

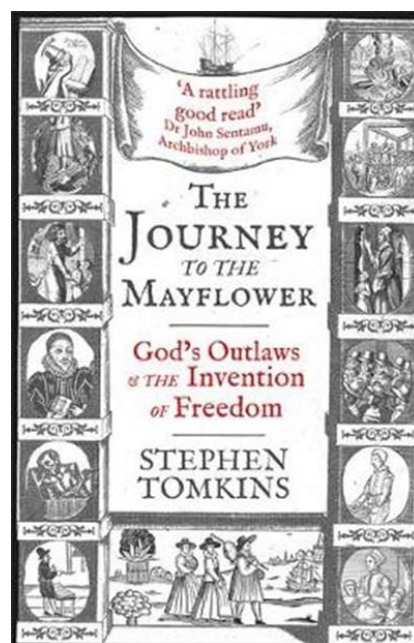
### Opening Reflection by the Revd Geoffrey Clarke

Moderator of the East Midlands Synod

*Twenty one people were arrested, fifteen men and six women ... They were interviewed ... but kept no record of the conversation. Then they were jailed, separated out around the various prisons ... punished, as they put it, 'for reading a portion of scripture on the Lord's day in a friend's house'.*

Where and when, you may wonder, did this take place? As a first response it would be a fair answer to say that it might be in a large number of places and within a wide range of dates. What may surprise you is to learn that it was in London in 1587.

This snippet is taken from **The Journey to the Mayflower** by **Stephen Tomkins** (editor of *Reform*). The book is subtitled, **God's Outlaws and the Invention of Freedom**, published to coincide with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*, the ship that took the pilgrim families to the New World. It is a compelling account of the struggles of our Separatist and Puritan forebears and begins with Queen Mary's attempts to "burn Protestantism out of England and the resulting creation of a Protestant underground". Mary's persecution of those who refused to conform to Roman Catholicism is infamous – such that her name is so often prefaced with "Bloody". I suspect that her step-sister's programme of persecution is less well-known as she has the "advantage" of being a Protestant monarch. Stephen Tomkins gives us an uncomfortable glance at some of the persecution wrought in Elizabeth's name – not only against Roman Catholics but Protestants who refused to fit within the confines of state-church definitions for governance, worship and creed. And that is what the quotation above illustrates. The "crime" of those arrested and imprisoned was their resistance to do as they were told by state-sanctioned religion.



Just imagine, if you can, getting into trouble with the law "for reading a portion of the scripture ... in a friend's house"! Such was the experience of our forebears during the reign of Elizabeth. And what makes it all the more curious is that whilst Mary was explicit in her commendation of her faith and creed, Elizabeth was inconsistent in the extent to which she wanted to enforce hers. When the presbyterian MP **Anthony Cope** sought to bring a bill to Parliament which would have abolished all existing religious legislation and all church institutions, and replaced the Elizabethan Prayer Book with a revised version of the Genevan Prayer Book that included a presbyterian church order, Elizabeth's response was to tell Parliament, 'you ought not to deal with matters of religion'.

Given constrictions on religious freedom of expression – and, indeed, any human freedom of expression – among the choices are to accept and conform to such dictates, challenge and defy them or find somewhere

to sustain them. Those who eventually set sail on the *Mayflower* took that latter option – in pursuit of a New World in which they were free to express and practise their faith as they saw fit. Centuries later the same choices and challenges face us. On the one hand we do well to treasure gratitude for being able to worship and believe outside the parameters of state-dictated forms of prayer and creed. As the **Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of The United Reformed Church** reminds us:

***We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state.  
In the things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state,  
but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head.  
Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind.  
And to respect the rights of conscience and belief.***

The consequence and challenge of such an affirmation is that, in turn, we ought to be those who embody a willingness to respect those who reach different conclusions to our own, articulating creeds and stances with which we may well disagree, and who set sail on boats in the quest of a hitherto unknown freedom. And from my own experience the local church and its immediate faith communities provide the setting within which to test our convictions.



