

Opening Reflection by Charles Jolly

Green Apostle



Jesus' parable of the separation of the caring sheep from the uncaring goats, or Ezekiel's prophecy of the dismal fate for the fat prosperous sheep who had neglected the thin hungry ones, remind us of how much our actions matter. Not, of course, to earn 'Brownie points' for Heaven but to help welcome God's Kingdom now. The more we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and try to care practically for needy people and for God's suffering Earth, the more our hearts and even emotions will follow suit.

I picture ancient Palestine with lepers, desolate widows, disabled or blind beggars, dodgy tax-collectors, convicts and day labourers hoping against hope for work. These were the individuals for whom Jesus had time and who will be 'compelled' to enter the Kingdom. If you had hard-heartedly ignored their needs and God's justice all your life, then you would not find God's Kingdom on Earth nor in Heaven, nor Jesus Himself particularly attractive.

But here is the problem. There are still far too many people in the UK urgently needing support and justice (and indeed churches have done sterling work distributing food and comfort during the pandemic) but we seldom see those in greatest distress on our streets today. We seldom meet with the exploited and trafficked; it is even easier to forget the millions in far countries suffering from climate chaos and environmental degradation or slaving to produce cheap food, clothes and electronics for us. How do we respond to their individual need for justice and avoid becoming by default hard-hearted fat sheep?

That is not a rhetorical question, because we are 'hard-wired' to interact as individuals or smallish groups and so caring for individuals has always been the strength of the Church (although even Jesus had to preach to large crowds or to weep over the whole of Jerusalem).

In **JPIC** (the Synod's working group for **Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation**), we remember that transforming unjust structures of society, pursuing peace and reconciliation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth are crucial aspects of Christian mission. These are not abstract concepts. The purpose is to help down-trodden individuals, support exploited communities, enable the destitute to work their way out of poverty and to care for all species. Commitment for Life and TEARFUND help us focus our prayers down to countries, regions, communities and individuals.

This is why we are seeking to build a network of **Advocates** and **Green Apostles** across the Synod and **Graham Ghaleb, Tom Veitch** or I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested.

Charles Jolly

Retiring Green Apostle and Commitment for Life Advocate.

To find out more about JPIC or becoming an Advocate or Green Apostle, please email: training@urc5.org.uk.

Emerging from the second lockdown

*Our Synod Property Officer **Geoff Milnes** shares the following guidance:*

Now that the national lockdown is coming to an end, it is likely that a number of churches will be wondering whether or not they can re-open. The statement by the Prime Minister on Monday 23 November indicated that Churches in all Tiers will be able to open for worship, but that there will be some constraints depending on which Tier the location falls into when these are announced on Thursday.

The ruling is that those attending worship will have to maintain social distancing and wear masks throughout, there will be no singing, and no mixing of bubbles i.e. no coffee after the service!

Having said that, there is no compulsion on Churches to re-open, and if it is felt safer to stay closed that is quite in order. The health and safety of our members and congregations has to take top priority.

Please keep up to date with the information given out by the Government by regularly accessing [their website](#). This will give details of the do's and don'ts, and much more detailed information, particularly regarding the Tiers that exist, and any changes to them.

If you do decide to open for your usual Sunday worship, **please let me know** so that we can keep people informed. I do not need to see Risk Assessments as these are the responsibility of the Elders but do keep a lookout for information from your insurers about the level of cover they are providing in the current circumstances.

Geoff Milnes

Synod Property Officer

If you are insured by Congregational, please find a link to their updated unoccupancy statement below.

