



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO. 89 - 14th October 2010

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: Colin Udall

I do sometimes wonder how people can see such different things in the Bible. I can read a text and then hear someone talk about the text and think "I would never have said that about that passage". The other night I was lucky enough to be at Wembley to watch the England team draw 0-0. The people I was with didn't feel it had been a poor match but England just hadn't finished off the job in terms of goals. However on the drive back home listening to the radio and the comments about how poorly England were supposed to have played, I wondered if they had been watching the same match. I haven't decided if I'm a bad football spectator or I just don't read the Bible in the same way as others do. Maybe neither and that's why we have faith – in God AND in our sports teams.

Colin Udall

URC DIARIES AND PRAYER HANDBOOKS – A reminder that the Synod Office are happy to order diaries and prayer handbooks to be collected at our Synod meeting in November. Please contact Chris Willis admin@urc5.org.uk by **18 October**. All goods can be paid for at the Synod meeting on 6 November, **now at Sherwood URC**.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL CRB CERTIFIERS, MINISTERS AND CHURCH SECRETARIES - In recent weeks we have had a number of CRB application forms declined by Churches Agency for Safeguarding(CAS) because they have been verified by the wrong person. This is often a simple misunderstanding but causes a great deal of unnecessary admin, delays and financial penalties.

In order to prevent this happening, it is ESSENTIAL that only those who are registered with the URC Church House act as verifiers. Those authorised to verify are Church Secretaries and CRB signatories*. (* - A church may nominate someone to act as verifier in place of or in addition to the Church Secretary but ONLY by informing the Youth and Children's Office in advance. Failure to notify us of changes to your verifier or submitting forms which are incorrectly verified will result in forms being returned and a £5 administration fee may be charged by CAS for each incorrect form. If you are unsure who is registered as a verifier for your church or you wish to change the person authorised to verify forms, you can contact Viv Thorne at the Children's Office on 0207 916 8683 email: children@urc.org.uk

RETIRED MINISTERS' HOUSING FUND - During this year, there have been very few applications to the Fund by retired ministers, to whom it is available to assist them with their housing costs. The purpose of the Fund is to "provide small improvements to accommodation occupied by retired ministers" and it does not matter whether the property is rented or owned by the minister. It would be helpful if retired ministers spoke to Robert, the Synod Property and Trust Officer, before making a formal application. The ministers can then be advised on the form that the application should take, which in most cases is a simple letter with copies of at least two quotations, if these are relevant. The capital of the Fund was bequeathed in the Will of the late Helen Matheson. It has helped many retired ministers through the years and Synod is anxious that this should continue.

WIRELESS MICROPHONES - Churches may have heard that there is legislation regarding the use of certain radio frequencies that will affect users of wireless microphones. Churches need to check their equipment to see whether it uses Channel 69, and if so, whether it can be adjusted to tune into the new channel. Older systems may need to be replaced in full and this will be expensive. It is hoped that any churches facing this cost will get themselves registered for the compensation offered. The changes come into effect in 2012 and compensation of up to 55 per cent of the cost of replacement equipment or modification costs to up the same amount are likely to be available to such churches if they held a valid Channel 69 licence during 2008. **It is, however, vital that such churches register with the scheme administrator between September and December this year, in order to be eligible for the compensation.** For more details on how to register see www.ofcom/clearing the 800MHz band. Your PA Installation Company should be able to help with further advice. Shure, the manufacturer of many radio microphones has produced the following guide: http://www.shure.co.uk/support_download/frequencies



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

A CELEBRATION OF PEACE THROUGH RECONCILIATION - Nottingham Inter Faith Council invites you to *A Celebration of Peace through Reconciliation. Listen to Struggles of the Heart.* **Storytellers-** Adele Moss and Jumana Moon will be sharing traditional stories about reconciliation and peace from Jewish and Islamic sources; from folklore as well as sacred text.

On Thursday 21st October 2010, 7.00 pm for Reflections in the Cathedral, 7.30pm, for Storytelling in the Cathedral Hall. St. Barnabas Cathedral, Derby Rd, Nottingham, NG1 5AE. Please bring food to share. All Welcome!

WORLD CHURCH SUNDAY - 21 NOVEMBER 2010: MEETING JESUS IN INDIA - Revd Clare Downing shares experiences of a journey in India meeting Christians and people of other faiths in 3 different areas.

VENUE: FRIARY URC, Corner Millicent/Musters Roads West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7PR.

TIME: 3.00 for 3.30p.m. BRING & SHARE TEA, 6.00p.m. EVENING WORSHIP, FAIRTRADE STALL

For further information contact Sylvia & Ian Salmon on 0115 927 5208 or ian.sylvia@salmon2.co.uk



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BLACK HISTORY ASSOCIATION – ‘WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?’

