



May 2017

Synod Property Policy

Adopted by Synod on 18th March, 2017, the full Eastern Synod Property Policy is available on our [website](#).

A reflective account on Eastern Synod Meeting 8th October, 2016, Stowmarket

Travelling to Synod, excited to meet
Fellow travellers and guides along this street.
Welcome to Synod, parked just in time
Slips to exchange, voting papers now mine
What are the orange and blue cards for?

Synod is constituted (with coffee it would seem)
A young women minister; Walking with God is her dream.
Minister's Movements can be ponderous and slow,
Perhaps they should all sit along the front row.
But what are the orange and blue cards for?

Moderators address; some questions he raises;
"What are ministers for?
What are Churches for?"
What are Synod meetings for?
What are the orange and blue cards for?

Bible Study; fishes and fire, more walking,
I wish there had been more time for talking.
Jubilee ministers; Ordained before the URC was born, I sit in awe.
Bread and wine we share, a sacrament worth travelling for.
But what are the orange and blue cards for?

Lunch, a time to meet and chat
To look at books and all of that
Perhaps the most important aspect of all,
To share soup and bread and commune in the hall.
But what are the orange and blue cards for?

On to Resolutions and Reports
Should we have sought God's thoughts?
What a shame to vote "Not no" when I wanted to cheer,
Young people's representation is nothing to fear.
What are the orange and blue cards for?

Gender balance is not too bad,
I'm one of the youngest, it makes me feel sad.
Where are our people of colour?
Our diversity needs to be fuller.

Closing worship, dare we be like Spice girls?
Too many thoughts to hold, my head whirls
In the car with my friend, I am finally told;
Consensus cards for warm and cold,
That's what the orange and blue cards are for. *Louise Tailford, Candidate*



Knitting for Greenbelt!

Now for something a little different and unusual! The URC are asking churches and individuals to knit and/or crochet together to create a mountain of knitted or crochet food items and are asking for your help!

If you would like to help and wish to send in your food, please email [Linda Mead](#). The Greenbelt website is [here](#) or view: [Calling all knitters and crocheters](#) and see below for more information Greenbelt.



Eastern Synod - Celebration Day: Saturday 10th June, 2017

Please put the date in your diary! We are looking forward to seeing you at the Eastern Synod Celebration Day, to be held on the 10th June, 2017 at Suffolk Showground, Trinity Park, Suffolk, IP3 8UH.

This is a day of celebration for all ages. More information will follow and in the meantime, keep an eye on our [website](#).



Flower Festival, St. Peter's Jessopp Road, Norwich: Sunday 11th June, 2017

Please give generously for the work of Water Aid and The Vidiyal Trust on Sunday 11th June, the festival will be open from 10am to 4pm.

Rural Theology Association

The Association believes that theology matters and encourages theological thinking on the future of rural churches and on matters of importance to life in rural communities. The Rural Theology Association needs members from across the Christian traditions to witness to the Church at large that the rural agenda really matters.

If you would like to become a member, please click on the [link](#).



Westminster College There are a range of events coming up at Westminster College:

Quiet Day, Saturday 22nd July: Soul Food: A day of nourishment for Church leaders;

Embracing Eldership, 5th-7th July or 7th-9th July;

Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders course, 14th-16th or 16th-18th August or 6th-8th or 8th-10th September;

Quiet Day, Saturday 18th November: The quest for peace.

For more information about these courses and those available all year round, please have a look at the [website](#).

Job Opportunities

Council for World Mission - Programme Associate (Europe). The Programme Associate works in partnership with the Mission Secretary - Europe to assist in the development and implementation of CWM's programmatic agenda. This individual also provides high quality and efficient programmatic and managerial support to Programme team in general and to Europe team in particular, and in the execution of specific programmes in pursuit of CWM's mission priorities.

Council for Christian Unity - National Ecumenical Officer. You will lead on the strategic development and implementation of key initiatives relating to the Church of England's work with other churches, acting as its representative in relevant contexts and sustaining its networks. With a focus on enabling cooperation between churches in mission and evangelism at local and national level, you will take forward and help to shape the Church of England's priorities for ecumenical relations in the light of national frameworks, such as Renewal and Reform.