Latest Government guidance on places of worship can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

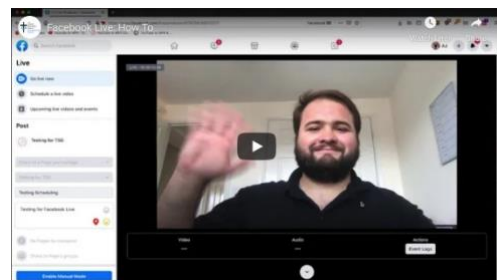
Support with live streaming: videos and drop-in session

Amongst the “Covid keeps” many churches are looking to retain when gathered worship resumes are the **online services** which have allowed many to connect anew with members who cannot easily attend in person – and sometimes with a larger, more diverse group of worshippers than ever before. As restrictions begin to ease, that means many will want to introduce or develop **live streaming** of worship.



On our [YouTube channel](#), the East Midlands Synod has now published a second training video presented by expert AV engineer and gifted communicator **AJ Mills** of [The Soundest Guy](#). This time, AJ delves deeper into the possibilities of live streaming, in a tutorial suitable for anyone who has already experimented with basic streaming and wants to develop it using **Open Broadcaster Software** or upgraded equipment. View it at: <https://youtu.be/7L6bqy9Y1mQ>

For those wanting to take their first steps in live streaming with Facebook Live, AJ’s first video tutorial commissioned by East Midlands Synod is still available in the same place: https://youtu.be/BsAk_rydQ8



Drop-in session with AJ Mills: Thursday 3 December, 3.30-4.30pm

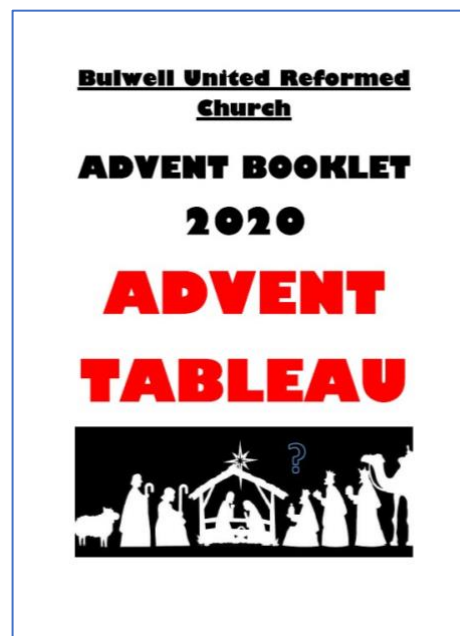
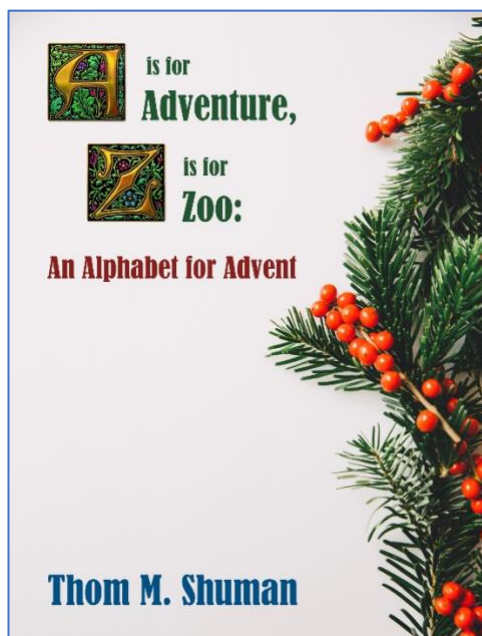
We are delighted to announce that AJ will also be offering a **free drop-in session** on Zoom next Thursday, 3 December at 3.30pm to answer all your questions about live streaming and dispense tips and advice.

This is an excellent opportunity to get expert help, whether you are a streaming novice or a fast-developing online broadcaster. To register for a place, simply email training@urc5.org.uk in advance.

