

TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
NEWSLETTER NO. 5.

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1. RESOURCE CENTRES FOR LEARNING

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE,
Cambridge CB3 0AA
<http://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/rcf/church-events>

11th August 2018 *Draw Breath and reflect upon: God's Amazing Creation through Art & Photography*

In the busyness of life we all need the opportunity to step back and spend time in the company of God reflecting upon life, our faith and what God is calling us to. Each of these days will have a different emphasis allowing a variety of approaches that make the most of Westminster's stunning buildings and facilities.
Cost £20.00

13th-15th August, 15th-17th August and 5th-7th September 2018

Living the Life of Jesus through our worship

For Lay Preachers and Worship leaders, a mix of Bible study, worship and reflection alongside practical ideas on how we bring alive the life of Jesus for today's worshippers. A variety of session leaders and styles will look to provide tools and new insights for important ministries.
Cost £125.00

For details of four new modular MA degrees from Anglia Ruskin University created and taught by the Cambridge Theological Federation to offer flexible learning options see www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/ma-ar

LUTHER KING HOUSE

For details of events at Luther King House in Manchester see <http://lutherkinghouse.org.uk/news-events/>

2. ELDERS TRAINING IN THE WEST MIDLANDS SYNOD

A day for all serving elders and those with similar leadership roles in the churches of the Synod with a particular focus on those ordained in the last five years or considering a call to eldership. The content will also update elders serving again after a period

as a non-serving elder. **Saturday 15th September 2018** at Shrewsbury United Reformed Church
Coleham Head, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 7BJ. Details and booking forms have been sent to Church Secretaries and are available from the Synod Office.

Further elders training is planned in **Spring 2019** in North Staffordshire and in **Autumn 2019** in Gloucestershire

3. ASPECTS OF REMEMBRANCE

As churches prepare to mark the centenary of the Armistice, Bill Young (minister at Potters Green, Foleshill Road, Keresley and Holyhead Road, Coventry) offers reflections on his sabbatical study and experience at the **Synod Office, Digbeth-in-the-Field United Reformed Church, Moat Lane, Yardley B26 1TW** on **Saturday 29th September**. Booking form attached.

4. THE URC MUSIC NETWORK

URC Music Network (<http://urcmusic.org.uk/>) is a new concept in connecting music makers, worship leaders, composers and hymn writers to share experience, knowledge and music within the United Reformed Church

It is a platform to promote good practice, learning opportunities and to be a network of mutual help.

There is a monthly e-newsletter, and a relaunched website with resources suitable for music makers and worship leaders. The Network hosts a Celebration Day in **St Columba's URC, Priory Street, York** on **Saturday 6th October 2018** with the theme '*Sing a New Song to the Lord*', thinking about refreshing worship with new ways of singing old songs, and using new songs in worship. Participants can offer new words or music - or both. The day costs £10. .

For more details see <http://urcmusic.org.uk/2018/06/celebration-day-2018-sing-a-new-song-to-the-lord/>

5. CARRS LANE LECTURES IN RADICAL CHRISTIAN FAITH

Richard Holloway will be the speaker at Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX on Saturday 6th October. <https://carrslane.co.uk/mission/lectures-in-radical-christian-faith/> His title will be *Believing, Forgiving and Dying: Our Walk Across the Stage*. Tickets (£20) are on sale and going fast; to book call 0121 643 6151 or email: office@carrslane.co.uk

6. WEST MIDLANDS SYNOD CHURCH SECRETARIES

CONSULTATION Secretaries of the Synod's Churches are invited to the Church in Warden Hill, Salisbury Avenue, Cheltenham GL51 3BY for a day of support and consultation with particular input on GDPR on Saturday 10th November. Full details and booking forms to follow.

7. FRESH EXPRESSIONS VISION DAY

Saturday 17th November at Abbey Hill United Reformed Church, Kenilworth CV8 1LW Exploring new ways of being church and sharing the good news of Jesus led by Nick Stanyon, West Midlands Synod Evangelist, and others. Further details attached.

8. GOOD GRIEF - DEATH, DYING AND BEREAVEMENT

Exploring ministry in funerals and bereavement 23rd-24th November at Gladstone's Library, Hawarden CH5 3DF (near Chester), facilitated by the Wales Synod Good Grief Group. The course provides an introduction to the ministry of funerals, predominantly for those who are not ministers. Cost £150.00 Grant assistance is available - contact the West Midlands Synod Office or the Training and Development Officer. More information about the course available from Sally Thomas ecumenical@urcwales.org.uk, Helen Stenson office@urcwales.org.uk, or David Salsbury trainingnorth@urcwales.org.uk

9. APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

19th-20th September The Wales Synod invites others to *A Taste of Appreciative Inquiry* at the MacDonald Portal Hotel in Tarporley, nr Chester CW6 0DJ (cost £170) and an advanced course November 6th-8th. For further information contact Stuart Scott

In the pipeline for the autumn

10. STEPWISE

Stepwise is the new United Reformed Church intergenerational discipleship programme. It aims to deepen discipleship and encourage Christian confidence in today's world, taking seriously the many and varied settings in which believers find themselves at work, at play and involved in community life.

Stepwise will become available in phases from September 2018, and be offered on a modular basis across five streams. The first module, *Faith-filled Life*, is recommended as the starting point for everyone who signs up, whatever their background, and will take about three months to complete.

Further details are at <https://www.urc.org.uk/stepwise.html> and there will be more information at Synod in October.

