



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 269 – 24th MAY 2018

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD GEOFF TOWNSEND

When I was in pastoral charge I led a series of Bible Studies for a group of churches on the theme of “Who are they?” in which we explored some of the lesser known people in the Bible. So often we wish we knew just bit more about some of them, especially Jesus and the disciples. So what do we know about Dorcas? Again, very little, we can read about her in Acts 9, where we’re told she was also known as Tabitha and lived in Joppa and was well known for her acts of kindness, so much so that when she died, Peter brought her back to life.

In a restaurant in Sausalito in California in 1982, Anne Herbert scrawled on a placemat “practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty,” since when many have followed this advice. Now there is a national Random Acts of Kindness Foundation and in New Zealand September 1st is celebrated as a Random Acts of Kindness Day.

In the last week I heard about how an ex-prisoner, Stan Robertson has been taking a cooked breakfast to 20 or 30 rough sleepers in Northampton Town Centre every day for the last 6 months. I wonder what random act of kindness our church could do?

Geoff Townsend (Convenor of Pastoral)

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO HOW YOU RECEIVE THE E LETTER

Due to the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which comes into effect on 25th May we are making changes to the way in which you receive the E letter.

From now on, you will only receive the E letter if you subscribe to do so.

Please subscribe here - <http://eepurl.com/duE9wT> to receive the E letter!

Your privacy is extremely important to us, to see how we process data in accordance with our Privacy Notices and Data Protection Policy's, please visit:

<https://www.urch5.org.uk/content/privacy-notices-and-data-protection-policies>

The provider that we are using for our E letter subscription is MailChimp (The Rocket Science Group LLC d/b/a MailChimp, a State of Georgia limited liability company). To view their Privacy Policy visit:

<https://mailchimp.com/legal/privacy/>



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

You are invited to a Coffee and Cake morning at Boulevard URC on Saturday 9 June between 10.15 and 12.00. This is in aid of CLIC Sargent, which supports children with cancer and their families, nationally and especially through to the Queen's Medical Centre and Billy's House, nearby.

OTHER

M & M DOCUMENTATION AND ACCOUNTS

A note to all treasurers that the M & M offer documentation for 2019 has now been circulated to all churches. Could you please ensure this is taken to your Elders meetings for discussion. Once a decision has been made can this then submitted to the Synod office. A request has also been made for the submission

of church accounts. Thank you to all churches who have now submitted their accounts to the office. I am aware some year ends for accounts vary but if you are having trouble completing your accounts please speak with your area Finance networker for assistance.

LAY PREACHERS GATHERING

Join us for Bible Study, discussion and fellowship. Led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird on **Saturday 23rd June 2018**, 10.30am - 2.30pm at the Synod Meeting Room, Nottingham, NG5 3AA (Please bring your own lunch) To book contact Hannah Holmes: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

SYNOD STUDY DAY - RADICAL LIVING

A study day looking at the rule of St. Benedict. All Welcome! On **Saturday 14th July 2018** from 10.30am - 3pm (bring a packed lunch) at the Synod Meeting Room, Nottingham, NG5 3AA. Led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird. Booking is essential, to book contact Hannah Holmes: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

BELONGING ONLINE CONFERENCE

Belonging are holding an online conference, which is being streamed on Thursday 13th September 2018 with the Methodist Church, who are organising the event.

'Belonging' supports churches to have a welcoming and accessible ministry with children and young people who have additional needs. This day event is happening in partnership with The Additional Needs Alliance, Pete and Christine Winmill from Count Everyone In and Mark Arnold, Director of Additional Needs with Urban Saints. It promises to be an engaging and informative day with lots of opportunities to discuss and reflect on the key issues.

You can join in from anywhere there's an internet connection and we're keen to encourage lots of local events that make it accessible for as many folk as possible to get together. Do take a look at the website for details of how to register these and be kept updated on future developments with the programme and speakers: www.methodist.org.uk/belongingconference

We are happy to announce that East Midlands Synod will be streaming the conference from the Synod Meeting Room.

To join us for this on Thursday 13th September 2018 from 9.30am – 2.30pm, please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office to book your place (don't forget to bring a packed lunch).

Email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

FROM THE SYNOD YOUTH EXECUTIVE

We need your help!

The Synod Youth Executive have been asked to put together a display of the whole Synod to put up at General Assembly.

We would like photos from local churches showing you as a church, worshipping, or eating together, community activities that you do, anything that sums up your church community in a photo.

We cannot promise to use all the photos that we get sent in and we obviously need to make sure that the people in them have given their permission for their image to be used for a display at General Assembly, which means that we need to have written consent from those in the photos, to obtain a photo consent form please visit: www.urc5.org.uk/photoconsentform

Please email photos to Jane Henderson, cydo@urc5.org.uk by the end of May.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

STEPWISE PROGRAMME MANAGER

Full Time, Home based, Salary: £38,180 to £40,458 per annum or Minister's stipend

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?

Stepwise is the United Reformed Church's exciting new intergenerational programme for discipleship development starting in September 2018. Stepwise will have a major part to play in the church's strategy for lay training and congregational development. As Programme Manager 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 work with a diverse range of stakeholders to ensure that this innovative programme starts on time and achieves what is expected of it.

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 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 9871 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 11 June 2018 Interview date: Monday 25 June 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).

STEPWISE PROGRAMME ASSISTANT

London, 21 hours per week, Salary: £15,167

Stepwise is the United Reformed Church's exciting new intergenerational programme for discipleship development.

With roll out to start in September 2018, the Stepwise programme will be offered through a combination of groupwork, mentoring and online delivery. In this role you will be at the forefront in supporting the team delivering Stepwise, covering all aspects of the administration and being the first point of contact for participants.

You will be competent in administration as well as having excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Experience of supporting training programmes and online learning environments would be a distinct advantage.

It's new and evolving— come and be a part of this journey with us!

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements please 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 9871 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 11 June 2018 Interview date: Tuesday 19 June 2018

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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