Advent 2020 resources

New resources from East Midlands Synod

We warmly commend a range of new **resources for Advent 2020**, several of them generated within the East Midlands Synod, which are now available at: <http://urc5.org.uk/content/new-resources-advent>



Amongst these you will find:

- **A is for Adventure, Z is for Zoo: An Alphabet for Advent**, a set of 26 wide-ranging reflections by Ohio-based friend of this Synod, the **Revd Thom M. Shuman**, in printable PDF form. Short **videos** of these passages, recited by a variety of readers from around the Synod, will be shared via our [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook Page](#) daily from Advent Sunday until Christmas Eve.
- **Advent Tableau**, a devotional resource from **Bulwell URC** with 24 daily studies based on the discovery method, an opportunity to explore in greater depth the words of familiar carols and Bible readings
- **Four reflections** for use in Advent worship written by **Mark Hodgson** (EMS Lay Preaching Commissioner) including "In these dark days", words for a carol service in lockdown
- An **Advent and Christmas Smorgasbord** of Useful Resources, a compendious listing of events and suggestions drawn together by **Churches Together in Shire and Soke** (Northamptonshire, Peterborough & Rutland)
- **We Need to Talk about Christmas**, a compilation of refreshing ideas to share the meaning of Advent and Christmas in church and community (despite Covid), assembled by the **Yorkshire and Mersey Synods**

Please visit the **Advent 2020** page on the [East Midlands Synod website](http://urc5.org.uk/content/new-resources-advent) to view and download these excellent resources: <http://urc5.org.uk/content/new-resources-advent>

Our sincere gratitude goes to all those who have so generously shared their work in this way.

**Living Stones:
Advent Reflections on John's Prologue by four of the Milton Keynes Presidents**

On each of the Sundays in Advent, one of the **Milton Keynes** Presidents – including our own Synod Moderator – will be sharing a **video meditation** with the Living Stone community in their online worship. Inspired by the URC's **Vision4Life** materials, all four meditations are based on the opening chapter of John's gospel.

We are delighted to be able to share these videos on our [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook Page](#) as they are published week by week:

ADVENT I (Sunday 29 November) – Bishop Alan

'In the beginning was the word.....'

truth perception integrity

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

ADVENT II (Sunday 6 December) – Revd Geoffrey Clarke

'All things came into being through Him....'

seeing through the eyes of the creator

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

ADVENT III (Sunday 13 December) – Revd Helen Cameron

'The light shines

darkness and lost hope

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

ADVENT IV (Sunday 20 December) – Bishop David

'He came to what was His own....'

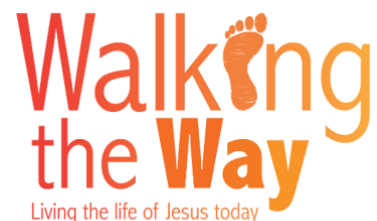
closed minds and hearts

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

Meanwhile, the materials for [Advent 2020](#) published by **Walking the Way** focus on the lectionary Psalms for the season and offer reflections and activities which people can explore in their own households and bubbles.

Download the Advent resources at:

<https://urc.org.uk/images/WalkingtheWay/documents/WtWAdvent20.pdf>



Advent and other materials may also be found on the Walking the Way [webpage](#) and in particular the [resources](#) page. (NB you may need to clear your cache to view the latest versions of materials.)

Glad tidings of great joy



Please share your stories

This is set to be an Advent and Christmas like none in living memory. Whatever restrictions they may be under, churches all over the world are finding ingenious new ways to share the good news of Jesus' birth, both in worship and in their communities.

East Midlands congregations are no exception. The next edition of this newsletter (due for publication on 10 December) is the last of the year – and we'd love to make it a celebration of some of the joyous happenings and innovations across this Synod during the festive season.

We'd be delighted to share (as appropriate):

- **News of how your church is marking Advent or Christmas this year**
- **Invitations to Christmas services online and how to find them**
- **The ways you have reached out to those in need, at home and abroad**
- **Any photographs or artwork that we may have permission to publish**

Please send your stories and pictures to training@urc5.org.uk and modpa@urc5.org.uk.

