

Opening Reflection by the Revd Sarah Gower

Convenor of Children and Youth Development



I have always loved this time of year. As a child, I loved putting my pens and pencils in order, as I anticipated the beginning of a new school year: looking forward to a new start with all its possibilities. Even today, some/many years later, September always seems like a month offering new beginnings whatever they may be. It could be a new teacher, or a new school, for the children in our communities; perhaps families will have something new to celebrate – a new child, a new job or a new house.

BUT

Whilst our children and young people prepare to go back to school, or to college, and perhaps even do get their pens and pencils in order – if their school is allowing them to take their own – this September, and this ‘new start’, is not quite like any we have known. We are not quite sure what this term holds, or even the first weeks of September, let alone the rest of the year. What will classes look like? What does work look like? Whoever we are, we do not quite have the same degree of certainty, and perhaps expectation that we might often have as we go into September.

AND YET

We know that we can go into this new year, and new beginning, with confidence because God is going with us. Whatever happens, we are still God’s people, and part of his family. We still praise and worship our amazing God, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow; our God who never changes. God goes with us into the unknown of this term and this year for our children and young people, and for everyone from young to old. And actually, as we journey through this year with our unchanging God, we know that he is also the one who changes lives through his love and by his Holy Spirit. Rather than reflecting on what we do not know and what is not the same, let us be ready to be amazed by God, challenged by him as we discover more of him, more of each other, and more of ourselves. As September dawns with its possibilities of new beginnings and adventures, I pray that we may all look forward with hope in these coming months and that we may all know peace – at home, in school, across our community and in our world.

Reopening of East Midlands Synod Office

We would like to notify you that the **East Midlands Synod office** will be reopening on Monday 14 September 2020. The office will be open **9am – 3pm Monday to Thursday**. To ensure the safety of our staff they have split into two “bubbles” and each “bubble” will attend the office on alternate weeks (other weeks continuing to work from home). Please continue to use email as your first contact. If you ring and the person is not in the office we will ensure your message is passed on immediately.

Welcome to Synod in a virtual world!

Induction of the Revd Martin Ferris, Saturday 5 September

Revd Martin Ferris is to be inducted as minister of the **South and East Leicestershire Area** at 3.00pm on Saturday 5 September at Abbots Road URC, Leicester. The service will be live streamed. The Moderator, the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**, will preside and 30 people will be in the church, socially distanced. The preacher will be the **Revd Andy Twilley**, Southern Synod Training and Development Officer. Others taking part are recording their contributions in advance and these will be woven into the service at appropriate places.

An Induction is a Synod service and everyone is welcome to follow the service on line. Please join us!

The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDkjek60zW4>

Here you will also find instructions for joining a **Zoom gathering** at 4.00pm if you would like to greet Martin personally and, if you wish, for making an offering to the **Moderator's Discretionary Fund**, for the support of ministers in need. The Induction service will also be available to view subsequently on the Synod's new [YouTube channel](#).

New General Secretary to speak at October Synod meeting

The **Revd Dr John Bradbury**, the new General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, will be speaking at the **virtual East Midlands Synod** on Saturday 10 October. The Synod meeting will be live streamed and this will be a great opportunity for ministers and members of churches throughout the Synod to hear John. He will be sharing his vision for the future of the URC and what it feels like to be coming into this important role in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. This will also be the first Synod meeting chaired by our new Moderator, the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**. These are strange circumstances for both John and Geoffrey to step into new roles. They need your support and prayers.

The meeting will be wholly **virtual**. This provides an opportunity for everyone to share in the Synod meeting, which has never been possible before. We want you and as many people as possible in your church to log on to the meeting, share in the worship, listen to our speakers, follow the business and be prepared to discuss and respond to the issues in your local church.

Churches are reminded to make sure their representative has an internet connection and can participate using a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. If your usual representative cannot participate in this way, please ask someone else to be your representative. We are planning to provide some training ahead of the meeting to help all participants.

