



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

**EMURCE No: 289 – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Revd Geoff Townsend,  
Convenor, Ordained Ministry and Churches Group**

During Lent I have been using the latest York Course, “Daring to see God Now” with the 4 churches in the North West Northants pastorate while our minister has been away on Sabbatical. In the discussion in the second week, Professor Keith Ward, the Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford University, said “the only organism that doesn’t change is dead.” In which case it might be argued, the East Midlands Synod is in a healthy state, as following the discussions at our recent Synod in Peterborough, we are now implementing considerable changes within the structure of the Synod. For example, the Synod Pastoral Group has been replaced by the Ordained Ministries and Churches Group, which now includes wider responsibilities. In the Course material Archbishop Rowan Williams was quoted as saying, “Looking at Jesus seriously changes things. If we don’t want to be changed, it is better not to look too long or too hard.”

Your prayers will be appreciated as many new people take on new responsibilities within the revised structures.

Rev Geoff Townsend.

#### PEOPLE

Please pray for **Lilya**, Granddaughter of a member at St. Andrew’s with Castle Gate United Reformed Church in Nottingham, who is undergoing treatment for Leukaemia and is needing a bone marrow transplant.

#### Cyclone Idai - Our Response

We all would have heard of the devastating cyclone across Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar and Southern Africa. May I kindly point you to the following news item and ask that you share across your synods as we respond to this tragic situation.

You will note the appeal links of Christian Aid and All We Can (Methodist Church)

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3018-cyclone-idai-an-urgent-call-to-help-and-show-love> [United Reformed Church]

You can also check the following facebook pages (scroll down the page):

[Council for World Mission](#) (CWM)

[Global and Intercultural Ministries](#) (URC)

[Commitment for Life](#) (URC)

Our prayers, financial contributions towards relief/rebuilding, and continuing advocacy on the effects of Climate Change would be ways for us to respond.

Thank you for your kind attention. With all good wishes,

**Michael Jagessar (Revd Dr)**, Global & Intercultural Ministries (Mission) | The United Reformed Church

### Revd. Dr. Gillian Poucher – Debut Novel

Revd. Dr. Gillian Poucher will be launching her debut novel, *After the Funeral*, at Gainsborough United Reformed Church on **Saturday 13 April** at 10.30a.m. The book signing will be accompanied by a Q&A session. Light refreshments will be available.

*After the Funeral* deals with contemporary issues of loneliness and complex relationships and is partly inspired by Lincolnshire's aviation history. The novel is underpinned by Christian spirituality, with a redemptive ending emerging from earlier tragedy. Religious art also features. The spiritual element is intentionally subtle, to raise questions rather than give answers, among those of no faith as well as practising Christians.

*After the Funeral*, published by Red Door Publishing, will be available to buy at the event at £8.99 or can be pre-ordered on line from the publishers and other distributors.

If your church hosts or has links with a book group, Gillian would be happy to visit to discuss her novel within a fifty mile radius of Gainsborough.

### CAN YOUR CHURCH HELP?

In discussing church membership, the national church has become aware that there are some people who wish to remain members, but live either too far away from a local church, or through lack of transport or ill health cannot get there for worship or fellowship. Synods have been asked to identify local churches who would be prepared to include such people on their list of members. Ideally we would like to identify 1 or 2 such churches in each Area. These "host churches" might, for example send these "distant" members a copy of their church magazine and make an occasional contact, either by phone or e-mail with them.

If your church would be prepared to help, could you please contact one of your Area Pastoral Consultants.

### Training & Development - what does your church need, what do you need?

The new Training & Development (T&D) Group wishes to start its work by introducing an annual training planning process for churches and individuals to identify what training and development they would like, to feed into a Synod plan. This can be any sort of training that is associated with any aspect of church life and faith development. Please do not be limited by previous training offers and be assured many of the current events will continue.

Letters about this have been sent to Churches, please consider what you and your church might need and return the form by **15th April**. We will then start the planning process so that we can ensure that the development opportunities the Synod organises better reflects local church needs.

Pippa Hodgson, Convenor & Deborah Baird, T&D Officer

### EU Settlement Scheme Launch (01/04/19)

For the latest information on the EU Settlement Scheme for EU citizens living in the UK please visit:

<https://www.urc5.org.uk/eusettlementschemelaunch010419>

### Future Synod Meeting Dates for your diary:-

- 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - The Crossing, Worksop, Notts
- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 – St. Andrew's with Castle Gate URC, Nottingham
- 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Newport Pagnell URC, Milton Keynes

### **Cambridgeshire Workplace Chaplaincy and Churches Together in Central Peterborough.**

WANTED: a part-time voluntary Chaplain to work in the Peterborough Council Offices, based in Sand Martin House, Fletton Quays, Peterborough.

HALF A DAY A WEEK, PLUS PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS BY ARRANGEMENT.

The appointment of the chaplain is made by agreement of both Churches Together and the City Council administration. The Chaplain will be linked in with Cambridgeshire Workplace Chaplaincy and the Peterborough Chaplains' Forum, providing wider contacts and support.