The URC is also keen to share **stories of hope and joy** at national level and would welcome emails, images and short videos that show how you're getting out the message that your church is still worshipping gladly and working hard. You can:

- **contact the Communications Team by emailing andy.jackson@urc.org.uk**
- **share your story with Walking the Way by emailing wtw@urc.org.uk**
- **tell the [Worship Reference Group](#) about your experiences of digital worship by emailing worship.reference@urc.org.uk**

Children and Youth: an invitation from Bulwell URC

Christmas Movie at Home

Saturday 5 December from 4.00pm



Bulwell URC has generously extended an opportunity to enjoy this production of **The Selfish Giant** by Riding Lights Theatre Company to other primary-aged children in the Synod and their families.

How to book

Website: <https://ridinglights.org/the-selfish-giant-no/watch-at-home/>

Phone: 01904 613000

Where

Your house! Grab your favourite snacks, put on your comfiest clothes and settle down for some Christmas entertainment!

When

Saturday 5 December from 4.00pm

Access will be to a private YouTube link from the booked time and your access will last 7 days. You can watch the film as many times as you like during that time. The show lasts approximately 45 minutes and is suitable for ages 4 and up. Ticketholders will need a working email address to receive information about the booking.



Lay Preachers' & Worship Leaders' meeting

Wednesday 13 January 2021, 7.30-9.00pm

Calling **all** worship leaders and lay preachers in the East Midlands Synod to an exciting new initiative.

We are aiming to gather together via **Zoom** on the evening of **Wednesday 13 January**. The meeting will be led by our Lay Preaching Commissioner **Mark Hodgson**, joined by Synod Moderator the **Revd Geoffrey Clarke** and the Convenor of the Lay Ministry Group the **Revd David Featonby**:

- to get to know each other a little better and

- to explore ways of supporting each other a little better.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 7.30pm and will last about an hour and a half.

We will hold opening and closing devotions. Items for discussion will include: introductions, coping with Covid, national initiatives (Marks of Mission & expectations), lay presidency, recognition/accreditation, specific training needs, whether to continue these discussions (and how!) and any other thoughts you may have.

Please would you email **Derek Graham** on training@urc5.org.uk if you would like to contribute to what we confidently expect to be a motivational start-up meeting.

Mark Hodgson

Lay Preaching Commissioner, East Midlands Synod

Protect the UK's aid budget: please contact your MP

On 20 November, members of the URC's **Mission Council** unanimously passed an emergency resolution objecting to reports that the government is preparing to cut the international aid budget.

It affirmed that Mission Council "believes that a commitment to the poorest in the world should not be an optional extra but at the heart of our country's responsibilities, especially in the context of a global pandemic and a climate emergency."



The Moderators of the General Assembly, the Revd Clare Downing and Mr Peter Pay, have already written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In their letter, they express their "strong concern" that the government may "break its manifesto pledge and abandon Britain's long-standing commitment to spending 0.7% of national income on international development."

Members of URC churches are urged to contact their own MPs about the issue. The full story, including a link to find your local MP's contact details, can be found on the **URC website**: <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3654-church-urges-government-to-protect-aid-budget>

More from Mission Council



Mission Council, the URC's executive body, was convened online last Friday and Saturday, 20-21 November. Other highlights of the meeting included the inductions of **Karen Campbell** as Secretary of Global and Intercultural Ministries and the **Revd Jenny Mills**, former East Midlands Synod minister, as Secretary for Education and Learning.

Towards being an anti-racist Church

Mission Committee unanimously passed a resolution committing the URC to journey towards becoming an anti-racist Church. It noted the difference between being non-racist (which is passive and accepts the status quo) and being anti-racist (which actively challenges racism).

Single use plastics

Mission Council noted with alarm the huge increase in the use of disposable items during the Covid-19 pandemic, especially single-use plastics. It urged churches to keep their use to an absolute minimum and to dispose of them responsibly.