The Agenda and papers and the link to the meeting will be circulated at the beginning of October to your Synod representative, minister and church secretary and will be on the Synod website. The link will also be in the E-letter the week before the meeting.

On-line technology

Take heart! Seize the opportunity! We are hugely grateful to our colleagues in the Synod, **AJ Mills**, The Sound Guy, and **Adam Lester**, IntegrITy Team, for providing the technology to make both these important events possible in a virtual world and for supporting the people taking part.

Helen Lidgett
Synod Clerk

The transition from lockdown: help with the next phase

Many churches are gradually [Emerging Into the New Normal](#) and working out what it means for them to return to gathered worship, while retaining the best of the digital engagement they have discovered during lockdown. There is no one right answer: it depends on the contexts and technical capabilities of each individual church.

Sometimes it helps to hear what other churches are doing. The **Training and Development Officers** of several Synods, including East Midlands Synod TDO **Derek Graham**, have compiled a simple summary of the ways in which a number of URC churches shared worship during lockdown, and how they are beginning to adapt as they move back toward gathering physically. Without prescribing any single solution this document, [Models for Transition from Lockdown](#), may help point to some of the possibilities.

You can find it on the East Midlands Synod website: <https://www.urch5.org.uk/content/transition-lockdown>.



AJ Mills has been working with East Midlands Synod to offer technical support for churches as their needs evolve. With a number of churches moving toward **livestreaming**, AJ has created for us a simple **how-to video** demonstrating how to stream from a smartphone using **Facebook Live**. The 15-minute video also shows some of the extra possibilities offered by using a PC to livestream on Facebook and explores the features of the **Facebook Pages Manager** app.

You will find his video on our new Synod [YouTube channel](#) at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsAk_rydQ8&t=13s

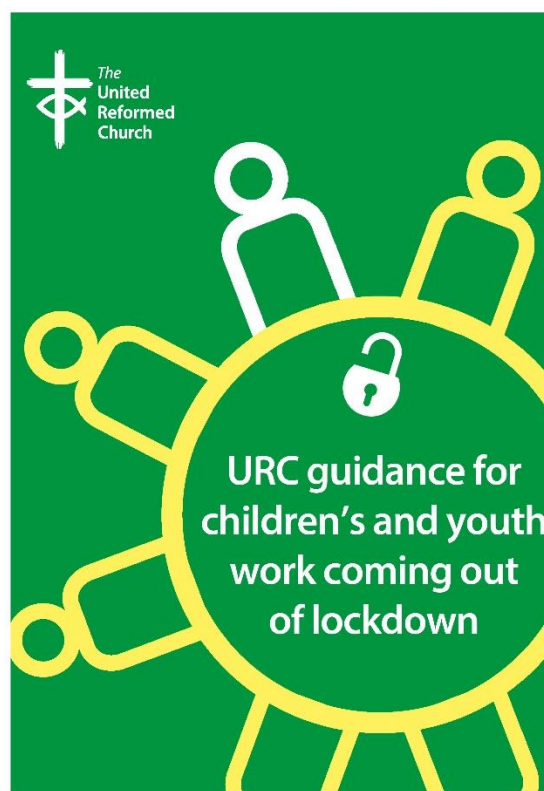
We aim to move on next to more sophisticated ways of using livestreaming to share services. Look out for future training videos on this channel.

Latest free guides from the URC

The URC's **Communications Team** continues to publish a [series of accessible, downloadable information guides](#) to help churches take their next steps into the "New Normal". These are two of the most recent:



Co-authored by **AJ Mills**, [Livestreaming your church service](#) breaks down the options for sharing live worship online into three tiers of sophistication, from using a single smartphone to a multi-camera setup, and includes a wealth of top tips and helpful tech specs. Read it at: https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/docs/Livestreaming_in_churches.pdf



[URC guidance for children's and youth work coming out of lockdown](#) summarises the current rules and regulations that apply to working with young people, including many helpful links, and offers a grid of possible activities according to the level of alert at any given time. Read it at: https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/docs/URC_guidance_for_CYW_coming_out_of_lockdown-s.pdf

An announcement regarding Jane Henderson, CYDO and Safeguarding Officer

The following statement was originally published [online](#) on 18 August:

Following a restructuring of roles within the Synod, **Jane Henderson** has decided not to take up the new roles and is concluding her service with the Synod on 31 August 2020.