Black family tree research – Central Library, Abington Street, Northampton on Saturday 16th October from 1.00 – 3.00pm. This is an exciting opportunity to begin your overseas or local family research with computer access available. So whatever your heritage, join us to start your voyage of discovery – space is limited and booking is essential. For more information and booking, telephone: 01604 590967 or email: admin@northants-black-history.org.uk

4TH ANNUAL BLACK BRITISH HISTORY OPEN LECTURE - Local and national perspectives on Black community led education initiatives, past and present. You are invited to attend this free open lecture from 6-8pm on **Monday 18 October 2010** at Holdenby Lecture Theatre 3 on the University of Northampton's Park Campus.

Speakers are Morcea Walker of the 1970s-1990s Northampton West Indian Parents' Association, Ras Jabulani (aka Trevor Hall) of the 1970s-1980s Matta Fancanta Movement; a youth led social and educational group, as well as Pat Sinclair, a leader of the South East London Parents' Association in the 1960s-1970s.

How much and/or how little has changed in the education of Black British people since the 1960s? The insight of these speakers will help to provide some answers to this question. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact George Watley at George.watley@northampton.ac.uk or 01604 892423

THE BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH TALK – The Rt. Rev Donald Allister, will be giving a talk in East Northamptonshire on **Monday 18th October**, organised by the Peterborough Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship at St Peter's Church, Rushden at 7.45pm (for everyone). Lunches will be available at the end of the meeting at Oundle for £2 each. It would be helpful if they could be booked by ringing 01832 720254 in advance, please - but this isn't essential. A map showing how to get to – and to park nearby - St Peter's Church, Rushden for the evening meeting is at: <http://www.stpetersrushden.org.uk/findus.php>.



LEICESTERSHIRE

An EVENING FOR LEICESTERSHIRE CHURCH SECRETARIES WITH THE PASTORAL CONSULTANTS - We would like to invite the Leicestershire Church Secretaries to an evening with the two Synod Pastoral Consultants for Leicestershire at Abbots Road URC on **Wednesday 20th October, 7.30 p.m.** The purpose of this is to enjoy fellowship together while enabling us to meet people from the churches and also to explain the role of the Pastoral Consultants. It will also be an opportunity for you to identify the Pastoral Consultant with direct responsibility toward your church, and for you to say something to us about how you feel we can best serve the churches in Leicestershire. Light refreshments will be available, and it would be good to have some idea of numbers. Please inform me if you propose to attend.

With kind regards, Shalom, Michael Forster (Revd) - Pastoral Consultant, Leicestershire

RSVP to Michael Forster, Email: wordsifter@gmail.com Tel. 0116 210 8664

PLEASE NOTE THAT 'AN EVENING WITH HENRY OLONGA' ON Friday, 22nd October at 7:30pm IS TO TAKE PLACE AT LOUGHBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL (not at Loughborough URC as mentioned in the previous e-letter)

The first black cricketer to play for Zimbabwe, and the youngest player to represent his country, Henry helped Zimbabwe to its first ever Test victory. The concert is at Hodson Hall, Loughborough Grammar School, Burton Walks, Loughborough LE11 2DU. Henry's recent book Blood, Sweat and Treason and his CDs will be on sale, also some Zimbabwean stone sculptures, batiks and jewellery. Tickets (£8/£5 concessions, groups of 12+ all at £5) - call 0116 230 4634 or e-mail h.d.playdon@talk21.com to reserve a ticket, or send a cheque (payable to Loughborough United Reformed Church) to Mrs. Helen Playdon, 186 Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley, LE7 7PW. All profits to Commitment for Life.

THE SERIES, THE BIG SILENCE, will be shown later this month on BBC2, Friday evenings from 7-8pm on the following dates: October 22nd, October 29th, November 5th. The series was produced by the same team as 'The Monastery' five years ago, filmed at Worth Abbey in West Sussex. While the setting for the series begins at Worth Abbey, the eight day silent retreat that the five participants embark on takes place at St Beuno's Jesuit Retreat and Spirituality Centre in North Wales.

The programmes give moving accounts of life-changing experiences simply through becoming silent. The prevailing theme of the series might be summarised as "Silence is the gateway to the soul, and the soul is the gateway to God." Mike Playdon

LAUNDE ABBEY - For the latest list of Retreats, Quiet Days and Family Events for the period November 2010 to February 2011 please visit: www.launde.org.uk

Pre-booking is essential through the General Office at Launde Abbey on 01572 717254 or by visiting the website.



DERBYSHIRE

SILENT LIGHT - A Quiet Day for Advent, led by Deborah Anderson, Synod Training and Development Officer 10am to 4pm on Saturday 4th December 2010 at Carlton Road United Reformed Church, Carlton Road, Derby DE23 6HE. Get away from it all for a few hours, and look ahead through Advent in preparation for Christmas. Bookings to Synod Office, Tel: 0115 960 9241, Email: office@urc5.org.uk
Cost £5. Please bring your own lunch: drinks provided.