The URC has published a guide to avoiding single use plastics in churches ([click](#) to download):

How to **AVOID SINGLE-USE PLASTICS** during the pandemic

What's the problem?

There has been a huge increase in the use of disposable items during the Covid-19 pandemic, especially single-use plastics, which is having a major environmental impact.

Plastic is a significant contributor to climate change, as it generates greenhouse gas emissions at every stage of its lifecycle.

Plastic waste has an enormously detrimental effect on our rivers, oceans and wildlife. It can choke or smother fish, dolphins, seabirds and seals. No square mile of surface ocean anywhere on earth is free of plastic pollution. It takes hundreds of years to break down, and the effects of microplastics on ecosystems are only just beginning to be understood.

"Covid will eventually go away, plastic waste won't, it's here forever." *Dr Christian Dunn, Bangor University*

Isn't plastic essential to protect us from the virus?

Items made of single-use plastic have undoubtedly been important in the fight against Covid-19, especially for protective equipment for frontline health and care workers.

However, in non-clinical settings, there is no evidence that disposable plastic versions of products such as gloves, facemasks or food and drink packaging give any greater protection against coronavirus than reusable equivalents.

What can we do?

There are a wide range of alternatives to using disposable single-use plastic items – see opposite. To protect health and reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, good hygiene practices and risk management measures also continue to be vital.

"As a body of people committed to caring for God's creation, our intent is to reduce our carbon footprint, improve recycling, minimise waste and improve efficiencies on finite natural resources in all of our operations." *URC Environmental Policy*

Produced by the URC's Environmental Task Group, November 2020

Facemasks: The government recommends reusable face coverings to the general public. Research by consumer group Which? found that well-fitting two- or three-layer fabric masks are just as effective at filtering out bacterial particles as single-use surgical masks. It [recommends](#) **NEQ! Reusable Face Masks**, £15 for three, available from Boots and Ocado, and **Bags of Ethics Great British Designers Face Coverings**, £15 for three, available at John Lewis, Boots, Sainsbury's, Argos and Waitrose.

If half of the UK's population used one disposable mask a day for a year, it would create more than 30,000 tonnes of contaminated plastic waste. *UCL*

Gloves: [According to Which?](#) disposable surgical gloves are not generally needed for the general public: "Gloves are just as likely to become contaminated when out and about, so instead of throwing away a pair of gloves each time you go out, washing your hands or using sanitiser are better options. Wearing gloves may also give the false impression of hand hygiene, while forgetting to change your gloves would be just as bad as forgetting to wash your hands."

Reusable cups, food containers, & shopping bags: In June 2020, [a study by health experts](#) concluded that during the pandemic "reusable systems can be used safely by employing basic hygiene".

Disposable cups and plates: There are various alternatives to plastic cups and tableware, such as compostable plant-based [Vegware](#) [vegware.com](#) and **'I'm a Green Cup' Bio Cups** from [simplyecopackaging.co.uk](#) and other suppliers.

Cleaning: [Current government advice](#) is that there is no need to use additional personal protective equipment, special antibacterial wipes or other disposable products when cleaning in non-healthcare settings during the pandemic. The recommendation is to clean and launder more often, using standard products. Eco-friendly cleaning products in refillable containers are becoming available in many places.



A fuller report of the Mission Council meeting is available at:

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3647-november-2020-mission-council>

Webinar opportunities

Everyone in East Midlands Synod is invited to the following three Zoom events:

'BLACK AND BLUE' WEBINAR

Join us for the much-anticipated webinar "Black and Blue", which will enable you to hear from present and former serving Black police officers about their views on the Black Lives Matters movement, institutional racism, "stop and search" and related law and order issues.



