



## URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 253 – 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD DR DEBORAH BAIRD

St Augustine of Hippo wrote, “The times are bad! The times are troublesome!’ This is what humans say. But we are our times. Let us live well and our times will be good. Such as *we* are, such as *our* times.” In other words, we have to take responsibility for our part in the state of the world that we are living in, and it’s not that great. It’s called collective responsibility. That said, we know that there is another way, the way of Jesus. Unfortunately, most often we are willing and able to follow him from Galilee, but not so much to Jerusalem. We are also not always so good at centering our lives on a God-filled life, because, well, this world is so enticing and exciting and God doesn’t work fast enough.... However, the God-filled life we are called to means that we have to focus our attention on something greater than ourselves. So let us ground ourselves in creation and develop a deeper spirituality, based on a trinity of relationships - our relationship with God, our relationship with ourselves and our relationship with others. In this way, we can play our part in creating a life that is good and joyful for all, listening for God’s will rather than our own. Every blessing,

*Deborah*



### DERBYSHIRE

**MARTIN LUTHER, THE REFORMATION AND HOW CHRISTIAN LIFE CHANGED** - An afternoon of singing, listening and praying in celebration of a key time in the life of the church, led by Revd Professor Stephen Orchard. Sunday 15th October 2017 at 4pm at West Derbyshire United Reformed Church, Coldwell Street, Wirksworth DE4 4FB. Followed by a “Bring and Share Tea” in the Glenorchy Centre, Chapel Lane, Wirksworth. If you are staying for the Tea, you are invited to bring food to share. Please let the Church Secretary, Ian Wright, know if you plan to attend on [wright.ian24@gmail.com](mailto:wright.ian24@gmail.com)

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DERBYSHIRE** – Come and be inspired by stories of mission from across the county as we hold another event in Matlock (at the Methodist/URC Church) on Saturday 7th October 2017 from 10am – 3pm (parking at County Hall). Free entry and drinks are provided – bring your own lunch. For further information or to book contact Ian Sant: [ian.sant@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.sant@ntlworld.com) Tel: 01332 721927



### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WORLD CHURCH SUNDAY** - 19th November at St. Andrew's with Castle Gate URC from 4 pm to 6 pm. Celebrating our World Church connections at national, synod and local church levels, this event will also include a "bring and share" tea and worship with hymns from across the world. All are welcome!



### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**REVD JOHN SLOW CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF ORDAINED MINISTRY** - It was a gathering of 'Golden Oldies' at High Street Wellingborough on Sunday 24th September. Revd. John Slow celebrated 60 years of ordained ministry along with his local congregation and many friends from his pastorates and from across the East Midland's Synod. Revd. Martha McInnes led worship and John preached the sermon, reflecting on significant episodes of his ministerial life. Two small girls from the congregation presented the certificate marking long service to the church. Tributes were many, filled with warmth and humour, as memories were shared after an excellent lunch. Many testified to the way their lives had been touched by John's encouragement to take on new responsibilities which they had not intended for themselves.

Marion, too, was remembered, both for her support for John and for her own witness as she has worked alongside him. Good wishes were expressed for their ongoing retirement

### OTHER SYNOD

All papers have now been sent to all members of Synod ready for our meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October at Sherwood URC. If you have not received your papers please contact Chris at the Synod Office: [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk) Tel: 0115 9609241

### PRAYER HANDBOOKS AND DIARIES

There is still time to order your prayer handbooks, please let Chris have your orders by Monday 9 October so that she can have them ready for you to pay and collect on the day. PLEASE NOTE we are unable to post orders out (unless the

church pays the postage). The prayer handbooks are £6.50 each.

Diaries: There are two sizes of diaries this year – Pocket size £7 in cornflower blue and A5 in navy blue £9.99.

Constance Coltman: We have been advised that there is a series of items available to celebrate the anniversary of Constance Coltman. At Synod we will have sample T shirts and the white tote bag for you to view. There will be pens (£1 each); red tote bags (£4 each) and mugs (£5 each) for sale. To see these items please visit the merchandise section on the URC web-site.