*The Journey to the Mayflower* by Stephen Tomkins is available from the [URC shop](https://urcshop.co.uk/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=352):  
[https://urcshop.co.uk/index.php?route=product/product&product\\_id=352](https://urcshop.co.uk/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=352)

## Join us on YouTube



We rejoice in the Induction of the **Revd Martin Ferris** as Minister of the **South and East Leicestershire Area**. Martin's Induction Service, socially distanced but no less joyous for that, took place at **Abbots Road URC**, Leicester on Saturday 5 September with our Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** presiding. You can watch the Service on our **YouTube channel**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDkjek60zW4>



The expertise of **AJ Mills** – aka [The Soundest Guy](#) - made it possible to combine recorded and live contributions in the Induction Service. AJ's 15-minute **how-to video** demonstrating how to start simple livestreaming from a smartphone using **Facebook Live** is also hosted on the Synod's YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsAk\\_rydQ8&t=13s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsAk_rydQ8&t=13s)



The channel also hosts many editions of the **Evening Prayers**, led nightly during the pandemic by the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** and others on our [Facebook Page](#). Sharing these on YouTube allows those who do not have Facebook accounts to participate by watching back later. You can find the latest videos at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUjKn8XOGeZU5SgN95g>

## Lincolnshire Remembers – Covid, Grief and Hope



**An online service of Remembrance  
Sunday 20 September 2020 at 7.00pm**



An online church service this Sunday, entitled **Lincolnshire Remembers - Covid, Grief and Hope**, will recognise the many ways in which the virus has taken a human toll. People across Lincolnshire are invited to take part – regardless of belief – to remember the human impact of Covid-19 and to look to the future with a sense of hope. Attenders are invited to light a candle in a window on the Sunday evening of the gathering as a communal way of remembering both our loss and our hope.

Local church leaders believe that how we remember and shape memories is so important for individuals and the community and hope the online service may assist with this. During the service there will be people available to talk with anyone through the online platform.

While there is loss to remember the service will also look to the future, seeing hope in the journey ahead for the county and for every town and nation. The service will recognise those whose support through the pandemic has been a source of inspiration and hope. There will be participation from emergency workers and others who have worked throughout the pandemic to help others.

The service is organised by **Churches Together in All Lincolnshire** and includes a talk from our Synod Moderator, the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke**. It can be accessed via <https://live.alivechurch.org.uk/>.

For further details please see: <http://www.ctal.org.uk/remember.html>

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The online service Lincolnshire Remembers will incorporate the hymn **In glad and sad remembrance**, written by the **Revd Michael Forster**, retired URC minister, author and a member of Loughborough URC.

Michael originally wrote the hymn, designed for a multicultural congregation, in 2004 for an annual hospital memorial service. It is sung to the melody of **Jupiter** from Holst's *Planets Suite* ('I vow to thee my country').

In glad and sad remembrance we gather to recall  
the lives, in all their fullness that made and changed us all:  
the hopes and disappointments, the sorrow and the joy,  
the laughter-laden mem'ries that death could not destroy  
the love that touched and held us, the faith that set us free,  
the hope that still inspires us to be what we might be;

We join in recognising the common need we share  
to value and be valued, receive and offer care;  
to sing for joy and sorrow, to celebrate and grieve,  
to nurture and be nurtured, to give and to receive.  
So hope perfects within us her holy human sign,  
to each in each revealing the face of love divine

Let this be our commitment to those we honour here:  
a vision of creation set free from pain and fear;  
we bear the gifts they gave us beyond this time and space,  
so every chance encounter becomes a work of grace:  
from eye to eye, from hand to hand, from soul to searching soul,  
love dances through our griefs and joys to make creation whole.