Jane would like to thank all those she has worked with over the last six years and will miss working with you.

She has no immediate plans for the future other than to continue her recovery from coronavirus.

As **Children's and Youth Development Officer** Jane was encouraged to inspire and encourage children and young people, helping them to play their part in God's Mission, through engaging with the churches of the East Midlands Synod. As Synod **Safeguarding Officer** she was tasked with ensuring good practice and compliance. We add our thanks to all who have been inspired, encouraged and safeguarded by Jane in her time among us and wish her well for the future.

An appreciation of Jane Henderson on her leaving her role in East Midlands Synod

from the **Revd Jenny Mills** on behalf of the Synod

Jane began her role as **Youth and Children's Work Developer** in 2014, building on the work of the previous CYDO. Jane brought with her a cheerful smile, an enthusiasm and a desire to support, encourage and develop those working with children and young people in the East Midlands Synod. She picked up training, child protection and the sharing of resources and ideas and quickly developed relationships with ministers, children's and youth workers and churches. In her time with us Jane's role has changed and developed; following a recent restructuring of roles within the Synod, Jane has decided to conclude her service with the Synod as of 31 August.

During her time with the East Midlands Synod, Jane became part of the **CYDO+** team (and a named CYDO in the Synod), took on **safeguarding** for all ages, completed work for the wider URC (such as being on the **Education and Learning Committee** and working to help develop **Stepwise** modules) and, as part of the CYDO Team, has been responsible for moving the Child Friendly Church Award on to the **Children and Youth Friendly Church** (a more developmental and accompanied process of growth). She studied for a degree at **Westminster College**, particularly focusing on intergenerational church and used this learning in her encounters with CY workers in the Synod.

Jane has led worship, workshops, training weekends, CY sessions at Synod meetings and Days Out. She encouraged young people to join in with events and sought to create a Youth Executive (and increased the numbers of East Midlands' attendees at Youth Assembly each January). In 2019, with Jane's encouragement, the young people brought a resolution (that was passed) to make Synod meetings more accessible and more children and youth friendly. Jane's role included inspiring and encouraging faith in children and young people and those who work with them, equipping them with resources, ideas, teaching and stories from the Bible that promoted growth. Jane's work in the arena of safeguarding has enabled the Synod to meet the requirements and to train people well so we are a safe Synod.

On behalf of the East Midlands Synod, and as her Line Manager, I would like to express thanks to Jane for her commitment, dedication and determination as she fulfilled the role of CYDO and as she promoted, championed and provided Children and Youth work in the Synod, and through our local churches. In all her work and encounters Jane has done her best for Children and Youth work and safeguarding in the Synod and we are grateful for that. Many people will give thanks personally, I know, for her support and help, and we join our voices to those giving thanks as we say goodbye and wish her well.

We pray for Jane as she seeks her next steps in service to God and pray for her continued healing following surgery and long coronavirus.

Practical Guidance for Churches

Bookings open for ACAT's 2020 "virtual" conference



Treasurers are advised that the **Association of Church Accountants & Treasurers (ACAT)** is now taking bookings for its first "virtual" conference, sponsored by CCLA and entitled **“The Challenge of Change – Securing Your Church’s Financial Future”**. The conference will run from **Monday 5 October until Thursday 15 October**.

Outstanding speakers from the worlds of faith, finance, law and digital will bring their expertise to bear for church treasurers at the event, which is taking place entirely online due to the pandemic. It will feature 10 separate one-hour webinars, each priced at £10.

