



E-LETTER NO: 227 - 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD GEOFFREY CLARKE

Two women, each with something to offer ...

On holiday in France last month I was struck by the lives of two women. The first was St. Thérèse of Lisieux. An attractive travelling exhibition, hosted by Le Touquet Parish Church, told the story of the life of this young woman. Born in 1873, Thérèse felt a call to religious life and at the age of just 15 became a nun in the cloistered Carmelite community of Lisieux, Normandy. Her life was overshadowed by weak health and she died of tuberculosis at the age of 24. She viewed her considerable suffering as part of her spiritual life and her religious experience particularly identified with a devotion to Mary. Small in stature she regarded herself as insignificant and was conscious of her own limitations. She wrote, "I will seek out a means of getting to Heaven by a little way—very short and very straight, a little way that is wholly new. We live in an age of inventions; nowadays the rich need not trouble to climb the stairs, they have lifts instead. Well, I mean to try and find a lift by which I may be raised unto God, for I am too tiny to climb the steep stairway of perfection. [...] Thine Arms, then, O Jesus, are the lift which must raise me up even unto Heaven. To get there I need not grow; on the contrary, I must remain little, I must become still less." Thérèse's short life and deep spirituality have captured the interest and devotion of many people.

A visit to Valloires Abbey introduced us to the second Thérèse. Born in 1886, the daughter of a wealthy and devout family, Thérèse Papillon trained as a nurse. She received awards for her First World War nursing service and after the armistice cared for children. In 1922 she made her home at the Abbey of Valloires and in 1925 the family bought the abbey buildings. She founded the 'Association of Valloires Préventorium' to accommodate children with lung diseases and after forty years' dedication to this as its head in 1962 relinquished the role and founded a House of Welcome for children and adults needing help. During the Second World War she enlisted in the Resistance network and during the Occupation, she hid Jewish children. She died at the age of 97 and is buried in the abbey.

In short, the short life of the first Thérèse was characterised by prayer and piety; the long life of the second Thérèse was marked by practical service. One spent most of her life in the confines of a convent; the other in practical engagement with the world.

It is tempting to polarise the two contributions of prayer and action; tempting, too, to conclude that there is a choice between the two. Even if, individually, they are remembered primarily for either prayer or action both women embraced the conviction that prayer and action are intertwined. Both are needed. We are called to be people of prayer and action. May our churches, Synod and individual lives embody the passion of both Lisieux and Papillon: making a difference for Christ's sake.

PEOPLE

- We have been informed that sadly **Revd Frederick (Eric) Nelson**, a retired minister living in Northallerton, died on 16 August 2016. Eric was a minister in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland from 1957 - 1970, a minister at Robert Stewart Memorial Church, Newcastle upon Tyne from 1970 - 1998; Arthur's Hill, Newcastle upon Tyne from 1972 - 1980; Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne from 1971 - 1982 and Frome 1998 - 2002. Eric leaves a widow, Nanette. A service of remembrance and thanksgiving took place at Zion URC on Friday 26th August following the private service at Darlington crematorium.
- It is with sadness that we advise you of the death of the **Revd John Fielding**, retired minister living in Runcorn. As well as the following ministries, John also served as Chaplain at the Royal Liverpool Hospital: Methodist ministry, 1972 - 2001; Toxteth with Sefton Park, 2001 - 2009; & Liverpool Inner City Training & Research Project (Paulden Project), 2003 - 2009.
- We are sad to inform you that **Revd Kenneth Tracey**, a retired minister living in Halesworth, died on

Sunday 21st August 2016. Kenneth's ministries were as follows: Christ Church with St. Paul, Petts Wood 1975-83; Halesworth 1986-97. He leaves a widow Alma and a daughter Helen, our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time. To be advised of funeral arrangements, when they are available, contact Eastern Synod Office: 01223 830770 admin@urceastern.org.uk

- It is with deep regret that we tell you that the **Reverend Delia Jean Bond** died suddenly on Tuesday 23rd August. Delia had retired to Wells, Somerset after serving at: Hythe 1997-2002, as Chaplain Kent Ambulance Service, Folkestone 1999-2002 and as Adviser on Healing Ministry in the Southern Synod 1997-2003. The funeral arrangements are not yet available. Please contact the South Western Synod Office at synodoffice@urcsouthwest.org.uk or phone 01823 275470 to be advised when they have the information.
- We regretfully inform you of the sad news of the death of **Mrs Caryl Couch**, wife of the late Revd Peter Couch. Caryl died on 29 August. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.