**Michael Forster**

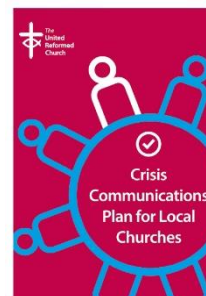
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## Crisis Communications: the latest free URC guide

The latest in the URC Communication Team's [series of accessible, downloadable information guides](#) is a **Crisis Communications Plan for Local Churches**.

A little bit of preparation can go a long way in ensuring everything goes more smoothly at your church when disaster strikes. This guide aims to help churches do just that. The guide is available at:

[https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/docs/Crisis\\_comms\\_plan\\_for\\_Local\\_Churches.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/docs/Crisis_comms_plan_for_Local_Churches.pdf)



# Practical Guidance for Churches

## Where do the latest government guidelines leave places of worship?

Following the modification of rules for social gatherings that came into force on Monday 14 September, the URC has issued the following statement:

There is some confusion as to which aspects of Church life are impacted by the new 'rule of six' within England. It is clear that voluntary and charitable organisations are exempt. This means that **meetings and activities of church life too are exempt** from this **as long as** they take place in a COVID Secure building with appropriate social distancing. So not only may **worship** continue, but also the various meetings of church life that help keep our work going, including **Elders' and Church Meetings**.

Many churches may find that the requirements of a COVID secure building and the desire of people to be cautious mean that church meetings might best continue virtually. [Click on this link to the government guidance on meeting together safely](#). You will notice that many of the activities that might normally take place in our buildings, in terms of groups we let space to, are also exempt and therefore lettings to such groups can continue where the building is COVID Secure and their activity compliant with relevant legislation and guidance.

All the latest advice from the URC is shared on its dedicated web page: <https://urc.org.uk/coronavirus.html>



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## Reopening church buildings

The East Midlands Synod is maintaining a **list of churches** who have reopened their buildings for gathered worship. This is available on its website [www.urc5.org.uk](http://www.urc5.org.uk) and regularly updated.

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 by emailing [property@urc5.org.uk](mailto:property@urc5.org.uk), specifying the planned date of reopening.

The document [Models for Transition from Lockdown](#) shares some of the possibilities that churches have explored in lockdown and the ways in which they are now adapting their practice as they return to their buildings. It is available on the Synod website:

<https://www.urc5.org.uk/content/transition-lockdown>.

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## Properties insured by Ansvar – an updated statement

Following the information in our last E-letter, **Edwards Insurance Brokers** has now issued a further statement updating its advice regarding properties insured by Ansvar.



In the light of emerging Government Regulation in connection with the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic we have agreed further guidance in connection with your insurer, Ansvar. This Guidance is effective from the 1 September 2020.

The Guidance relates to properties which have been temporarily closed due to the Covid-19 Regulations and there is the expectation that normal activities will resume once restrictions allow. In the case of permanent or long-term closure unrelated to the pandemic please email your usual contact or [enquiries@edwardsinsurance.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@edwardsinsurance.co.uk) with details of the changes.

In addition to this policy guidance we also strongly believe that it is in your long-term interest to have at least a weekly inspection of the property insured. The inspection alone however does not constitute occupancy in terms of the insurers requirements.

### **When is a property considered occupied?**

#### CHURCH

The Church should be occupied as outlined below, at least once every 30 days:

- A regular monthly Service being held
- Where a Service is not held, if there is occupancy during the 30 days for Church activities which can include:
  - o Administration work
  - o Open for prayer
  - o Running on-line services from the Church
  - o Preparing the Church for re-opening
  - o Cleaning, repairs or remedial work

#### CHARITY

The Charity premises should be occupied as outlined below, at least once every 30 days:

- The property is occupied for the activities of the Charity
- Where normal activities are not being undertaken, if there is occupancy for at least one full working day during the 30 days, for activities which can include:
  - o Administration work
  - o Preparing the Charity for re-opening
  - o Cleaning, repairs or remedial work

For any query regarding what constitutes occupancy and un-occupancy, and how your insurance may be affected, please email [enquiries@edwardsinsurance.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@edwardsinsurance.co.uk).