### **ADVENT REFRESHER**

You are invited to our Synod Advent Refresher on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from 2pm – 5pm at Sherwood URC, Nottingham, led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird. Come along to share ideas and discussions with other churches and be led in bible study and advent reflection. Booking is essential, please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office to book your place: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk) Tel: 0115 9609241

### **WALKING THE WAY PRAYERS**

As part of the 'season of preparation' for Walking the Way each Synod has been asked to produce some prayers to be used from September up until Advent. Each week has a different theme and this week (2<sup>nd</sup> October) is the week that East Midlands Synod has contributed to.

We are asked to encourage all our churches to use these prayers throughout Autumn 2017. Please take a look on the Walking the Way website <http://www.urc.org.uk/wtw/prayers-for-the-season-of-preparation.html>

### **WILL AID IS BACK!**

Most of us faithfully support the work of our churches and our chosen charities during our lifetime, regularly giving a proportion of our income. The Bible teaches that giving back to God like this, and blessing others, should be a priority for all Christians. It is our way to share generously with others, just as we share in God's generosity to each one of us. This isn't however just about the weekly collection or our monthly standing order; it's also about how we distribute our wealth and our possessions after we have gone. Therefore thinking about making and leaving a Will is very important. As Christians, we try to live our lives in a way that follows Jesus, and we also try to influence the world for better as we see it. When we die, the resources that we have gathered in life don't go with us, but they are passed on to others to be used by them for something else.

Will Aid is happening again this November! If you don't have a Will, or need to update your existing Will, Will Aid presents an ideal opportunity for you to put your affairs in order whilst helping to raise money for the nine Will Aid charities, including Christian Aid.

The solicitors can become very busy so it is advisable to contact your nearest Will Aid solicitor as early as possible to book an appointment.

For more information about Will Aid and to find a participating solicitor in your area, visit [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) or call 0300 0300 013



### **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH VOCATIONS DAY**

#### **Is it I, Lord?**

All are welcome on Saturday 4 November 2017 from 10am-4pm at Westminster College, Cambridge

• Explore opportunities for service through the United Reformed Church

- Ask the questions that are on your mind and heart
- Hear from people engaged in a variety of lay and ordained ministries
- Listen for the voice of God as we worship and pray together

For full details contact: Vivienne Williams - T: 020 7916 8649 E: [vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk](mailto:vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk)

## **YOUTH AND CHILDREN**

### **YOUNG PEOPLE AT SYNOD**

The young people (11 years plus) will be meeting alongside Synod on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October at Sherwood URC. Come along and join us! In the morning we will be working with John Proctor and in the afternoon helping him to lead part

of the Synod Meeting where we will be focussing on 'Hopes and Dreams'. To book please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod office: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

### **THREE SYNOD'S YOUTH WEEKEND**

From 17- 19 November 2017 at The Pioneer Centre, Kidderminster. East Midlands together with Wales and West Midlands Synod's are holding this exciting weekend. This is a chance to meet together and have fun.

If you are aged between 11 and 17 then we hope you'll join us. This is an inclusive event at which everyone is welcome. The cost is £69. Funding may be available towards costs. For a booking form contact Hannah Holmes at: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk) Tel: 0115 9609241

If you have any queries then give Jane Henderson (CYDO) a call on: 0757 229 1007 or email: [cydo@urc5.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk)

### **YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2018**

Theme: Pilgrimage: Are we there yet? From 19-21 January 2018 at Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffs.

Age: school year 10 to age 25

It is a great weekend to meet up with other young people in the Synod and around the country. Worship, workshops, activities and some business.

Cost if booked before 9 November: £110 Cost on or after 9 November: £140

Book your place at: [www.urc.org.uk/urcya](http://www.urc.org.uk/urcya)

More information from Jane Henderson – Funding is available from Synod.

### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **PART TIME YOUTH AND FAMILIES WORKER**

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a gifted and experienced individual, who is passionate about sharing the gospel and making Jesus known to youth and families, to join our team in the ELM pastorate, providing Christian support and guidance to children, young people and their families.