DERBYSHIRE

IS YOUR CHURCH LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO PREACH? - Rosemary Power, a member of the Moravian church is currently living in the Derby area and is available to preach at churches in the Derby area. Rosemary has undergone some theological training but is not ordained. From 2003 to 2008 she was the Ecumenical Development officer in Swindon for the Moravian church and has recently led a Bible Study course at the Ockbrook Moravian Church. If you would like Rosemary to come to your church please contact her on: 0777 622 0285.

MELBOURNE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - Melbourne celebrates its Annual Arts Festival during September with the Festival Arts Trail on Saturday and Sunday 17th and 18th, On these occasions it is usual for the town to welcome thousands of visitors. It is also the date of our Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend with Special Services on the Sunday - Family Celebration at 10.30 am, Harvest Songs of Praise 6pm. The church will be open on the Saturday from 10am to 5pm. and on the Sunday from 12 noon to 5pm for the viewing of the Harvest and the Knitted Bible Story displays. Refreshments will be served throughout these times with the addition of Roast Beef Lunches on Saturday and Ploughman's Lunches on Sunday. Everyone will be welcome to join us on this special weekend



LINCOLNSHIRE

PILGRIMS, FLOWERS, MUSIC AND ART AT GAINSBOROUGH U.R.C. - Gainsborough United Reformed Church will be open from 10am-4pm on Saturday 10th September as the church participates in the Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days Festival, which runs from Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th September 2016. (See www.heritagelincolnshire.org). Organ music will be played from 10.30-11.30am and 2-2.30pm. There will be flower and art displays celebrating nature in keeping with this year's theme. Tea/coffee and cake will be served throughout the day, and there will be a cake stall.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

MUSIC AT THE CROSSING (WORKSOP) - On Saturday 17th September at 7.30pm, the brilliant young Indian concert pianist, Julian Clef, plays the Bechstein concert grand piano. The programme includes music by Brahms, Chopin, Gerschwin and Rachmaninov. Tickets can be reserved at The Crossing's Welcome Desk (01909 473375) or pre-ordered (for payment on the night) on 01909 475421 or by email to: info@musicatthecrossing.co.uk

OTHER



QUESTION TIME

There have been significant changes in legislation affecting Property in recent years. We hope you are up to date with these?

If not, then why not come along to one, or both, of our sessions detailed below so you can be made

aware of current trends and requirements. Finance matters will be included in the sessions as well.

The sessions are:

- **29 September 2016** at Oadby URC - Rosemead Drive, Oadby Leicester LE2 5SF - location at <http://www.unc5.org.uk/church/5b28> from 15:30 - 19:00
- **6 October 2016 at Sherwood URC** - Edwards lane, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 3AA - location at <http://www.unc5.org.uk/church/5e12> from 15:30-19:00

The sessions are open to 'all' from our churches so please register, tell your church friends about them and encourage them to attend - maybe make it 'bring a friend along' and see if you can swap ideas and best practice and even make friends with people from other churches! We are arranging the sessions between 15:30 and 19:00 each time as 'drop in' sessions for individual consultations and so as to allow sufficient time for attendance both in and outside normal office / working hours.

We plan to run an informal 'Question Time' session between 16:30 and about 18:00. Light refreshments will follow this. To help with the planning please supply a question, or 2 or 3 or more (covering either Finance or Property or both), when registering so we can seek to address issues raised and make best use of the time available.