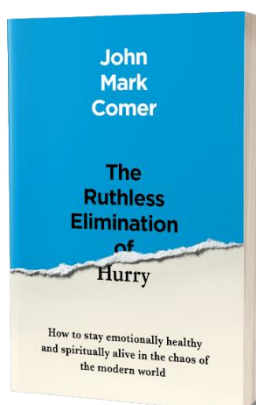
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## The Big Church Read



You may have heard of [The Big Church Read](#), a new initiative of St Andrews Bookshop & Hodder Faith to engage Christians in reading Christian literature. The concept is that the whole church in the UK reads the same book at the same time, in order to:

- help with spiritual formation and discipleship
- help people grow in their faith by encouraging regular reading
- offer shared experience and community enhancement
- bring people together when we cannot be together in person



For the first-ever National Big Church Read, the chosen title is the best-selling **The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry** by **John Mark Comer**. For six weeks from 21 September, a fresh video will be released on the website in which John Mark Comer introduces a section of the book, which groups may then read and discuss. (There is no obligation to begin on that date.) For details see:

<https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>.

The Big Church Read website offers the book for sale at **£9.99** (a £5 discount on the cover price) and will post it out by return:

<https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/product/the-ruthless-elimination-of-hurry/>. Both [Kindle](#) and audio versions are available for a lesser price; it may also be possible to request a free review copy by emailing

[steve@standrewsbookshop.co.uk](mailto:steve@standrewsbookshop.co.uk).

In the East Midlands Synod, Moderator **Geoffrey Clarke** has formed an online group to read the book, which you are warmly invited to join. This group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on 22 and 29 September, 6 and 13 October and 3 and 10 November. If you would like the **Zoom** link for this group, please email **Hannah Willey**: [modpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:modpa@urc5.org.uk). You may prefer to form your own group and use your own choice of dates. Either way, it is hoped that this may prove an energising and helpful opportunity.

## 2021 Prayer Handbook now available

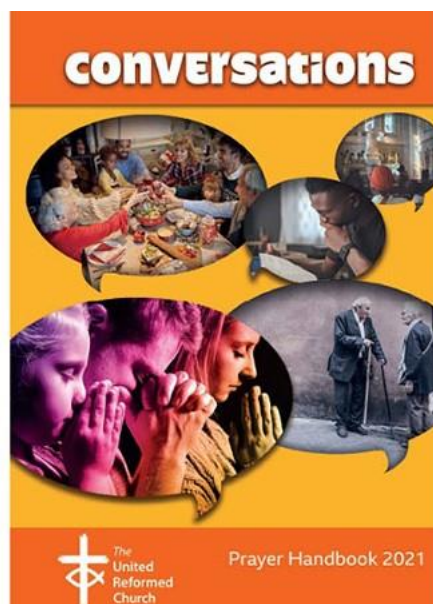
The URC's **2021 Prayer Handbook** is now available from the [URC Bookshop](#), entitled **Conversations**.

Editors **Karen Campbell**, the URC's Secretary for Global & Intercultural Ministries, and **Ian Fosten**, a retired URC Minister and book reviews editor for Reform magazine, explain their approach:

“Someone was once described as, ‘only ever on broadcast, never on receive’. That expression might describe how we often experience prayer. Prayers - particularly in church services - are spoken, offered, ‘broadcast’, often without a response being sought (or expected!).

“We are certain, however, that prayer is meant to be rather more interactive than this – ‘conversational’, you might say; us speaking with God, God speaking with us. ... That relationship, like any other, is discovered and deepened when it is enriched through honest giving and receiving, speaking and listening.

“In seeking prayers for this book, we were keen to find pieces that reflected the writers’ conversational encounters with God – sometimes using familiar style and language, at other times speaking less conventionally and more adventurously - always speaking from the heart.”



