book contact Hannah Bones: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk



MESSY CHURCH TRAINING DAYS

Two identical training sessions for Messy Church leaders who want to improve how they work with over 11s at Messy Church sessions.

Saturday 25th June at Broadway Baptist Church, Derby, DE22 1BP

Tuesday 5th July at St. Barnabas Centre, Danesmoor, S45 9BU

9.30am - 1pm - Both days finish with lunch.

Messy Church has been a great initiative for working with children and their carers, but what about teenagers? Do we need to provide distinct, more age appropriate craft activities? Should we use their talents as young leaders? Should we leave them where they are, in and amongst younger children? The

Messy Church Team have worked on this issue from various angles and the training session will be a chance to share some of the material that will help. There will be input on Faith & Teenage Development and examples of how we can explore faith issues in craft and worship that will encourage teenagers to own their faith. Along with the talking there will be activities, examples, resources and interaction, as well as refreshments. These training days will be guided by The Derbyshire Messy Church Adviser, Revd Chris Rees and the Derby Diocesan Youth Adviser, Alistair Langton.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - For catering purposes, £5 per person paid on the day.

To reserve your places please email your name, church and number of leaders attending to alistair.langton@derby.anglican.org. All enquiries to Revd. Chris Rees on 0114 2507619.

CALLING ANY URC STUDENTS WHO MAY BE MOVING TO NORWICH AND ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE!

Ipswich Road URC, Norwich (www.ipswichroad.urch.org.uk) have vacancies for the next Academic Year for 1 or 2 youth sessional support workers to work with our Children and Families Worker and qualified Youth Workers in our two Clubs: one for Primary aged children and the second for High School students in years 7 to 11. These are paid positions.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the above please contact Richard our Elder for Youth Work by email richard9cr@gmail.com

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Please note that Crystal and Bill Gibson, Church Secretary's at Sutton-in-Ashfield URC, have a new email address: crystalbill2020@gmail.com. Please use this for all Church e-mails.

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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