Applicants can be either ordained or lay, members in good standing in a church, normally one affiliated with Churches Together in England, and have had some training or experience in chaplaincy work or be willing to seek such training. For further information and to express interest please contact Prof. Paul Ballard, [paul.h.ballard@virginmedia.com](mailto:paul.h.ballard@virginmedia.com)

### **Northern College – Vacancies**

- **Tutor in Old Testament and Hebrew Language** – closing date Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

For Full Details Visit: <https://urc.org.uk/vacancies/3007-tutor-in-old-testament-and-hebrew-language.html>

- **Experienced URC Minister to be a Personal Tutor** – closing date Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

For Full Details Visit: <https://urc.org.uk/vacancies/3009-experienced-urc-minister-to-be-a-personal-tutor.html>



### **GREENBELT WIT AND WISDOM**

**23-26 August 2019, Boughton House, Northants, NN14 3AG**

Greenbelt takes place over the August Bank Holiday, 23-26 August 2019. The URC is again one of the festival's partners. As part of the URC's theme of 'Walking the Way with Wit and Wisdom,' and in keeping with previous years' fantastic contributions from local URCs, we would like postcard sized items with your favourite quotes, Bible passages and sayings which will be hung around our tent. It's a big tent so we need a lot! Would you be willing to create postcard-sized crafts which containing words you would love to share?

This could be a piece of advice from a grandparent, your favourite quote from Ghandi, or even your favourite joke! They can be embroidered on fabric, cross stitched, knitted, or even handwritten on a postcard from your local town!

All we ask is no plastic and, where able, please use materials you already have. Reuse, recycle and no litter please! Even better if what you make is as weather-durable as possible! If you are able to help, please also send pictures of you or your church group making the decorations to [crcw.admin@urc.org.uk](mailto:crcw.admin@urc.org.uk) (please make sure you have permission to share the photo from everyone in the picture, before sending it).

Please see the e-flyer which explains this year's theme which explains this year's theme: '**Walking the Way with Wit and Wisdom**' and what we would like you to create. <https://www.urc5.org.uk/Greenbelt2019flyer>

If it's not quite your thing, please feel free to share it with whoever you think would love to be involved and do help spread the word and print posters for communal areas! We have recently included this flyer in a URC church mailing and will continue to send out to Synods and church groups until they're all gone.

For us, it really is the more the merrier so if we are able to get even more people involved this year, it would make us very happy! Please do make sure you send us photos of you making your fabulous creations too (with names and the church(s) involved) and we will share on social media - with your permission. Also, please send your postcard sized item(s) to **Stephanie Twilley** (as per flyer) by the **beginning of August** please.

And finally, please be aware of how much we value your support. Each year, the URC tent just gets better and better and we couldn't make it half as good without your valuable input. Happy crafting!

## Is it I Lord?

**Ministry Enquirers' Day – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 . 10:00am – 4:00pm . Luther King House, Manchester**

\*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. Tel: 0207 916 8649 Email: [Vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk](mailto:Vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk)

## SYNOD VOCATION DAY

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – 10:00am – 3:00pm at Christ Church URC, Leicester**

“Whom Shall I Send?” - This is the day for you if you feel God is calling you to serve in some way but you are not sure what or where or how. Here is an opportunity to come and hear from people engaged in a range of ministries who will share their stories and answer questions you might have. To book please email: [modpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:modpa@urc5.org.uk)

## ACAT COURSE - "BEING A TREASURER: THE BASICS"

**Oundle Road Baptist Church, Oundle Road, PETERBOROUGH PE2 9PB on Wednesday 22 May 2019**

This course has been freshly updated for 2019 and looks set to continue being extremely popular with new and experienced treasurers alike. With a very practical approach, “The Basics” will equip today’s treasurer with the knowledge needed to carry out their multifaceted role. Subjects covered include:

- Treasurer as Trustee: Churches as Charities; Responsibilities of Trustees
- Treasurer as Bookkeeper: Managing Finance Operations; Keeping Accounting Records; Fund Accounting
- Treasurer as Planner: Budgeting; Risk Management
- Treasurer as Optimiser: Gift Aid; GASDS; VAT
- Treasurer as Communicator: Trustees’ Annual Report; Financial Statements; Independent Examination

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 cost is £50 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 the course will finish by 4.00 pm. **Please book early to secure your place if you wish to attend.** We will be delighted to welcome both members and non-members of ACAT at this event, so please feel free to mention it to your fellow treasurers in other churches..

To book a place in **PETERBOROUGH** visit: <https://www.acat.uk.com/courses/course1.html>

You can book instantly online using Paypal or a credit/debit card, or print out a postal booking form to send with a cheque.

## OLD TESTAMENT IN A DAY

All Welcome – come along to this Bible Study Day on one of the dates below!

Led by Revd Dr. Deborah Baird – READING THE HEBREW BIBLE AS STORY

- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 10:00–4:00pm at St. Andrew’s URC, Peterborough
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, 10:00-4:00pm in the Synod Meeting Room

**Please Bring your Lunch**

Booking is essential - please contact [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk) or telephone Hannah Willey at the Synod Office

**AND FINALLY:** - This E letter is sent on behalf of The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA. Telephone: 0115 9609241

Email address for E-Letter Editor: [modpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:modpa@urc5.org.uk)

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