For full details of the webinars and to book, please visit [ACAT’s website](https://www.acat.uk.com/news/acat-2020-conference-bookings-now-open/):
<https://www.acat.uk.com/news/acat-2020-conference-bookings-now-open/>

Unoccupied properties – a message from Edwards Insurance Brokers

Geoff Milnes, Synod Property Officer, writes:

Please note the information below from **Edwards Insurance Brokers**, issued on 1 September. Churches are advised to check the detail of their insurance policies and ensure that they comply with the conditions. This will include such matters as switching off services if not used and carrying out weekly inspections.



We advise you that **Ansvar Insurance** have released a new statement in respect of the Covid-19 unoccupancy extension which expired on 31 August 2020. They have announced the following which you need to read very carefully:

**Premises that are temporarily closed solely due to the Covid-19 outbreak –
temporary dispensations will cease on 31 August 2020**

Buildings that are temporarily closed/no longer in regular use are exposed to different and usually greater risk than occupied premises and premises that are open for regular trading. Our standard policies define “unoccupied” premises and apply standard restrictions in cover and

conditions precedent to cover that need to be complied with. Normally a higher premium is charged on unoccupied premises.

To ensure customers were not unduly penalised for temporary closures solely due to the Covid-19 full lockdown restrictions the normal terms and conditions applicable to unoccupied premises were not applied to premises that were temporarily closed.

Temporarily Closed meant premises temporarily closed solely due to the Covid-19 outbreak (and such premises were not regarded as unoccupied as defined in the Policy) during the period when the dispensations applied.

With effect from 1 September 2020 temporarily closed premises must comply with all policy terms and conditions, including (but not restricted to) unoccupied premises conditions, where they fall within the normal policy definition of Unoccupied.

Please note:

1. The start of any period of unoccupancy begins from the date the premises first became unoccupied (not from 1 September 2020).
2. If a premises qualifies as unoccupied on 1 September 2020 the insured must comply with all policy terms and conditions for unoccupied premises immediately from 1 September 2020 to maintain cover in line with the policy (unless otherwise agreed or varied by us in writing).
3. Premises that are not yet open to customers/other service users, or not yet fully used in the normal way for that premises, but does have daily occupation in line with normal working hours for that premises (such as admin/office functions are now operating, or there is a daily presence in preparing for normal operations to re-commence), will not be deemed unoccupied.

See the policy definition of “unoccupied” for more details. If in doubt whether your premises is still classed as unoccupied, please get in touch with Edwards Insurance Brokers on **01564 730 900**, or send an email to enquiries@edwardsinsurance.co.uk . From 1 September, it is important that you let us know if your property remains unoccupied, as this is material fact and your cover and rates may be affected.

Reopening church buildings – a reminder

Please remember that once Elders have completed satisfactory Risk Assessments and recorded a decision to **reopen** church buildings, they must notify **Geoff Milnes**, East Midlands Synod Property Officer. Please email property@urc5.org.uk, specifying the reopening date(s).

The step-by-step procedure for reopening churches recommended by the synod’s **Ordained Ministries & Churches Group (OMCG)** is detailed in the previous edition of this E-letter which may be found at: <https://www.urc5.org.uk/content/emurce-letter-325-23rd-july-2020>

A plea from the Property Officer

Our Property Officer **Geoff Milnes** asks too that we share the following polite request:

I would be grateful if readers would show some appreciation of my private time! I work part time as Property Officer, and am usually in the office, or working from home, on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. I often check emails on other working days as well.

So far, particularly during the Covid-19 crisis, I have had phone calls to my home on weekday evenings, Saturday afternoons, and even one recently on a Sunday lunchtime! None of them was urgent and they could have waited until the working week. Mostly they were about procedures regarding church reopening, or information about what individual churches are doing.

Please ring the Synod office number, **0115 960 9241** - and if necessary leave a message. Similarly, I have had some emails about Synod property matters sent to my personal email address. Please use the Synod address which is: property@urc5.org.uk.

