



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD



**EMURCE No: 292 – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
**EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Revd Cliff Winfield**



### A modern Doubting Thomas

I go cycling with a small group and we call ourselves the 'Flat Earth' cyclists as we try to avoid hills. We were on the 'Cloud Trail' which is mostly flat being an old railway track but near Worthington we were struggling up a hill but managed to pass a family also struggling with Mum pushing her youngest up on his small bike. At the top when we had recovered our breath we asked where is Worthington? We could see it but how could we get there! We also agreed that a pub or cafe was urgently required.

What goes up must come down and sure enough the next right turn led us downhill into the village. Freewheeling downhill is great - I love to feel the wind rushing through my hair! I was wearing my cycle hat but am lacking in hair! However the pub did not open till four and no sign of a cafe or shop!! Having left the family behind, we pushed on in search of a shop. It was truly out of the way and up another hill!! We purchased our ice lollies then it crossed my mind that the family might not find the shop and it was up another hill so I walked to the junction and waited to tell the good news. Soon enough they arrived and all of us enjoyed our refreshments in the afternoon sun. This was just a small incident on a longish (for us) ride.

How does this illustrate a modern 'doubting Thomas'? Well a few days later at a meal with a larger group of friends I was sitting next to one of my fellow cyclists and he was telling me how he had lost his faith. He had believed in the past but not anymore. I said that doubt was something we all felt at one time or another. Also that doubt was not the same as lack of faith. However my words were not as powerful as the incident on the cycle ride going back to tell the family where the shop was! He recounted the episode to others who were not on the ride.

This is surely true for us all - our actions make more impression than our words. In the words of Teresa of Avila: *Yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth upon a troubled world.*

We read in John 20: 19 – 31 that Thomas said '*Unless I see the marks of the nails ..... and put my hand in his side. I will not believe*'. **Jesus** gave Thomas the proof he asked for and he was able to declare '*My Lord and my God*'. **Jesus** said '*you believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen yet believe*'. That is you and I. It is a wonderful privilege and responsibility to be a follower of **Jesus** and let his **Holy Spirit** shine through us.

**God bless** from Cliff Winfield – Synod Office Chaplain

### **Annual Returns**

A BIG thank you to one and all. For the first time ever we have received Annual Returns back from all churches within the East Midlands Synod. There has had to be some cajoling to get the last few in but we have made it. Our aim for next year now needs to be that we complete by the due date.

Once again though thank you to you all.

**Chris Willis**

### **Deputy Moderator – Dedicated Email Address**

Just a note to inform you that the Revd Geoffrey Clarke has a new dedicated email address for his Synod related duties e.g. Deputy Moderator and Synod Ecumenical Officer. The email address is:

[deputymoderator@urc5.org.uk](mailto:deputymoderator@urc5.org.uk)

Marlpool URC Theatre Company

Proudly present



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WEDNESDAY 23rd to SATURDAY 26th  
OCTOBER 2019

7:15pm with a Saturday matinee at 2:15pm  
Tickets £10

Box Office 01332 986082 or online at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/murctc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/murctc)



### SECOND HAND BOOK SALE - STAMFORD URC

Stamford United Reformed Church are holding a  
Mammoth Second Hand Book Sale

At: United Reformed Church Hall, Broad Street Stamford On: Sat 19<sup>th</sup> 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!!

### ACAT - BEING A TREASURER: THE BASICS

There is still time to book your place on our freshly updated course, [Being a Treasurer: The Basics](#) 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.

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>

### ACAT: Generating Income and Grant Applications

This is a brand new course for 2019, written and presented for ACAT by Andrew Rainsford, former Parish Resources and Development Adviser at the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Andrew writes, "*This is a very practical training day for those who are planning a church project of any kind. You may want to create a new meeting space, carry out some specific building repairs or launch an innovative children's work - we are sure your church has many aspirations and this course will help you to fulfil them.*" Further content information is here: <https://www.acat.uk.com/courses/course3.html> and the details of this venue in central Lincoln are:

**Diocese of Lincoln, Edward King House, Minster Yard, LINCOLN LN2 1PU** on **Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 10am-4pm**

The cost of this training day is £50 and includes all course material, refreshments and a buffet lunch. Registration will be from 9.30am ready for a 10am start; the course will finish by 4pm. **Please book soon to secure your place if you wish to attend.** Both members and non-members of ACAT are very welcome at this event.

Please visit <https://www.acat.uk.com/courses/course3.html>

### First Aid Course - Wellingborough URC, Northampton



Wellingborough URC are holding a day First Aid course on Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July

If you are interested in joining us, contact

Sue Scott on [susanscott469@gmail.com](mailto:susanscott469@gmail.com) The cost is £50

## Walking the Way Bible Study: Companions on the Way

Walking the Way has produced a Bible Study resource, 'Companions on the Way', to help congregations explore the significance of the Emmaus story from the Gospel of Luke in our own Walk with Jesus today.

On the road to Emmaus, the friends of Jesus come across something which forces them to STOP in their tracks, LOOK at what is being revealed to them, LISTEN to the word of God in fresh, new ways and, having gone through this reflective process, WALK forward in the way which God has guided them towards.

Check out each section of the resource and see what resonates with your own journey of faith. Each section looks at a different piece of the passage, offers a short reflection, gives an example of someone who has gone through a similar experience in today's times, something to ponder, a prayer and a suggested response.

You can download the resource here: <http://bit.ly/2Vp73qO>

### 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](mailto: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.

- Saturday 14th September: Spalding URC, Lincolnshire (1:00pm – 4:30pm)
- Saturday 21st September: Hinckley URC, Leicestershire (10:00am - 3:00pm)
- Saturday 28th September: Mackworth URC, Derbyshire (10:00am – 3:00pm)

Please book by emailing [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@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 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk)

### 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

**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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