

### E-LETTER NO: 259 – 4th JANUARY 2018

### EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD SAMUEL SILUNGWE

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, all are historic Church seasons. No need to explain what each season is all about. The question is: What is at the heart of each season? All are of sacral significance, and what is remarkable about them all is that, they all follow the *life* Jesus Christ - beginning with the preparation of His birth and finishing with His ascension into Heaven. The point is how to make the most of the seasons no matter which one we are in. In other words, our *conscious attention* should not be on which season is important, or comes first, or appeals to us most, but rather what we can do to utilise each season to get the greatest rewards. Could the same be said about the URC's current missional discipleship initiative: *'Walking the Way - Living the Life of Jesus Today'*? The initiative has been rolled out, and the first resources have already been posted on the Walking the Way (WtW) website. I have visited the website and have accessed resources on Advent to Epiphany liturgies. Conceivably a sign of good things to come. Whatever form or shape WtW will take, it is our initiative/programme/vision and the onus is on us (leaders) to enable our local churches to explore these resources.

*Samuel Silungwe – Convenor, Ministries*

**CHRISTMAS MAILING**

A mailing was sent on 27 December to all Ministers and all Church secretaries. Included in the mailing were the annual returns for each church which need to be returned to the office by 31 January 2018 at the latest; a copy of the Synod Minutes from our October meeting and a request for stewards to help at the forthcoming General Assembly conference which is being held in July this year. If you haven’t received your envelope please let Chris Willis know so a further envelope can be issued.

**PEOPLE**

* We regretfully inform you of the death of the **Revd Albert Edward Molineaux** on Wednesday 13th December. Ordained to the ministry in 1949, he served at Twickenham, Coggeshall, Haverhill, Broad Street Reading, Totteridge and Whetstone. His funeral will be at Park URC, Reading on 15th January at 12.00noon.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEER VISITORS** – Could this be you? We need people who; have a strong Christian faith, are able to communicate their faith sensitively, can relate to people in a warm and relaxed manner, are open-minded and non-judgemental, can meet the physical & emotional demands of hospital visiting. The Chaplaincy Dept at Northampton General Hospital are seeking to appoint new Chaplaincy Visitors in addition to their present visiting team. For further information about the scheme and any other information please contact: Revd. George Sarmezey or Revd. David Dean, Chaplaincy Dept, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BD. Tel (01604) 545773

**OTHER**

**SYNOD OFFICE BUILDING WORK**

Building work began at the Synod Office on 2nd October. It was expected that the work would be completed by the end of December, however work has unfortunately been disrupted owing to the weather and unexpected delays. We now hope to see the work completed by the end of January. For regular updates and pictures of the work please visit: http://urc5.org.uk/SOimprovement

**TRANSFORMING FAITH, TRANSFORMING LIFE**

A thanksgiving service for Training for Learning and Serving (TLS) at The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham

(Directions can be found at <http://carrslane.co.uk/>) On 23rd June 2018. Worship will begin at 11.30 a.m.

Preacher: Revd John Proctor, United Reformed Church General Secretary

Drinks will be available from 10.30 a.m. and a buffet lunch will be served from 1 p.m. The event is free and no tickets are required but it will be helpful for catering numbers if you could indicate your intention to attend by e-mail to stanley.jackson@urc.org.uk by Friday 1st June 2018

**SYNOD ELDERS GATHERINGS**

An opportunity to meet with other elders to share experiences and ideas within our churches and take part in bible study. All elders are welcome to join us on either of the following dates, please note that spaces are limited and will be given on a first come first serve basis.

* **Saturday 27th January 2018** from 10.30am - 2.30pm (bring your own lunch) at The Synod Meeting Room, Nottingham, NG5 3AA, Led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird
* **Saturday 3rd March 2018** from 10.30am - 2.30pm (bring your own lunch) at Loughborough URC (blue room), LE11 3BH, Led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird

 To book contact Hannah Holmes, Email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN**

**3 SYNOD YOUTH WEEKEND**

13th—15th April 2018. At The Pioneer Centre, Kidderminster This is a chance to meet together and have fun. If you are between 11 and 17 then we hope you’ll join us. For more information contact Hannah Holmes: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk or Jane Henderson: 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: £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.