I do not mind dealing with urgent matters 'out of hours' but anything else should be able to wait until usual office hours. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation - it will keep my wife happy!

Geoff Milnes
Property Officer

Ministry Enquirers' Day



For anyone thinking about God's call to Lay Preaching, the ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work, a **Ministry Enquirers' Day** will be held – via **Zoom** on this occasion – on **Saturday 3 October 2020** from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

For full details, contact **Farrah Falomi-Carrer** at ministries@urc.org.uk.

Beirut appeal



Around 300,000 people were displaced by the massive explosion at the port of Beirut on 4 August – thought to have been one of the five strongest blasts in human history.

The URC is supporting an appeal organised by the **Compassion Protestant Society**, which is linked to its partner in the region. The CPS aims to support 1,000 Lebanese families in making their homes habitable again. For full details, and how to donate, visit: <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3572-urc-invites-support-for-those-affected-by-beirut-explosion>.

Creation Time

We are now into the **Season of Creation** or **Creation Time**. Creation Time runs from 1 September to 4 October each year and is becoming established as a special period for prayer, reflection and action in the church calendar. This year we could particularly remember rural churches and communities and farmers, especially hard-hit by Covid-19 restrictions and by increasing climate chaos and unseasonal weather.



SEASON OF CREATION

There is a wealth of material available on-line to help us to care more responsibly for God's wonderful but fragile Creation, including lectionary-based resources. Churches have developed all sorts of imaginative ways of continuing worship and mission during the Covid-19 crisis so I hope that you will be able to mark the Season of Creation. Particularly accessible is the [Ecocongregation website](https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/creation-time/). You can find out more at: <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/creation-time/>



Of special note this year is the call for all churches to hold a special **Climate Sunday** service during the year commencing 6 September. This will link up with a national Climate Sunday on **5 September 2021**, prior to **COP26** (the international conference to be hosted by the UK government in 2021). For details and resources please visit: <http://www.climatesunday.org/>

Right now our lifestyle is unsustainable. May the Season of Creation be a stepping stone to the 'new normal' when we will live in harmony with the rest of God's wonderful world rather than destroying it through the philosophy of 'permanent growth at all cost'.

Charles Jolly

Green Apostle and on behalf of the JPIC Group

Stop fuelling the fire



Twenty-five young Christians from all over the UK – including a representative of **URC Youth** – have launched a campaign for climate justice through Christian Aid’s **Prophetic Activists** scheme.

Called **Stop Fuelling the Fire**, the campaign asks the government to end the use of UK Export Finance to fund fossil fuel extraction overseas. UK Government funding for fossil fuel projects has increased in recent years - something the activists believe to be hypocritical for a nation which claims to champion sustainability.

Activist **Hannah Abban** says, “Our motivation behind the campaign is the firm belief that our faith calls us to action. Truly loving one another as commanded by Christ means tackling the complicated effects of climate change and the inequalities it is creating head on.”

If you wish, you can show your support for the campaign by signing the petition at:
<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/SFTE>

Legacies of Slavery

From ‘Not Racist’ to ‘Anti Racist’

Two open Zoom sessions led by Peter Cruchley



Global Partnerships and Justice

Thursday 3 September, 11.00am – 12.00midday
Being White in a World where Black Lives Matter

Thursday 10 September, 11.00am – 12.00midday
Legacies of Slavery in the URC

Global and Intercultural Ministries offer two one-hour sessions, building on the recent theme of '**Do Black Lives Matter in the URC?**' Both sessions will take place on Zoom, with the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/7973909056?pwd=QU5PSGZsVXVkb1dMSkwxdFdlVmNVQT09>

The **Revd Dr Peter Cruchley** leads both sessions, incorporating small group discussions and reflection, plus time for feed-back and questions. Both dates are open to anyone who would like to attend. This constitutes very short notice for the first date but the sessions are stand-alone: you are welcome to join for one or both.

