



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 223 - 23rd June 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD JENNY MILLS

At the moment there is so much going on around the world that is worrying. From the shooting in Orlando to the refugee crisis across the world, from the murder of MP Jo Cox to the EU referendum Leave/Remain campaign. In these situations we have often seen the worst of humanity. We have seen evil in our world. And that is scary and unsettling. So how do we as people of faith respond to such things? What we cannot do is give trite answers or speak placatory words, we have to wrestle with the issues and address the fear, pain and hate that is being expressed. But we need to be sure of what we are saying and why. Why speak out? What do we have to offer the world?

From 6-9th June we had E Mids Synod Minister's Summer School. Four days entitled Fruitfulness on the Frontline. We had the Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship, Richard Church, and the United Reformed Church's Secretary for Church and Society and a full time member of the Joint Public Issues Team, Grace Pengelly. They spoke about Discipleship and faithful living whilst seeking to also be committed to justice and peace issues. How can we as a Church (national and local) enable people to hear the Gospel message of love, peace, joy and hope through worship and through challenging unjust structures, breaking down barriers and division, welcoming all and living for the common good? They spoke of going to the margins to be there alongside those excluded and standing up for what we believe in. Personal holiness and social justice are one and the same thing: a pursuit of the will of God. Grace introduced the idea of a blessed society- what does it look like? A blessed society sustains life, builds up and brings joy.

When we look around there is lots that is sad and makes us fearful, but the hope brought through the life of Jo Cox and her desire for equality and peace, the outpouring of love and support for the LGBT community, the donations and convoys seeking to support refugees, all these things show us that not all is lost. In this time of darkness let us live the love and the light brought in Christ and walk the Jesus Way alongside those whom we encounter and seek to show the love of God through all we say and do- as individuals and as churches. And offer this eternal light to a world that is hurting, making a difference where we are and knowing that this can spread and grow, and love will win. Jenny Mills

PEOPLE

- We regretfully inform you of the death of the **Revd Hubert Smith** on Wednesday 1st June. Revd Smith's ministries were Rayleigh 1959-65 and Heston 1965-67. Revd Smith leaves a widow, Shelia and we pray for her at this time.
- **Mr Geoff Cornell** a retired assembly lay preacher died on 16 June 2016. He leaves behind his wife Mary and sons John and Philip. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time. His funeral is on 1 July 2016; 3.30pm at the crematorium (family only) and will be followed by a service of thanks giving at Marlpool URC at 4.15pm when all are welcome to attend.



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



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

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)

MILTON KEYNES



NEWPORT PAGNELL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - Fundraising for a new building which will be called 'The Mead Centre'. Our current Church Hall, built in 1926, requires extensive repair and refurbishment. Estimates for this work were only a little less than the cost of demolition and replacement with a new purpose-built facility for all to use and enjoy, and planning permission has been granted. So now we are working towards

making our vision of a flexible community space become a reality. Can YOU help us raise funds for A community space for the town for the 21st century??

Our next BIG fundraiser is the Mead Centre Summer Extravaganza - fundraising event will take place on July 15th from 7pm - midnight, at Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes. Great fun for all ages. The first 2 hours there will be funfair stalls, bouncy castle, face painting, Disney style music and BBQ food. Then we dance the night away after that to Hollywood Nights (sensational music and lights show). Come along. Invite your friends. £15 for adults, children aged 15 and under £1.00, children aged 4 and under are free, your ticket includes: one bbq meal - beef or veggie burger or bacon bap or hot dog and one ice cream. Tickets available from Alison on 07949268650 and 01908 661251 or from Cambourne Travel in Newport Pagnell.