For poster visit: www.urc5.org.uk/silentlight



LINCOLNSHIRE

MESSY CHURCH - We still have places available for the Messy Church training taking place in Boston on Saturday 16th October. Please visit: <http://www.ctal.org.uk/Messy%20Church%20leaflet.pdf> for the booking form and contact Simon Dean, CTAL to book: Tel 01522 504071 Email: simon@ctal.org.uk

A COMMUNITY REMEMBERING – A service to remember those who have died on our roads and to give thanks for the work of the emergency services. 3.00pm on Sunday 21st November 2010 at Gainsborough Methodist Church, Gainsborough, DN21 2HP. For further information please contact: Churches Together in All Lincolnshire, Tel 01522 504071. Email: simon@ctal.org.uk



MILTON KEYNES

REMINDER OF NEWPORT PAGNELL EVENTS – PEACEMAKING DAY - To mark One World Week, Newport Pagnell URC is devoting a day, **Thursday 21st October**, to this year's theme: Peacing Together One World. Toddler Praise (9.30 am) and Pilots (4 pm) and Women's Own (3.00 pm) will feature the theme, as will Meeting Point (midweek worship and lunch at 11.30 am) to which all are welcome. Then at 7.00 pm there will be an international buffet bring and share supper followed by activities on the peacemaking theme, to which all are welcome.

SPECIAL 350th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE – At 10.30am on **Sunday 31st October** at Newport Pagnell URC. Past ministers, members and civic dignitaries, as well as members of other churches and its partner churches in Germany are invited. The service, led by the minister, the Revd Jenny Mills, will be followed by a buffet lunch. This is one of the final events of the 350th Anniversary year. For further details contact Geoff Shaw on Tel: 01908 661251. Anyone who has been associated with this historic congregation will be welcome.

Elsewhere/Other

WESTMINSTER OPEN DAY – 23RD OCTOBER 2010 - Please come along so that we can talk to you how Westminster can serve you and your church, network or group. There are exhibitions and displays as well as opportunities for conversation, worship good food. Please do come (and let me know that you are coming)! Tel: 01223 741 084 Susan Durber, Principal (Details of the day are at: www.urb5.org.uk/Wopenday)

URC JOINS IN WITH BBC GET BAKING CAMPAIGN - The United Reformed Church has joined with the BBC in it's Get Baking campaign, and is urging church members to get their aprons on, their recipes books out, and to bake, sell and eat delicious cakes to raise funds for Children in Need. If you've been following The Great British Bake Off television series, you'll have learnt all sorts of tips, tricks and some of the history behind our favourite home made munchies, so why not try it for yourself? Better still, why not try it for others – it's a great way to raise money for a good cause like Children in Need. For inspiration and information go to www.bbc.co.uk/food and click on Get Baking, to order Get Baking booklets email us at GetBaking_Communities@bbc.co.uk or find us on Facebook, search BBC Get Baking.

Youth and Children's Work

TOOLKIT – A day for those who work with young people – is taking place at Wellingborough URC (Salem Hall) on Saturday 13th November 10am – 3:30pm. The day is organised jointly with the Methodist District and is open to all who work with young people in a church setting. There will be workshops on: 101 things to do with young people; A church for young people; challenging behaviour; setting up a youth project; using the Bible with young people; praying with young people; film and young people. For further details and to book, please contact Colin Udall on 024 7674 8074 or email cydo@urb5.org.uk

SYNOD – As usual, we will be holding activities for young people whilst Synod is taking place. This time we will be led in drama and drumming by Godfrey Palimbe and after lunch we will be going ice skating in Nottingham, returning as Synod is due to finish at 4:30pm. It would be great if Synod reps brought along some young people from their church to meet other young people. The cost is just £5 per person, plus they need to bring their own lunch. Further details from Colin Udall on 024 7674 8074 or 07776 157511 or email cydo@urb5.org.uk.

ENLIVEN is a training programme organised by the URC and Anglican churches in Notts and Derbyshire. Our next session is on Monday 1st November 7:30-9:30pm at Blend Youth Project, 38 Nottingham Road, Ripley, DE5 3DJ, entitled "Young People and their Well-Being – Mental Health" and taking a look at self-esteem, eating disorders and self-harm. It will be led by Nigel Pimlott from Frontier Youth Trust. Again, contact Colin Udall on 024 7674 8074 or 07776 157511 or email cydo@urb5.org.uk.

Year Book Changes

- Revd Lynn Fowkes, Minister at St. Stephen's, Leicester and Leicestershire Ecumenical Officer, has a new address and telephone number:- 11 Scholar's Walk, LE2 1RR. Tel: 0116 2708440
- Revd Mark Houghton, Minister in Derbyshire has moved address: Holmfirth, 38 Devonshire Road, Buxton, SK17 6RZ. There is no telephone number yet but the email address remains unchanged.
- Geoff Morris, Treasurer at Well Street URC, Buckingham has a new email address:
treasurer@wellstrectchurch.org.uk

AND FINALLY: - Please send any comments or feedback on this e-letter to cydo@urb5.org.uk
The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA.
Telephone: 0115 960 9241. Facsimile: 0115 960 9202

Please send any items for the next E-Letter to: modpa@urb5.org.uk

Copy Date for Next E-Letter: Monday 25th October

Please forward this e-letter to members of your congregation or anyone who would like to receive it.