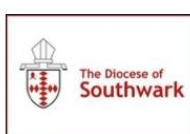
This webinar will discuss issues such as the decisions behind initially joining the police service; whether this decision impacted relationships with family and friends, and how they have been viewed by their White colleagues. Contributions from:

- ❖ **Dr Leroy Logan MBE**, former superintendent in the Metropolitan police and a former chair of the Black Police Association. Leroy is also the author of [Closing Ranks: My Life as a Cop](#).
- ❖ **Janet Hills**, a Detective Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police Service. Janet is the first Female Chair Met Black Police Association and was also the National Black Police Association President from 2015-2017.
- ❖ **Bevan Powell MBE**, the former chair of the Black Police Association and current Methodist Secretary for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

The session will be chaired by the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon and Revd Les Isaac OBE, CEO of the Ascension Trust, who will take the participants through their paces and find out, among other issues, how their faith informs, or has informed, their work and commitment to justice, fairness and integrity. There will also be space in the programme for you to put your questions to such an august panel of participants.

REGISTER for what promises to be an hour and a half of stimulating, inspiring conversation.

In partnership with:



CTBI ZOOM
WEBINAR

Wednesday 2nd December
2020

7.30pm - 9.00pm

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE

SPEAKERS



CHAIRS



The Methodist Church

Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8116050993952/WN_XSTTGoOPSdWg_KYwFtXK6w

Faithful and Resilient

how we respond to a pandemic

Venerable Dr Justine Allain-Chapman,
Academic and Anglican Priest
author of the influential Resilient Pastors

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain
Broadcaster and writer
Author of many books including the hugely popular
Confessions of a Rabbi

Join us on
Thursday 10th December
2 – 3.30pm

To join contact
PA@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk

Lincolnshire Methodist District in partnership with
Methodist Friends of Judaism

To register, email: PA@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk

Faith & Science in the Local Church

A Workshop for Christian Leaders


Friday 8th - Saturday 9th January 2021
 Online Zoom meeting with breakout rooms

Join us for this interactive two-day workshop designed for lay and ordained Christian leaders. The workshop will cover contemporary topics in the dialogue between Science and the Christian Faith, including Artificial Intelligence, Bioethics, Creation Care, and Response to Disasters.

Participants will be equipped to engage with scientific issues in the day-to-day life of their ministry context. Open to all church leaders – no scientific background required.

Cost: £50 (£30 for those in ministry training)

Details and registration: [faraday.institute/churchleadersworkshop](https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/event/faith-and-science-in-the-local-church/)




To register, visit: <https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/event/faith-and-science-in-the-local-church/>

Personal news

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of three retired ministers.

The **Wessex Synod** reports the death of the **Revd Frank Cochrane** on Monday 9 November. Frank served at Bighthelm 1990-1994; Carlisle 1994-2000; Wigan Wigton 1998-2000; St Andrew's Bournemouth 2000-2003; and Trinity Totton 2003-2008. We are asked to keep his wife Pat and their family in our prayers. The Synod offers to share funeral details: please email office@urcwessex.org.uk.

The **Yorkshire Synod** shares the news of the death of the **Revd David Hudston** in the early hours of Tuesday 10 November, following a long illness, with his wife Carol and one of his daughters (Ruth, an Elder at the URC Heckmondwike) present; we hold the family in prayer. David was minister at the URC Heckmondwike from 1979 to 2000 and then in the Sheffield South Group until his retirement in 2008. He lived in Ossett.

The **West Midlands Synod** informs us of the death on Thursday 19 November of the **Revd Ruth Hendry**. Ruth served the Birmingham District and Balsall Heath from 1981-2009. We remember in prayer all those who loved her.

Statement from Congregational Insurance



Following the statement from Ansvar in our previous edition, Congregation Insurance have issued an updated [unoccupancy statement](#). Dated 1 December 2020, this replaces all previous versions. It begins:

Whilst many churches re-opened following government advice and local authority lockdown guidance; the recent introduction of national restrictions and lockdowns have resulted in churches having to close again. In light of this change we are issuing a revised statement to churches, restating the following:

For a period up to and including 31 January 2021, we confirm that if the church decides to remain closed solely due to concerns about coronavirus (Covid-19) we will a) waive the condition to advise us of that closure and b) waive the restrictions in the policy relating to premises which are empty, disused, or not in use.