For more details, visit <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3589-now-available-the-2021-urc-prayer-handbook-conversations.html>.

The Prayer handbook can be purchased from the URC Bookshop: [www.urcshop.co.uk](http://www.urcshop.co.uk).

## Peacemaking: a Christian vocation

**They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war any more.**

Isaiah 2.4

The words of the prophet ring out from over 2,500 years ago and yet so many people in our world continue to ‘learn war’. Although peace-making lies at the heart of the biblical story and remains a central Christian vocation, conflict seems to continue unabated and our search for peace is as urgent as ever. Each Sunday in our churches we will pray for peace, remembering those parts of the world where lives and homes and communities are destroyed, where people are forced to flee; remembering the millions living in refugee camps or making long and desperate journeys across land and sea to find safety and hope. As we pray for peace, how often do we ask ourselves what more we can do to create the sort of world to which Isaiah refers, God’s world, a world of justice and peace?

**Monday 21 September** marks the United Nations **International Day of Peace**, providing us all with the chance on that day and the Sunday before to consider how we might work for peace. Established in 1981 by unanimous UN resolution, **Peace Day** provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all difference and to contribute to building a culture of Peace. The theme this year is “**Shaping Peace Together**” by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are encouraged to play our part in this global movement.

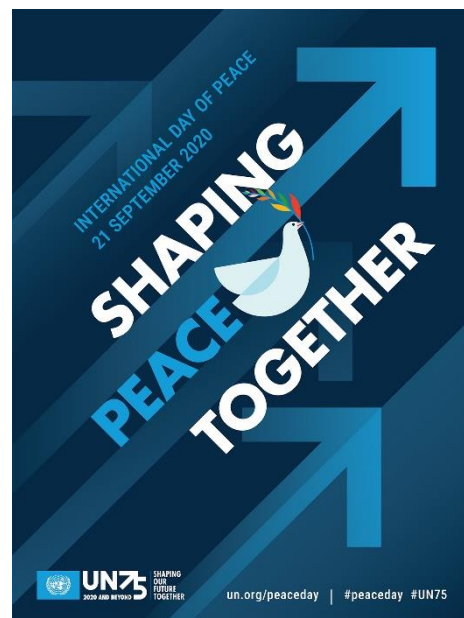


There are many ways in which we can be peacemakers, both individually and as churches. We may already be involved in significant campaigns, working with refugees or campaigning against drone warfare or Trident. We may be involved in organisations working for Peace, like the **Fellowship of Reconciliation** ([www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk)) to which the URC's Peace Fellowship is now affiliated, or the **Community of the Cross of Nails** ([www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/)), or **Safer World** ([www.saferworld.org.uk](http://www.saferworld.org.uk)), all of which are working to bring about peace and reconciliation often in the most dangerous places across the world, or we may consult the **Joint Public Issues Team's** website ([www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)) with its resources and articles on Peace and Justice.

A challenge for us on Peace Day is to consider once again how we can be involved in the task of working for God's kingdom both globally and more locally. This year the **Fellowship of Reconciliation** encourages churches to look at the community around us, to see the fractures and challenges Covid-19 has brought and to consider both as a Church and as individuals what it means to be a peacemaker today. We can do anything that makes the world a better place; as peacemakers, we can "be the change" and help create Peace Day every day.

## Graham Ghaleb

East Midlands Synod **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation** (JPIC) Working Group



## Creation Time continues

We are now well into **Creation Time**, or the **Season of Creation**, which is also the time of Harvest Festivals. Whether you have recommenced 'live' services or are still using Zoom or streaming services or keeping in touch by other means, I am sure that you will find the materials produced by the **Arthur Rank Centre** thought-provoking and helpful. Follow this link:

<https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/resources/harvest-2020-materials/>



For obvious reasons food received more attention during lockdown, with people cooking more and wasting less. Farmers have been recognised as key workers and the Arthur Rank Centre **Harvest Campaign** includes a poster that says '[Thank you to Farmers](#)'. If you can distribute them, people might like to display the poster in their windows.