Peter Cruchley is a URC minister, currently working as a **Mission Secretary** with the Council for World Mission (CWM). He has particular responsibility for Mission Development and, since 2017, has overseen the development and implementing of CWM's **Legacies of Slavery** project.

For further information, please contact Veronica Daniel on veronica.daniel@urc.org.uk.

Around the East Midlands

Significant anniversaries

We send our congratulations to one of our retired ministers and to one of our East Midlands churches, as they each celebrate a major milestone.

The **Revd Reginald Rooke** sends word of a remarkable anniversary:

You may like to know that Thursday last marked the 70th anniversary of the day when I conducted my first Service, namely 27th August 1950 at Trinity Congregational Church, Poplar. I still have the Order of Service and sermon notes to prove it. Although normally I don't have the physical strength to lead worship these days, I had earmarked [last Sunday] to do so at Eastgate Church, Bourne, but the virus prevented me.

Among other events on Thursday, a special Church Meeting was held at the church, at which it was decided to hold a trial Service on 20th September, to be led by one of our members. A midweek Church Meeting will be held in November.

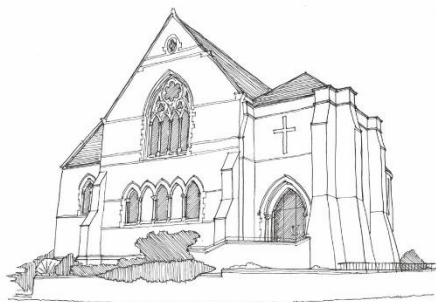
With every good wish to you all,

Reginald Rooke



Revd Rooke (above) also celebrated his 90th birthday in March this year.

Worshipping in this place for 150 years



1870 - 2020

St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC

Meanwhile, this coming Sunday (6 September 2020) **St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC** in Nottingham marks the 150th anniversary of its buildings, opened in 1870 as St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Although most of the planned celebrations are now deferred until 2021, the anniversary will still be marked by a special recorded service conducted by the church's Minister the **Revd Chris Ford**, with our Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** preaching the sermon. The anniversary service will be available at 11am on the church's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzIVuJnykyPfZPuNWzrUYIA>

URC minister walks 88 miles in 88th year for the Mead Project

We also send congratulations to the **Revd John Reardon**, a member of Newport Pagnell URC as well as a former URC Deputy General Secretary. To raise money toward the completion of the **Mead Centre**, John set himself the goal of walking 88 miles in one month of his 88th year, raising more than **£2,700** in the process.



The national URC website has the full story:

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3540-urc-minister-walks-88-miles-in-88th-year-for-church-building-project.html>

Welcoming children and young people back to worship

The **Revd Jenny Mills** shares this suggestion from **Newport Pagnell URC** for making young friends feel included and welcomed on return to gathered worship, all in a suitably Covid-secure manner:

We have a small number of children and young people in our Sunday morning congregation and we put together a bag for each of them with their name on it as we reopened the Church for Sunday worship. The contents include an age-appropriate Bible, pen, crayons, notebook and playdough. This is their 'church' bag (now that they cannot share toys or resources). They were delighted with the bag and the parents loved the gift of a Bible: it had a front inscription about being presented by the Church in lockdown 2020, as a keepsake. It means they can bring their own bag to church each week and fill it with their stuff. But it also says **welcome back!**

Personal news

It is with deep regret that we share the news of two deaths last month in the East Midlands Synod:

