

I represent the URC as a Trustee of the Churches Visitors and Tourism Association and it is out of that work that a three pronged initiative has arisen supported by the URC History Society. The plan is to :-

- (1) produce a brochure of the most interesting URC and Congregational churches for prospective visitors
- (2) to encourage all our churches who wish to do so to enter their details on the National Churches Trust (NCT) *ExploreChurches* website
- (3) to record their church details and history with me with a view to producing a sort of family tree of our Church History.

Even if your church Building is relatively “new” or is of no architectural or apparent historical interest, there are stories that your church has to tell. The people who had the vision to build a congregation and probably later a building – who were they? What inspired them? Who preached the gospel to them and started the chain of belief that led them to do what they did? How did they inspire others? Every church has a story to tell. With the renewed interest in family trees and local history are there people in your locality who would like to know about their family roots? Your baptismal and marriage registers will be of interest and this can be a way of drawing people who never come to church in to your building in to find out about their roots.

With the permission of the NCT I have been using their Questionnaire to record the information – even for those churches who do not wish to appear on their website and I have attached a pro forma to this e-mail. Please complete the document electronically and e-mail to back TO ME PLEASE, (valeriejenkins@btinternet.com) **along with any photos of the church**. I will then forward the material to NCT should you wish me to do so. Should you not wish to be involved with the

ExploreChurches website please mark the front of the completed form "FOR URC USE ONLY".

You may have received e-mails from me via your Synod Office about this project during the last six months and I am delighted to report that to the end of January 2018, 100 churches had registered to be involved in this project. If your church is one of those, thank you again and I'm sorry to trouble you further. If your church is not yet involved please may I again encourage you to be a part of this? If you need further information or advice please contact me.

Those already involved from your Synod are-
West Orchard, Coventry
Nailsworth
Stratford
Newent-not for inclusion on NCT
Eignbrook, Hereford
Wade Street, Lichfield

- do check the NCT website out - you may find it very interesting

Sincerely,

Valerie Jenkins

valeriejenkins@btinternet.com

8, Alton Grove, Heaton, Bradford West Yorkshire. BD9 5QL