The ELM pastorate is a group of three United Reformed Churches in Eastwood, Langley and Marlpool, on the boundary between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. We have a team made up of an ordained minister and lay people who are passionate about working with children and youth. We have been working with some local schools in Heanor and run many children groups within the churches. We are looking for someone to sustain and expand the work we have been doing.

We require someone who....

Has a dynamic Christian faith and a heart to share the gospel with Youth and children

Is creative and resourceful when developing programmes designed to help young people connect with God.

Ability to build inter-generational relationships

Has experience of working with schools and colleges

Has an understanding of the complex issues facing children, young people and their families

Is organised, pro-active, innovative, self motivated and has good communication skills

Can work independently or as part of a team.

Has youth & children work or similarly relevant qualification

Has a clean driving licence and own transport.

Salary: range of £19,000-23,213 pro rata (depending on qualification and experience)

Part-time: 24 Hours a week (£12,300-£15,000)

Contract: Fixed Term for one year; second year pending funding and various other factors.

For further details, please contact Revd Bachelard Kaze at [bachelardkazeyemtsa@live.co.uk](mailto:bachelardkazeyemtsa@live.co.uk) or on 07476280555.

Closing Date: 31st October 2017

Interviews will take place by the end of November 2017

Two references and an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be required in the later stages of the application process.

## **WORLD CHURCH COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES AND INTERN AND CWN TRAINING IN MISSION APPLICANTS**

The World Communion of Reformed Churches is pleased to announce that it has an internship opportunity for a highly qualified young person who is interested in gaining valuable experience working with an international ecumenical organization. The internship will be for 12 months in the WCRC offices in Hannover, Germany, beginning in January 2018. This opportunity is open to English-speaking individuals of WCRC member churches who are aged 30 or younger, including ministers, seminarians or Christian professionals with an interest in working for their churches or the ecumenical movement at any level. Women and individuals from the Global South are particularly encouraged to apply.

The intern will be given a variety of experiences within the WCRC, working with both of the programme offices, as well as the general secretariat. Areas of work in the internship experience include:

- Theology and Communion
- Justice and Witness (including economic, climate, gender and racial justice)
- Mission
- Ecumenical Engagement
- Communicating the stories of the WCRC

The WCRC internship programme is sponsored by the Evangelische Missionswerk (EWM) and covers almost all costs (including travel, housing, medical insurance and a small stipend). However, it is asked that the intern (or sponsoring church) share in some costs (based on ability). No-one will be at a disadvantage if they are unable to contribute. Please contact us if this is a concern for you.

Applications must go through the URC's own application process before proceeding, so please submit your application to the Children's and Youth Work Office by Monday 9 October 2017 at the latest.

Additionally, every year, the CWM Training in Mission (TIM) programme brings together 10-12 participants aged 18-30 (25 for URC participants), from member churches including the United Reformed Church, for about seven months of intensive mission training.

Employing an action-reflection model of learning, over 350 young people have so far been changed for life by this magnificent programme, developing a new practical and radical understanding of what witnessing to Christ means. CWM is known for its commitment to mutual encounter, in which peoples and cultures from across the planet meet together to learn from one another. TIM participants are able to see, first-hand how this works on the ground and, in turn, to incorporate their findings into their own practice.

In every member church, TIM participants are to be seen as living expressions of CWM's understanding of partnership in mission, making this programme crucial, not only for participants, but for their home denominations.

Applications for this must also go through the URC's own application process before proceeding, and so applications must be submitted to the Children's and Youth Work Office by Monday 16 October 2017 at the latest and not the CWM deadline, as previously advised.

For more information either of these roles contact Simon Peters: [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk)

### **CORRECTION**

- Please note that in the last edition Dave Wren's name was incorrectly printed as Don. Apologies, please see below the corrected insert:

We send our congratulations to **Irene and Dave Wren** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**AND FINALLY:** - Please send any comments or feedback on this e-letter to: [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk)  
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