



The
United
Reformed
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

EMURCE No: 291 – 2nd May 2019

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Charles Jolly, Church & Society Officer

I am frequently inspired by the passionate concern shown by our churches working for justice for the world's poorest people. This, in addition to tackling many urgent local needs. It keeps us grounded to move from Christmas to Fairtrade Fortnight and from Easter to Christian Aid Week! As James wrote: 'Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress . . .'

It is difficult to imagine ourselves in the shoes (if they had shoes) of our neighbours in the poorest countries, battered by market forces and climate change. But these are people living lightly on the Earth while the 'West' is living beyond the capacity of the planet. Happily, we can combine living more simply with helping others to work their way out of poverty. It is amazing how much Christian Aid can do with modest collections, and every time that we buy a fairly traded product it is a blow for justice.

Did you know that it is World Fairtrade Day on Saturday 11th May, on the eve of Christian Aid Week? Maybe the world perspective of those two (and other) development organisations reminds us that we are not talking about 'charity' but about seeing God's wonderful planet as a whole, sharing with people and caring for all of Creation.

Despite the pain of senseless violence of extremists and worsening storms of climate change, Jesus is turning the world upside down. Mahatma Gandhi, who was strongly influenced by Jesus, said: "Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him."

Happy Christian Aid Week!

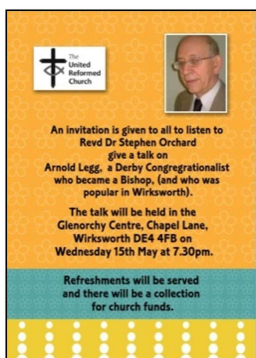
Charles Jolly



SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE
At The Dales URC, Parkdale Road, Nottingham
On **SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2019 AT 2:15PM**
Lots of goodies and plants for sale
Admission 20p



REVD STEPHEN ORCHARD TALK



An invitation is given to all to listen to Revd Stephen Orchard give a talk on Arnold Legg, a Derby Congregationalist who became a Bishop (and who was popular in Wirksworth)
The talk will be held in the Glenorchy Centre, Chapel Lane, Wirksworth, DE4 4FB
On **Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7:30pm**
Refreshments will be served and there will be a collection for church funds.

CLIFTON URC

With the closure of the Clifton URC, the people from the church who live in the Lark Hill Village in Clifton decided to hold a Sunday service in the village (I had already been taking communion to these people) and to invite and welcome anyone who was unable to go to their normal Sunday service due to age. The service was to include communion, for anyone who wished to be involved. The first service took place on Palm Sunday complete with crosses and shouts of J-E-S-U-S and a total of fifteen people, seven of which were former members of the URC, came to join the celebration of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Other services are planned approximately once a month.

John New

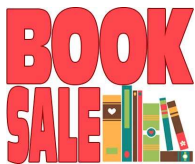
West Lindsey Churches Festival

Gainsborough United Reformed Church will open for the West Lindsey Churches Festival, 10am-4pm on **Saturday 11th May** and 2-4pm on **Sunday 12th May**.

The Mayflower Room will be officially opened at 1pm on Saturday. The Mayflower Room contains an all age exhibition telling the story of John Robinson and the Pilgrims, and the history surrounding the building of the church in 1896/97. The exhibition has been designed and installed by Createlnn of Retford and largely funded by a grant from East Midlands Synod Mission Fund, for which the church is very grateful.

There will be two Mayflower themed dance performances by *The Imagination Museum: Mayflower 400* at 11am and 2pm on Saturday followed by workshops suitable for all ages. (For further details, see <https://imaginationmuseum.co.uk>).

Organ music will be played on the two manual Forster and Andrews pipe organ on Sunday afternoon. There will be an art display, a cake sale and light refreshments. For further information of the West Lindsey Churches Festival see www.churchesfestival.info



SECOND HAND BOOK SALE - STAMFORD URC

Stamford United Reformed Church are holding a Mammoth Second Hand Book Sale at the United Reformed Church Hall, Broad Street Stamford on **Saturday 18th May 2019** 10am - 1pm

Wide range of books for sale, come and fill a carry bag with books for £1 as many times as you like yes only £1 each bag and children's books free!!!!

Hope to see as many people as possible - spread news of this opportunity not to be missed!!

BEING A TREASURER: THE BASICS

There is still time to book your place on our freshly updated course, [Being a Treasurer: The Basics](#) being held at **Oundle Road Baptist Church, Oundle Road, PETERBOROUGH PE2 9PB** on **Wednesday 22 May 2019**. This venue has its own car park and is around a mile from Peterborough railway station, so we hope it will be convenient for everyone.

This course continues to be an essential one for 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 multi-faceted role.

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 soon 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>

Safeguarding and DBS Checks

DBS checks. These are carried out on behalf of the URC by Due Diligence Checking Ltd. (DDC). If you are contacted by them please be reassured it is a genuine email not spam. If you have any questions about DBS check you can contact them direct or our Synod Safeguarding Officer, Jane Henderson.

Safeguarding

Please could you send your Safeguarding Annual Returns asap. These are IN ADDITION to the form that was sent out with the church annual returns.

Any questions or queries relating to Safeguarding in general or to the above should be directed to Jane Henderson, Synod Safeguarding Officer, 07572 291007, safeguarding@urc5.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding training is for all who work with children and adults at risk, including Elders, Pastoral workers, youth and children's leaders.

The new training will begin to be delivered in September, it covers both children and adults at risk in one session. It is the URC training, which is linked with our policies and procedures. It is important that churches attend URC training.

This will take about 4 hours, therefore they will be held on Saturday's with a break for lunch. (Please bring your own lunch).

Please try and attend training local to you, as we do have to deliver it across the Synod.

September (all 10:00am - 3:00pm)

- 14th Spalding - Lincolnshire
- 21st Hinckley - Leicestershire
- 28th Mackworth - Derbyshire.

Please book by emailing trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

SYNOD VOCATION DAY

Saturday 11th 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

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

Please Bring your Lunch

Booking is essential - please contact trainingpa@urc5.org.uk or telephone Hannah Willey at the Office

Synod Family Days Out



Highlights

- Picnic
- Orienteering
- Games
- Natural History Museum (free entry)
- Play Areas
- Worship

Wollaton Hall and Park
Nottingham

Saturday 20 July

Stanwick Lakes
Northamptonshire

Saturday 6 July

Highlights

- Picnic
- Sculpture trail
- Adventure play
- Orienteering
- Games
- Worship
- Much more

Come and join in the fun at one or both events. Bring a picnic. No entrance fees. Car park fees may apply.

We will meet at 10am and then have free time to enjoy the spaces. Join together for a picnic at 12:30, brief worship and some games.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane Henderson, CYDO. Mob: 07572 291007, cydo@urc5.org.uk
Let us know if you are planning to come, so we can look out for you. Email: cydo@urc5.org.uk

Future Synod Meeting Dates for your diary:-

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

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

Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 13.05.2019

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