**EVENTS FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S LEADERS**

* Children and Youth Leaders Training Session - Synod Meeting Room

 Nottingham, Saturday 3rd February 2018 from 10am - 3pm

* Children and Youth Leaders ‘Meet Up’ - Scunthorpe

 Saturday 3rd March 2018 from 10am - 2pm

* Children and Youth Leaders ‘Meet Up’ - Bulwell URC, Nottingham

 Saturday 12th May 2018 from 10am - 2pm

* Children and Youth Leaders Training and ‘Meet Up’ - The Dales URC

 Saturday 15th September 2018 from 10am - 3pm

To book for any of these events please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office: traininpa@urc5.org.uk

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - PILOTS COORDINATOR**

Home based – Fixed Term for 12 Months, 14 hours per week. Salary: £11,468

Are you passionate about enabling the Church to serve children and young people?

Pilots is an ecumenical, non-uniformed organisation open to all children and young people with companies based in local churches around Great Britain.

You will be the first point of contact for Pilots, responsible for queries, records and supplies. You will proactively work to promote Pilots within the United Reformed Church and more widely, seeking to grow and develop the Pilots Community. This will involve visiting companies, churches and synods.

This post will support the work of local companies through helping the Pilots Management Committee to provide a number of resources, services and events in conjunction with the URC Children’s and Youth Work team.

You will be educated to at least A level standard, with experience in administrative roles. You will be familiar with the URC and its structures. You will have good networking, planning and communication skills. You will be able to work flexibly from home and attend meetings as required in London and elsewhere.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

T: 020 7691 9874 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 5 February 2018 Interview date: Monday 19 February 2018

*This post requires an enhanced DBS check*

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - LAY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, LONDON**

Full Time, Salary: £36,784 per Annum

Are you an animator, organiser and coordinator with a commitment to encouraging whole church learning that deepens discipleship? Do you enjoy team working as much as taking the lead on significant projects? Can you maintain momentum over the long term?

The United Reformed Church is committed to offering a new discipleship and evangelism programme starting from September 2018 onwards for its 1500 congregations. The *Stepwise* programme will have a major part to play in the church’s strategy for lay training and congregational development. As Lay Development Coordinator you will have responsibility to work with the design group on blended delivery in which high quality online resources and accessible student participation are key elements. Your role will include recruiting and supporting creators of material, encouraging regional advocates, and designing some of the content yourself. You will possess credibility to work with a diverse range of stakeholders to ensure that this innovative programme starts on time and achieves what is expected of it, as well as implementing other aspects of the lay development strategy. Working from a base at Church House in London, you will be travelling frequently. It’s a big challenge, which will demand your heart, mind, and strength.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources Office, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

T: 0207 691 9874 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 12 February 2018 Interview date: Wednesday 28 February 2018

*In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian and a member of the United Reformed Church or of a church which belongs to one or more of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council (DECC) or the Council for World Mission (CWM) or Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).*

**POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT**

Police Officer recruitment to join Leicestershire Police is now open and we are welcoming applicants from all cultures, nationalities and backgrounds to join us.
If you are aware of anyone that would be interesting in applying to join us please could you encourage them towards the following link where, further information on the role of a police officer can be found, as well as the application form:
[www.leics.police.uk/join-us](http://www.leics.police.uk/join-us)
We also have recently recruited a positive action officer, Karolina Zalewska, who is more than happy to be a point of contact for anyone considering joining the police.  If appropriate, she may assign a ‘buddy’ to mentor potential recruits through the process.
Karolina would be keen to hear from anyone interested in joining us and can be contacted via email on karolina.zalewska7024@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk
In the coming weeks, there will be a number of recruitment seminars held in various locations which will be advertised on our website.  Again, I would encourage anyone that may have an interest in joining us as an officer to attend one of these seminars where further information about the role will be provided as well as an opportunity to ask questions.
I would also like to remind you that there are many other opportunities to join us. About a third of the force are police staff, performing hugely important roles as varied as investigator, forensic examiner, call taker, mechanic or working in HR/Finance/Estates.

**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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