Council for Christian Unity. Adviser for European Church Relations. You will take a lead role in sustaining and strengthening the long-standing relationships between the Church of England and churches in Continental Europe during a critical period. You will have a particular responsibility for supporting the church of England's relationship with the Evangelical Church in

Germany and for fostering the network of diocesan links with different churches on the Continent. This is a shared post with the Mission and Public Affairs Division.

GenR8 - Church and Schools Development Worker. Genr8 is a charity operating in the Cambridgeshire area, seeking a motivated person to engage local churches in their work with primary age children in both schools and churches. We are looking for someone who can develop and extend our existing initiatives as well as create new ideas and opportunities.

Hutton and Shenfield Union Church - Children's and Youth Worker. From September 2017, initially for one year, the role includes pastoring the young people within the fellowship, both individually and in mid-week/Sunday groups. There is some schools work. For further information, please contact the minister [Revd Paul Ellis](#). The deadline is 13th June.

United Reformed Church - General Manager, Retired Ministers' Housing, London The Retired Ministers' Housing Society provides housing throughout the UK for those who have served the URC as ministers. We are looking for a professional and effective manager with significant management experience in the property or housing association sector. The closing date is Monday 12th June.

North Western Synod Officer - Mission and Discipleship Mentor (Lancashire) Are you passionate about the gospel and do you have the skills and experience to enthuse, enable and equip God's people in their local setting to participate more effectively in God's mission today? We are seeking to appoint someone to help deliver the Synod's Missional Discipleship Strategy. The appointee will work across the Synod, but focus mainly on working with congregations in Lancashire. The deadline is Wednesday 21 June 2017.

More information on all these job opportunities is available on our [website](#).



Why go to Greenbelt?

For a good feel of the festival, why not look at some of the Greenbelt [films](#) and decide if you would like to go to Greenbelt 2017?

The festival is taking place at Boughton House, Northamptonshire, from 25 to 28 August, 2017. *Karen Carter, Communications Officer, Church House*



Down in the River: Festival -on-Sea

As part of Feasts and Festivals and in conjunction with Global and Intercultural Ministries, a multicultural celebration will be held at Crowstone St. George's URC on Saturday 23rd September, from 11am to 9pm.

Come down to the River Thames and celebrate through music, poetry, film, workshops and children's activities.

ACAT Training for Church Treasurers

There are four opportunities to attend one of the ACAT well-regarded training courses in the London area during the spring and summer. Two are part of the ACAT foundation course and two are more specialist. For more information on what is available, do have a look at our [website](#).

Pastoral Action in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly - PARCHE.

Revd Andy Melvin is the National Project Coordinator for the work of PARCHE - a registered charity that has been established in Eastbourne for 20 years successfully bringing 21 local churches to work together to care for the elderly in 54 care homes. PARCHE seeks to help local churches to Connect and Relate and Engage with those who live in care homes in their communities and to carry the love and Good News of Christ who they meet. PARCHE can offer resources and training to help. For more information have a look at the [website](#).

Church Growth and Evangelism May 2017, Synod newsletter

Just to let you know I have written an article reflecting on sharing the good news. Do [check it out](#) and please do get in touch if you would like to share or comment on anything.

With every blessing

[Revd Trevor Hahn](#)

Forthcoming events

You will always find [forthcoming events](#) on the Synod website under Events.

2017 Dates for your diary:

10th June - Eastern Synod Celebration Day at Suffolk Showground, IP3 8UH

11th June - Flower Festival at St. Peter's Jessopp Road, Norwich NR2 3QA,
10am-4pm

25th - 28th August - Greenbelt 2017 at Boughton House, Northampton, NN14
1BJ

23rd Sept - Down in the River at Crowstone St George's URC, Westcliff-On-
Sea. SS0 8LH

There are a range of dates and events at Westminster College throughout the
year

Newsletter no 34 will be sent out in mid-July, please send your articles by end
June to Jane Langford-Holder, Moderator's PA, on modpa@urceastern.org.uk
or post to: Moderator's PA, The URC Eastern Synod, Duxford Road,
Whittlesford, Cambs CB22 4ND.

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*Office hours are 9 am to 1 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm tel no: 01223
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