We should also always be mindful of the farmers producing much of our food and drinks in poor countries for whom life can be a continual struggle. Maybe we can include a celebration of Traidcraft and Fairtrade.

The URC has produced some excellent harvest materials which link to the Arthur Rank Centre materials. You can find them here:

[https://urc.org.uk/images/WalkingtheWay/documents/WtWHarvest20\\_180820\\_1506.pdf](https://urc.org.uk/images/WalkingtheWay/documents/WtWHarvest20_180820_1506.pdf)

Urban and rural churches and the communities they serve have faced and still face huge adjustments because of Covid-19. So maybe harvest is a good time to think about the particular challenges for rural congregations.

Celebrating the bounty of a loving Creator and praising God remain central to the Good News even as churches seek to respond in love to people who have been affected and are being affected by the pandemic.

**Charles Jolly**

Green Apostle, for the East Midlands Synod **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation** (JPIC) Working Group

## Ministry Enquirers' Day

**What does the Lord require of  
YOU?**



As mentioned in the last edition, a **Ministry Enquirers' Day** will be held via **Zoom** on this occasion on **Saturday 3 October** 2020 from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Please share this opportunity with anyone who may be thinking about God's call to Lay Preaching, the ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work.

For full details, contact **Farrah Falomi-Carrer** at [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk).

## News from Walking the Way



There is always hope, even in lockdown. That is the theme of the Autumn 2020 newsletter from **Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today**, the URC's focus on whole-of-life discipleship.

**Walking the Way** continues to share good news stories of how churches have found ways to uphold their work and worship during the pandemic. The newsletter also shares new resources for [Harvest 2020](#) and ways of [Building Disciples Online](#). View it at:

<https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXJW-27A275883775DB989YIGU3BBFF4EDC942239D5/cr.aspx>

## Around the East Midlands

### Saffron United Reformed Church

We send our congratulations to another of our East Midlands Synod churches to mark a significant anniversary this month. Its Secretary **Sandra Clay** sends the following tidings:



**Saffron Lane United Reformed Church, Leicester** is celebrating 90 years on Sunday 27 September 2020. We are a dedicated, friendly congregation offering support to our local community.

We are disappointed that our planned service of thanksgiving can't go ahead on the actual day, but it has been rescheduled for Sunday 24 January 2021, when our Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** will be presiding.

Please keep our church family in your prayers as we look forward to a future of worship and serving.

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### Who owns what?

#### A salutary story from Derby Central

We are grateful to **Cathy Gould** for sharing this article:

**Central URC** in Derby finds itself in the middle of a redevelopment of Duckworth Square, an area which has been almost derelict for many, many years. Derby folks had been promised various exciting changes including an ice rink, which never materialised! A year ago, SJS developers had their plans accepted by the City Council and rather than be compulsorily purchased, we decided to work with them to find a new place for a church. Not as easy as it sounds. The plans offered meant we would end up with a church not even big enough to house the present organisations, let alone make plans for the future.

And therefore... we have almost finished a redesign of a 30-year-old office block, 200 yards from the present building. Amongst the many challenges this presented there was one in particular: what to do with our wonderful furniture, stained glass windows and war memorials, all of which came from several previous church buildings in Derby.

Conversation a year ago with **Robert White**, the then Synod Property Officer, set us off on a long and in the end fruitless search for a means to find new homes and remove these treasures safely. Despite their history, it became impossible to persuade anyone to take our windows.