The aim of the sessions is to help in the local church situation and so you do not feel 'alone' when managing the Property and Finance issues of your church, so, looking forward to meeting lots of people! Please arrange to register with Chris Willis (Synod Office Manager) at least a week before the session you will be attending to assist with planning.

CREATION TIME

Creation Time runs from 1st September to 4th October each year. There are some excellent resources available for preachers and worship-leaders on-line that relate to the Common Lectionary.

You might like to visit the Churches Together web-site: <https://ctbi.org.uk/creation-time-2016/>

I can also recommend the Eco-Congregation Ireland website: <http://ecocongregationireland.com/archives/5784>.

Eco-Congregation Scotland has published some very good material from an ecumenical writing group, with contributors from the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the United Reformed Church: <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/>. Charles Jolly, 'Green Apostle'

RURAL MINISTRY COURSE

There are still a few places left on the Rural Ministry Course run by Germinate: Arthur Rank Centre. This course is for lay and ordained who are new to rural ministry, and explores current rural contexts, mission and ministry in multiple places, leadership and working with children and young people in the countryside. It is ecumenical and suitable for those in their first appointment or wanting a refresher. 1 - 3 November, at Kings Park, Northampton. Cost £245. More details and booking form from: www.germinate.net/go/rmcourses

YOUTH AND CHILDREN



HOW TO LEAD ALL AGE WORSHIP

Saturday 12th November 2016 from 10.30am - 2pm at Christ Church, Leicester

Led by Deborah Baird (TDO) and Jane Henderson (CYDO). Come along to share ideas, discover new resources and much more! Please bring a packed lunch. Booking is essential, to book contact Hannah Bones at the Synod Office: trainingpa@unc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MERSEY SYNOD - CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (CYDO)

Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church seeks to appoint a Children's and Youth Development Officer

(CYDO), including being part of the National team.

Salary: £29,000 - £34,000 per annum depending on experience, Full-time post of 37.5 hours per week

We are looking for someone with a nationally recognised qualification in Children's or Youth or Community work with at least 2 years' experience in children's and youth work to inspire and encourage children and young people, to be committed to sharing the Gospel message willingly and enthusiastically, to develop and implement children's and youth work, to work proactively and directly with churches.

The post holder will be working from home with office based work as appropriate in the Synod Office in Wavertree, Liverpool. If you are interested in working for us and can meet all of the above requirements, please contact Mrs Denise Holland, Office Admin Assistant, at the Synod Office for an application pack, or download from website www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk Email: adminassistant@urcmerseysynod.org.uk Or telephone 0151 722 6590. Closing date for applications: Friday 30th September 2016 Interview dates: Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th October 2016

There is an occupational requirement for the job holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 Part 1, Schedule 9. Any appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

HAVEN CHRISTIAN CENTRE, YOUTH WORKER - PART TIME, 20 HOURS

We are a Local Ecumenical Partnership serving a new estate to the south of the Littleover area of Derby, having good links with the other denominational churches in the locality.

Our committed team of volunteers are looking for a paid part time youth worker to help develop the current ministry with our gifted young people aged 13-18 years. The applicant must be able to:-

- relate easily to young people and have a pastoral heart
- have a desire to see young people reach their potential for Christ, both in developing their gifts and in their discipleship
- be able to teach and engage young people in God's word

Other responsibilities would include:-

- a link with the local junior school, assisting the school's worker in the work currently underway
- a new children's club at the church for years 5 & 6 to feed into the older youth group when established.
- contact with other youth workers in the Littleover area and identify where groups could benefit coming together by jointly arranging occasional events.

Salary: £negotiable

Closing Date: 30 September, Commencing Date: To be agreed with the successful candidate

Contact: Revd Martin Knight, revmpk@gmail.com for a full job description and an application pack, or telephone 01332 519707/07941 784244 for more information or an informal chat.

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Please note that the new email address for **Liz Sharples**, secretary at St Andrews Chesterfield, is: lsharples75@gmail.com with immediate effect.
- Please note that the new email address for **Janet Clarkson**, secretary at The Dales, is: jf.clarkson314@gmail.com with immediate effect.

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: 12.09.16