MK SOUP RETURNS!- The incredibly successful MK Soup is back on Friday 24th June, 7pm at MK Christian Foundation, Foundation House, The Square, Wolverton, MK12 5HX. For £5 you get a bowl of soup, a chunk of bread, good company and a vote to change the world. You'll hear a number of 10 minute pitches from people with projects and ideas, needing small amounts of money to make them fly. You cast your vote for the project you want to support and the successful idea receives the money raised from the soup. Do join them if you can. A partnership initiative of MK Food Revolution and MK Christian Foundation. <http://www.mkfoodrevolution.org/mk-soup>

FARM FEST AT THE URB FARM- The Urb Farm in Wolverton, part of MK Christian Foundation, have their next event on Saturday 25th June, 1 - 4pm - Farm Fest! Lots going on and a great afternoon out for all the family. Free bouncy castle, local beer and cider, live music in the Willow Dome, Urb Farm produce, locally sourced BBQ, Homemade cakes and refreshments, Face Painting, Planting activities, Pond dipping and Bug Hunting, Feed the Chickens, Local food and craft stalls. The Urb Farm is situated between 196 - 198 Windsor Street, Wolverton, MK12 5DR. For more details and for stall availability please call Florie on 07793 589872.

OTHER

SYNOD YEARBOOK 2016- 2017

The new Synod Yearbook is now available from the office priced £2.50 (inc P & P).

We are currently sending out yearbooks to all secretaries and ministers/pastoral consultants and interim moderators. To save postage the ministers yearbooks are being included with that of the church secretary.

URC: SPIRITUALITY A GATHERING TO DISCERN WHERE THE SPIRIT IS LEADING US AND HOW WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER ON THE WAY

A day of prayer, discussion, sharing, inspiration on Saturday 10th September 2016 at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham from 10.30am - 3.30pm, led by the United Reformed Church Retreat Group with Revd Richard Church. Free! But bring your own lunch and email ele@urcsouthwest.org.uk to reserve a space

ACAT TRAINING COURSES

There are still places available at both of our well regarded training courses to be held next month. The first is the ACAT Foundation Course being held at Jubilee House, 8 Westgate, SOUTHWELL NG25 0JH on Saturday 9th July 2016. Whether you are new to the role or have been in post for many years, you will find something in the course to benefit you. 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

The second is the ACAT Training Workshop 2 being held at Faithstar LLP, 19-23 Clifton Street, SHEFFIELD S9 2DQ on Saturday 23rd July 2016, which is designed primarily for treasurers who have been in post for a few years. Delegates will take part in sessions on: Changing Treasurers, Coping with Independent Examination, How to be an Independent Examiner.

The cost for each training day is £45 and includes all course material, refreshments and a buffet lunch. Registration will be from 9.30 am onwards for a prompt start at 10.00 am and will finish at 4.00 pm. Please book soon if you wish to attend. You do not have to be a member of ACAT to take part in our training. To book a place on the Foundation Course visit :

<http://acat.uk.com/southwellfound.html>

To book a place on Workshop 2 visit : <http://acat.uk.com/sheffield2307.html>

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

A DAY AT THE BEACH



Theme: 'following Jesus up the shoreline' on Saturday 13th August 2016 from 10am - 4pm. 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.



FAMILY MINISTRY COURSE

Our CYDO, Jane Henderson, is leading a Family Ministry Course at South Wigston URC, South Leicestershire College, South Wigston, LE18 4PL, weekly each Thursday from 8th September -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

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Chaplaincy to Higher Education in Manchester

WARDEN OF ST PETER'S HOUSE

We have created an exciting new senior post of Warden of St Peter's House, the home of chaplaincy to Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Manchester and the Royal Northern College of Music, and which is sponsored by the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

The Warden will work with the trustees of the charity in developing strategic goals, will lead and develop existing chaplaincy and maintain good relationships with the educational institutions.

We are looking for someone with dynamism and vision. You should have experience of the successful development and delivery of organisational goals, of imaginative use of buildings, and of team management. Alongside the pastoral gifts required for chaplaincy, you should also have the ability to reflect creatively on the place of theology and religion in contemporary society, including Higher Education.

Candidates must be in good standing with one of the member denominations of Churches Together. Salary £41,000 with contributory pension scheme.

Further details available at www.sphcc.org.uk/warden or from stephenlittle@essell.org.uk

Closing date for applications 12 noon on 11 July 2016

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Please note that Pat Paine, Secretary at Badby URC, has a new email address: Ianpat.paine@talktalk.net
- Please note the phone number and email address for the Revd Elizabeth Kemp, Minister at Northwest Northants group - Email: minister@chezkemp.net Tel: 01788 510838

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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