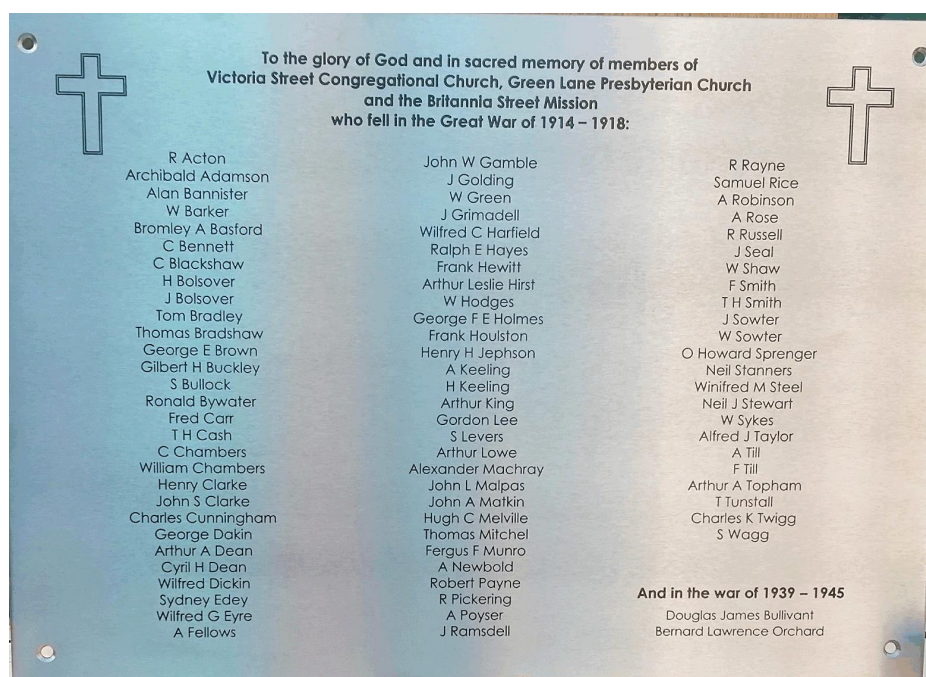
My husband made contact with the War Memorials Trust and the Museum of Derby to hand over our war memorials but neither was interested. Eventually we decided it was very important to preserve the names

on the memorials and we commissioned our own new stainless-steel memorial which is in keeping with our new church. This will be registered with the Imperial War Museum and be available for anyone to see as soon as we move in early September.

However, this is a timely warning to all of you. Check out with the synod before you embark on any journey like this. If you are going to sell your goods, make sure you have the right plans in place. Ownership may be complicated; is it property of the church itself or the synod? Can you make sure they will not simply be destroyed?

All's well that ends well. Our goods went under the hammer with Charles Hanson at the end of August; eBay has been very busy; the local YMCA can make use of our surplus electrical items and we await the collection of our 30 organ pipes.

**Cathy Gould,**  
Central URC Derby.



*The new war memorial, made from brushed stainless steel*

## Cancellation of Youth Assembly 2021

The United Reformed Church (URC) Youth has announced the cancellation of its **2021 Youth Assembly** due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking on behalf of URC Youth Executive, **Reuben Watt**, URC Youth Assembly Moderator, said it was a "difficult decision to make":

"It certainly wasn't taken lightly. Youth Assembly means just as much to us as the Youth Executive as it does to the URC's young members."

New plans are being made for the weekend that Youth Assembly would have taken place, **29-31 January 2021**. The full statement is available at <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3580-urc-youth-assembly-cancelled.html>



## Personal news

### Messages for Jane Henderson

Further to the notification sent out recently that our CYDO **Jane Henderson** has ended her role with East Midlands Synod, if any church/individual wishes to pass on a message to her **Chris Willis** is collating all information and will send any messages etc to Jane at the end of September. Please contact Chris on [admin@urc5.org.uk](mailto:admin@urc5.org.uk) with any details.

It is with deep regret that we share news of the deaths of the following retired ministers:

The **Revd Tony Cottam** died on Monday 31 August in Guisborough, where he had been living in retirement. He was ordained in 1988 and served from 1988-2000 in the Stockport/South East Manchester District.