Please note that this provision is subject to the list of conditions specified in the [full statement](#), which may be viewed at: <https://edwardsinsurance.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1657f68539c2035afb56028b9&id=4f1ac05a16&e=12f7e6dbaa>

Cancellation: Christian Women's Fellowship Conference

Unfortunately the **Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) Conference** at Swanwick planned for February 2021 has been **cancelled** as The Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick will not be able to open until after April 2021.

The CWF sends apologies to all of those people who had planned to attend this event. They hope to be able to meet again in 2022.

Christian Aid

Inspired by Jesus, **Christian Aid** supporters walk alongside those for whom coronavirus is yet another threat on top of existing ones, including the climate crisis, conflict and in 2020 the impact of locust swarms.



Their gifts and actions help people like **Mekonnen Sofar** in Ethiopia's South Omo region, who digs a metre deep in dry river beds to try to find a water source to keep his livestock alive as the climate crisis pushes his family into hunger and threatens his whole way of life.

Christian Aid is working with families like Mekonnen's to provide community water sources and explore alternative means of raising income such as through making soap from aloe vera and planting drought resistant crops.

This Christmas churches are being invited to join **in a moment of solidarity and hope on Advent Sunday, 29 November** by using the carol '*When out of poverty is born*' in their worship and taking a collection for Christian Aid.

The hymn, which is freely available to use to use from caid.org.uk/christmasresources, celebrates Mary's faith in the Magnificat and begins with the words '*When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die*'. This Christmas we can celebrate the incredible truth that we are bound together globally by a love that builds resilience in the face of disease, drought and darkness, that builds up hope for all our neighbours.

To find out more about Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, including how to act for climate justice, visit caid.org.uk/hope.

Hope Nottingham



Food bank charity **Hope Nottingham** is supporting two specific Christmas campaigns. For the **Nottingham City Churches Christmas Boxes** they seek donations of chocolate, sweets, crisps, biscuits, fairy lights and card games. For **The Mayor of Broxtowe's Christmas Hampers**, they ask for food treats including Christmas snacks and confectionery.

Donations for these campaigns are requested by 4 December. Drop-off points for donations include local supermarkets as well as Hope House, Boundary Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2RF (Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.00pm).

They also continue to distribute standard food parcels and ask that donations from 5 December should concentrate on essential food and toiletry items rather than Christmas treats, as these goods will most likely be distributed in January. They have good stocks of pasta, pasta sauce, soup and baked beans but request tea/coffee, sugar, biscuits, tinned meat and fish, tinned fruit and veg, long-life milk, jam, tinned custard and puddings etc.

Further information about Hope Nottingham is available at: <https://www.hope-nottingham.org.uk/>

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** 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/>



We now have a dedicated [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGGeZU5SgN95g), where the Synod shares special events, training videos, worship resources and more. Evening Prayers are also uploaded here. Please subscribe:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXFUrjKn8XOGGeZU5SgN95g>

Contacting East Midlands Synod

Owing to the continuing government recommendation to avoid office spaces where possible, the **East Midlands Synod Office** is presently closed. All members of staff continue to work from home: please email them in the usual way. The office number **0115 960 9241** is answered from Monday to Thursday, 9.00am-3.00pm and calls will be forwarded as necessary. Please monitor our website for updates: www.urch5.org.uk

This E-letter is produced on behalf of:

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

Free-to-use photography sourced on Unsplash: sheep by Dibya Jyoti Ghosh; nativity figures by Gareth Harper.
Photograph of Mekonnen Sofar: Christian Aid/Elizabeth Dalziel.
CCL1067405

Next edition: Thursday 10 December 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 8 December 2020