11. PASTORAL CARE

A second session of training in dementia awareness is being planned for the autumn. It is also expected to provide opportunities to develop skills and understanding in other areas of pastoral care.

12. TLS LITE COURSE

The five sessions of the "Getting to grips with the Bible" course will run in Kidderminster.

13. LAY PRESIDENCY

There will be further sessions of training for lay presidency at the sacraments of baptism and communion.

In the pipeline for Spring 2019

14. SILENCE AND RETREATS

Initial discussions have taken place with the Creative Arts Retreat Movement <http://www.carmretreats.org/public/retreats.php> and a retreat day is being planned for Spring 2019

15. FOLLOW UP TO REPORTS TO ASSEMBLY

Ministers and other leaders will have the opportunity to explore and respond to the Report from the 20-40 Task Group (p.22 ff.) and the Moderator's Report (p.71 ff.) to the 2018 General Assembly (<https://www.urc.org.uk/images/General-assemblies/Assembly2018/BookofReports2018w.pdf>) Details to follow.

16. PILGRIMS IN THE PARK

A new date is being sought for the event postponed from May 2018

In other news...

17. "BITESIZE" HOLY HABITS

The Training and Development Officer is available to lead sessions introducing and exploring ways into the BRF "Holy Habits" material with local churches, pastorates or Areas

18. JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM

The 'hostile environment' is a web of government policies designed to make life so difficult for people who cannot prove they have the right to live in the UK that they will choose to leave. It deliberately inflicts destitution, encourages discrimination, and thrives on distrust. The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church calls for an end to the hostile environment.

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Destitution-Discrimination-Distrust.-The-web-of-the-hostile-environment.pdf>

19. MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2019

The Synod Ministers Conference takes place at the Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire 17th-20th June 2019. More details and booking forms to follow

20. VISITOR AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION

The Churches Visitor and Tourism Association describes itself as "The UK's leading body for promoting best practice in welcoming visitors to places of worship, developing the tourism potential and visitor experience of a unique part of our historical and contemporary sacred heritage, captured for the future, living in the present and distinctive to the location of every community across the land". The website is <http://cvta.org.uk/>. You are invited to send photos of your church for inclusion on the website to Valerie Jenkins valeriejay712@gmail.com

21. THEOLOGY OF PLAY

"Theology of Play - a theological reflection" by Judy Harris, (Children's and Youth Work Development Officer for the National Synod of Wales of the United Reformed Church) published by the Children's and Youth Work Committee is available free of charge (postage and packing payable) from the United Reformed Church bookshop. https://urcshop.co.uk/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=281

22. 12 FACES OF HOPE

The '12 Faces of Hope' exhibition opened at General Assembly in Nottingham on Friday 6 July - it's latest stop in an international tour since launching last year to mark 50 years of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Part of the 'Seek justice And peace in the Holy Land' campaign by the World Council of Churches (WCC), the exhibition is based on the faces, written and video testimonies of 12 Israeli and Palestinian people from different social and faith backgrounds. Its compelling stories of struggle and

hope demonstrate the resilience of the human spirit and the yearning for peaceful lives that bind us together.

The diverse expressions of hope conveyed in the campaign aim to help raise awareness about the ongoing occupation and the ordinary lives caught up in it. See <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/12-faces>

23. GRANTS FOR TRAINING

Two weeks' study leave a year are available to ministers and Church-related Community Workers ministers. Funding is available up to £350 a year. Forms, available from the Training and Development Officer, should be completed in advance. They may also apply for three months' sabbatical leave every ten years, for which grant assistance up to £1200 is available from the United Reformed Church. Further details are available from the Training and Development Officer.

Grant assistance is also available to lay preachers and others. Contact the Synod Office or the Training and Development Officer for details. In addition Assembly accredited lay preachers may receive a subscription to "Reform" magazine <https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk>.

24. LMMR Refresher

The LMMR Refresher session for all appraisal and pastorate partners will be on Tuesday 13th November 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at the Synod Office.

25. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT MAGNUS - AN ORKNEY EXPERIENCE



Wednesday 3rd to Monday 8th April 2019

The opening up of The St Magnus Way, a pilgrimage route through Mainland Orkney. The Course Team is being led by Jack Dyce,

Emeritus Professor of Nordic Theology together with Sue Kirkbride, Minister of Peedie, Kirk URC. The programme will also draw on a whole host of local experience, knowledge and understanding from different corners of the Orcadian Community. Costs are still being explored. Please register your interest via email to scottishcollege@urcscotland.org.uk as early as you can.

26.



Lichfield Cathedral Study Day 1918-2018 Doing Remembrance Thoughtfully 10.30 - 15.30 Thursday 13th September, College Hall, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD. £10.00 registration fee payable.

Lichfield Cathedral warmly invites Clergy, Lay Ministers and all who will be leading worship this coming Remembrance-tide, to a day of reflection and learning.

To book please contact Kate Durrant, The Dean's E.A. kate.durrant@lichfield.cathedral.org

27.



REINVENTING MINISTRY IN SECULAR EMPLOYMENT

10.30 - 16.30 Saturday 22 September 2018 at The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX Guest Speaker: Revd John Lees

Revd Stuart Scott, the Synod Training and Development Officer, is also available to lead training sessions and welcomes invitations to lead worship in the Synod's churches. All expenses are met by the Synod.

Contact tdo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk 0121 442 6325