The **Revd Vivian Buddle** died on Wednesday 9 September. Vivian served Long Ashton 1953-57; Perivale Park, Ealing 1957-60; Christ Church, Enfield 1960-65; Religious Education 1965-77; Stanstead Group 1976-77; and Homerton College, Cambridge 1979-89.

The **Revd Ken Newborough** died on Thursday 10 September, having received palliative care at home for several weeks. Ken served Olton & Hall Green 1991 – 99; St Columba's, Coventry and Keresley 1999 - 2002.

The **Revd Graham Long**, a retired minister in Wessex Synod, died on Saturday 12 September. Graham served at Ash & Sandwich 1962-70; Victoria Street, St Helier & St Saviours Guernsey 1970-83; Camberley 1983-94; and Rugby, Newton & Brinklow 1994-2002.

We give thanks for the service of these ministers and hold family members in prayer at this sad time. Funeral arrangements were not known at time of publication.

## Christians on Ageing: a new series of conference calls

[Christians on Ageing](#) is extending an open invitation to three Zoom discussions on important issues highlighted by the experience of the Churches over the last six months:



### Recruitment and support of volunteers in church activities (with older people)

Tuesday 22 September 2020 (10.00-11.30am)

The national effort to offer support within communities and to individuals has highlighted the work of volunteers, of every age and walk of life. This discussion will focus on the needs of volunteering within the



Churches. It will be chaired by the **Revd Dr Joseph Cortis**, Co-ordinator of Caritas, Diocese of Leeds, who is a member of the Christians on Ageing Executive Committee.

## Care Home Update

Tuesday 20 October 2020 (10.30am-12.00noon)

As care homes relax some of the visiting restrictions imposed during lockdown, are relatives, friends, ministers and pastoral visitors able to see residents as much as they can reasonably expect? Are homes willing to be more flexible on allowing the visiting of people with dementia who would be distressed by the absence of visitors, as government has advised? What lessons from handling visiting during the March lockdown can we learn for future lockdowns? This Conference Call will be chaired by Christians on Ageing Executive Committee member and author of *How to Handle Later Life*, **Marion Shoard**.

## Supporting family carers and friends of people with dementia

Tuesday 17 November 2020 (10.30am-12.00noon)

The effects of the pandemic within society have been many and serious and areas of life often hidden from view have been exposed to the light of day - and fresh scrutiny. The way in which those supporting people with dementia have themselves been shown to have needs for support has been a significant development in how we understand a growing phenomenon. The discussion will be chaired by **Julia Burton-Jones** of the Diocese of Rochester with a commentary from **Dr Albert Jewell**, a member of the Executive Committee.

Participation is not confined to members of **Christians on Ageing** but it is hoped that non-members may consider joining and supporting its work. The number of participants for each session is limited to 12, including the chair, and those taking part will be invited to offer their own experience and reflections. To register your interest, please email your name (along with any useful information such as your church and locality) to: [discussion@coa.org.uk](mailto:discussion@coa.org.uk).

## Find us online



The [East Midlands Synod website](https://www.unc5.org.uk/) remains the one-stop shop for all essential information:  
<https://www.unc5.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** and others as the health crisis continues. 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/>



These have recently been joined by a dedicated [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGGeZU5SgN95g), where the Synod will share special events, training videos, worship and more. Evening Prayers are now available here subsequently. Please subscribe:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGGeZU5SgN95g>

# East Midlands Synod Office

The **East Midlands Synod Office** has reopened this week, with members of staff attending in two “bubbles” on alternate weeks. The office number **0115 960 9241** is answered from Monday to Thursday, 9.00am-3.00pm. All staff continue to work at home when not in the office: please email them in the usual way.

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This E-letter is produced on behalf of:

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

***Next edition: Thursday 1 October 2020***

Please send all material for this E-Letter to both: [modpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:modpa@urc5.org.uk) and [training@urc5.org.uk](mailto:training@urc5.org.uk)

Copy date for next edition: 12 noon on Tuesday 29 September 2020