Rev David Charles Macara Gardner (known as David) passed away on Saturday 1 August 2020. David ministered in Warrington 1961 – 1967; Greenwich 1967 – 1973; Birkenhead 1973 – 1984; and St Stephen's, Leicester 1984 – 1995. Following his retirement he remained a member at St Stephen's. His funeral was held at Great Glen Crematorium. Please remember his wife Ann and their family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Revd Dr Sidney Bindemann passed away on Saturday 8 August. Sidney was a member of the Salvation Army in Peterborough and attended Sunday school at Westgate (Congregational), Peterborough prior to his ordination training at the Scottish Congregational College. He served at School Wynd, Paisley 1959 – 1964; Roath Park, Cardiff 1966 – 1969; and Broomhill Trinity, Glasgow 1983 – 1999. His funeral was held at Star Lane URC where he had been a member for many years following his retirement. Please remember his family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

We have also been notified by **Southern Synod** of two further deaths:

Revd Derek Nuttall passed away on Wednesday 24 June. Derek served at Falkirk 1965 – 1967; Aberfan 1967 – 1974; CRUSE 1974 – 1990; and Windsor 1990 – 2003. He retired in the Central Sussex United Area. Please remember Derek's wife Doreen and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Revd Ron Smith passed away on Sunday 12 July following a recent decline in health. Ron was Assistant Minister at Brightelm from 1978 to 1990. He celebrated his hundredth birthday last December. Please remember Ron's son Brian and his wife Jenny in your thoughts and prayers.

A message from Hope Nottingham

Tony Richmond of the food bank [Hope Nottingham](https://www.hopenottingham.org.uk) asks us to share the following message:



After months of being Church in our communities in very different ways many are now looking at how we move forward over the coming weeks and months.

A few churches have been in touch asking how they may be able to help with food banks through the **Harvest** period. Since March, the food bank system has worked in very different ways as the opportunities for people to donate food have been restricted; most of the food banks have had to curtail opening and deliveries have been the norm.

We would like to see things change over the next weeks and months with donations of food returning to the previous patterns and food parcels being given in response to vouchers issued by referral agencies for those in immediate financial need. Many of the food donation points have been in churches and we are encouraging their resumption where it is practical and safe and maybe to encourage others to introduce if possible. Food can then be delivered into the food banks' sites when they are open. We can provide details and, where delivery is not possible, arrange collection.

Harvest Festivals could be an opportunity to share these ideas and we are planning to produce a short video on the theme which we will be happy to share with you to use. We can also, if appropriate, look to provide a speaker to speak about the needs and the reasons to respond.

'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and unite the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.'

Isaiah 58: 6-8 (NIV)

To contact **Hope Nottingham**, email hope@hopenottingham.org.uk or tony.richmond@hopenottingham.org.uk.

East Midlands Synod contacts

The **Revd Camilla Veitch**, Derbyshire Pastoral Consultant and Minister at West Derbyshire URC, has changed her email address with immediate effect. The new email address is: revcamillaveitch@gmail.com.

As above, the **East Midlands Synod Office** will reopen from 14 September, with members of staff attending in two “bubbles” on alternate weeks. Until that date all staff continue to work at home: please email them in the usual way. The usual office number **0115 960 9241** remains in operation from Monday to Thursday, 9.00am-3.00pm.

Find us online



The [East Midlands Synod website](https://www.urch5.org.uk/) remains the one-stop shop for all essential information: <https://www.urch5.org.uk/>



Our [East Midlands Synod Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/URC-East-Midlands-Synod-102279281444717/) continues to host the Evening Prayers led by our Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** during the health crisis. If you are a Facebook user, please consider **Liking** and **Sharing** this Page and its posts: <https://www.facebook.com/URC-East-Midlands-Synod-102279281444717/>

Similarly the [Synod Youth and Children's Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/) shares news and ideas related to our work with young people: <https://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/>



YouTube

These have recently been joined by a dedicated [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGeZU5SgN95g), where the synod will share special events, training videos, worship and more. Please subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGeZU5SgN95g>

This E-letter is produced on behalf of:

The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA.
Telephone: 0115 960 9241

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Next edition: Thursday 17 September 2020

Please send all material for this E-Letter to both: modpa@urch5.org.uk and training@urch5.org.uk

Copy date for next edition: 12 noon on Tuesday 15 September 2020