

# Evangelist News from the Synod Evangelist

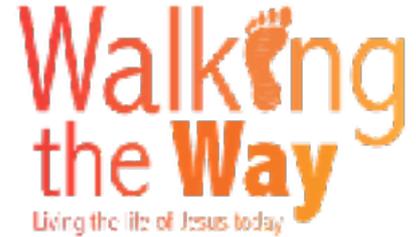
Rev Nick Stanyon [evangelist@urcwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:evangelist@urcwestmidlands.org.uk) 01926 738651

February 2017

## Lets' start Trekking

So started John Peel's radio programme of many years ago now... but how appropriate it is for us as we begin the process of *Walking the Way*; Living the life of Jesus Today.

Many are confused, so might it help to say that *Walking the Way*; Living the life of Jesus Today is nothing more than an aim we have in mind, or a Vision Statement. We hope to change the very DNA of our church so that we stop thinking of being a 'church goer' and start following Jesus in the whole of our lives. Getting there will take quite a while and need many resources along the way. **Holy Habits** is not to be thought of as another, competing initiative, but as one of the resources that help us along the way. There will be more to come ... and there is nothing to stop you pulling in resources from elsewhere if they help you in this journey. It's good to be imaginative!



My copy of the **Holy Habits work books** arrived last week, and I am glad to see that a number of our **Good News with Nick** films have been included as a resource. We are working on making these more easily accessible - but you can see them all on Kevin

Snyman's Youtube channel (click playlists and Good News with Nick). We recently release one about Mhari McClintock in her role as Dementia Friendly Church Advocate and another about Jan Scott's Chaplaincy work at Aston University. Soon to be released is one about Coventry Churches Winter Night Shelter.

If I can be of any help working through any of the **Holy Habits** - particularly the very important module on *Making More Disciples* then please be in touch.



A number of churches expressed interest in *Prayers for Every household* when they heard about it at the Residential Synod. Basically, it is a scheme in which churches visit a number of houses each week to ask for prayer requests, and then they pray for these houses on the Sunday.

I'm currently visiting churches in the Synod and explaining how they can do this in their own area. If you would like me to visit your church, then please get in touch.

In the meantime, see the film at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wADbLiWrCv0&list=PLqLu9u3Foh3D6\\_xWJA9s493eNPp0Dn\\_F\\_&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wADbLiWrCv0&list=PLqLu9u3Foh3D6_xWJA9s493eNPp0Dn_F_&index=2)

## Church website?

Every now and then I train my evangelist's eye on websites from churches in the Synod.

Apart from sites that are way out of date (what does that say to interested visitors to the site?), I find that many churches make the mistake of thinking of their website as an extension of their church magazine. This it should not be. The potential audience is very different. Many will not be church goers already. Talk about church structures, history and who's on the rota this Sunday may be interesting to us (are they?!) but what do they mean for outsiders.

Perhaps they are looking more for a feel of who we are and how we do things; what's it like to worship at this church? Will I enjoy it? Will I be welcome? Is there someone there I can talk to about my problem? What do these Christians really believe?

On that last point, why re-invent the wheel when you can put a link to <https://christianity.org.uk/> there for free? It is the website of the Christian Enquiry Agency Ltd., an agency of Churches Together in England.



For more information and to download a link contact [enquiries@christianity.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@christianity.org.uk)

Kevin, Stuart and I recently ran a workshop together at Solihull, thinking about social media and the church. If any of us can help you, then please do get in touch.

# Praying the Way

Join us to pray for our life and mission as we begin *Walking the Way: living the life of Jesus Today*

Three prayer meetings will be arranged in venues across the Synod in April and May and June.

Listen out for dates and venues as they are announced

**Church Where the People Are** will once again be visiting the Car-boot sale at Leamington Rugby Ground during May, June, July and August. Early Rising Volunteers are always welcome to join us!

I'm also taking it on tour - We are booked already for Stroud Fun Day on 20 May and talks are underway for other places. If you have an event near you and can come along with me to be Church Where the People Are, then please get in touch.



## What's New?

Last year a minister came to me asking for advice on which enquirers' group material to use. He had previously used Alpha, but like many was finding Nicky Gumbel a little old hat! Move on a year and he was enthusing loudly about the new Alpha Course.



The Brand New **Alpha Film Series** is designed for today's audience. It was filmed all around the world, and features interviews with world-famous leaders and inspiring stories. Two new hosts, Toby Flint and Gemma Hunt, join Nicky Gumbel to unpack the basics of the Christian faith in an updated and engaging way.

<https://run.alpha.org.uk/preview-resources>

It really is worth a look. It's already being used at Dursley and Tettenhall Wood.

## LIFE|EXPLORED

**LIFE EXPLORED** is an exciting new way to share the gospel in today's highly visual culture. The seven interactive sessions are based on stunning films shot all over the globe.

**LIFE EXPLORED** will help people uncover what they're really living for, and see how, in Christ, God meets their deepest desires for happiness.

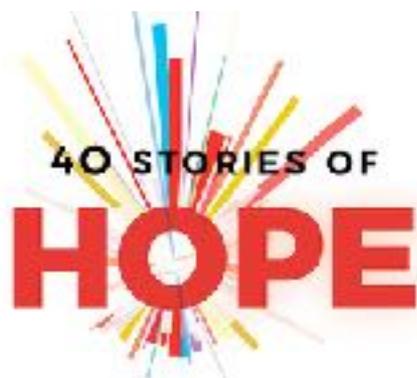
It can be run before or after Christianity Explored or Alpha, and is perfect for anyone looking for answers to life's big questions.

Check out the web site and watch the trailer. [https://ceministries.org/Groups/274684/Home/Courses/Life\\_Explored/Life\\_Explored.aspx](https://ceministries.org/Groups/274684/Home/Courses/Life_Explored/Life_Explored.aspx)

I am currently leading **LIFE EXPLORED** groups in Rubery and soon in Lillington. If you think it might help if I come and lead one for you, then please let me know.



LIFE|EXPLORED  
WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT  
GOD COULD GIVE YOU?



This year's CTBI Lent Course is based on the book **40 Stories Of Hope**

The stories within the course and book give a unique insight into prison life and point to the hope we can find as followers of Jesus. The group studies provide the whole Church - inside and outside prison - with the opportunity to **walk with Jesus** through Lent, learning from Mark's Gospel and from the lessons prisoners, ex-

prisoners and chaplains have learned. Whether we take this spiritual journey through Lent, alone or in company, there is much to draw on to refresh and encourage our faith.

The book itself is available from CWR at £2 each if you buy 20 - a great give away! I've ordered some!

## Coming soon...



THY KINGDOM COME

Join the global wave of prayer,

May 10-20, 2018

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>



Helping Churches to respond to their greatest missed opportunity

*3 million people say they will come to church if only someone will ask them!*

<http://weekendofinvitation.com/>



This year marks **100 years since the end of World War Two.**

Hope2018 will be launching materials to help churches make the most of this opportunity, including 99 days of peace-making from August 4<sup>th</sup> till November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Are you planning on doing anything to mark this important anniversary?

Some churches will be working together with Hope2018 throughout the year, making Jesus known in word and action. Check out <https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/>

Rev Nick Stanyon  
Evangelist,  
The United Reformed Church West Midlands Synod

142 Cubbington Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 7AH  
☎ 01926 738651

📞 07917 005305

✉ [nick.stanyon@ntlworld.com](mailto:nick.stanyon@ntlworld.com)

✉ [evangelist@urcwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:evangelist@urcwestmidlands.org.uk)

