



March 2020

A message from Church House

There is now a tweet page fully dedicated to safeguarding as follows: <https://twitter.com/SafeURC>. If you have any questions, please email [Ioannis Athanasiou](mailto:Ioannis.Athanasiou@urc.org.uk), URC Safeguarding Advisor.

Corona Virus Advice. Please find Corona Virus Advice [here](#).

Shaped by Welcome: Generous Worship

Taking place on Wednesday 11th March, from 11am - 3.30pm at St. Aloysius Church Hall, 20 Phoenix Rd, London NX1 1TA (next to Euston Station), this is the 5th Annual Conference of the Joint Liturgical group of Great Britain. Registration: £25 includes lunch - book [here](#).



Commitment for Life - MOVING STORIES

For MOVING STORIES from Bangladesh, Central America, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and from Zimbabwe, please have a look at our [website](#).

Commitment for Life is the Global Justice Programme of the United Reformed Church - you can contact [Suzanne Pearson](mailto:Suzanne.Pearson@urc.org.uk) at Church House on 020 7916 8638.



Looking up-Joining in-Reaching out: Christ Church, Chelmsford on Sat 28th March

Led by the [Mission Training Team](#), this is a day based on Walking the Way material, looking at the Holy Habits of Prayer, Sharing/Fellowship/Eating Together & Service.

Hosted by the mid-Essex Area Partnership on Saturday 18th March from 10am-4pm - we will also be glad to welcome others from further afield..

Synod Vacancies - a message from the Synod Clerk

We rely heavily on church members to fill a range of roles within the Synod and in this connection we have a number of vacancies described [here](#). Please do consider prayerfully if you feel able to serve the wider church in any of these roles. If you would like to come forward or recommend someone, then I will be very glad to see you at Synod in March or do email me or you can call 01603 452550.

[Keir Hounsome, Synod Clerk](#)

Message from GEAR.

The Spring 2020 edition of In GEAR is now available on GEAR's website. This latest edition plus numerous back copies can be found [here](#).



Rural ministry course

The highly-regarded Rural Ministry Course is back! The Rural Ministry Course is designed for lay and ordained church leaders across the denominations entering a rural appointment for the first time, and those already in rural ministry who feel the need for a 'refresher'. Running Mon 8 – Wed 10 June 2020, the fees for this will be £300 and will also include a one-year subscription to Country Way magazine. Delegates can book [here](#), or email Deb Soesan, or phone (020 7685 3066).



The Big Day Out - 13th June, 2020

SAVE the Date for Summer 2020!. Don't miss this Fun Day Out on Saturday 13th June 2020. Venue: Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, IP3 8UH.

A Fun Day for all the family. Come - Relax - Create - Reflect - Have Fun - Celebrate.

Message from Church House, Head of Communications

The bookshop has a few A4 large print prayer handbooks and 2020 diaries available free to any churches, groups or committees that can meaningfully give them away. Requests should go to [Andy Jackson](#), Head of Communications.

Clare Priory Retreat - 3rd July - 5th July, 2020



STILL WATERS RUN DEEP - This retreat will be led by Revd Mary Irish and Sister Karen Knight from Friday 3rd July - Sunday 5th July 2020 at Clare Priory.

This retreat offers the opportunity to slow down and find rest. A time for prayer, refreshment and individual spiritual accompaniment will be available. Clare Priory has been a place of prayer for many centuries. The monastery, new church and beautiful grounds offer peaceful surroundings, inviting us into the presence of God.

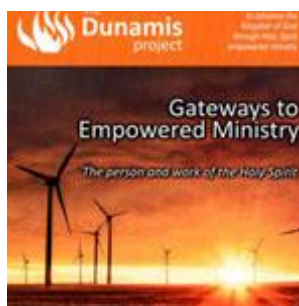
The closing date for booking is 1st June 2020, do book early as the numbers are limited.



URC Holiday Forum 2020 - with John Bell: What shall we tell the children?

Taking place on Saturday 22nd to Friday 28th August, 2020 at the Hayes Christian Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. That's the question John Bell is putting to the 2020 Holiday Forum. John Bell is the theme and worship leader at the forthcoming Holiday Forum – a week of faith, fun and fellowship for individuals and families of all ages and walks of life.

To book Holiday Forum, please use the [Booking Form](#) or contact our Bookings Secretary [Alison Foxwell](#).



Dunamis Project - a message from Revd Jon Sermon

I want to let you know about a training & equipping ministry event coming up in East Anglia called the Dunamis Project. It is a multi-denominational, international programme to equip the church in the power of the Holy Spirit. Dunamis addresses the need to re-connect with experience as in New Testament times - which has been somewhat lost in much of western church life, but I see a different story in Uganda. The events are 4/5 days, living in community with very careful Biblical teaching and practical application, all soaked in an atmosphere of prayer. The Dunamis project consists of 6 such events over 3 years. Although each can stand alone, the first which is coming up is foundational. I am delighted to be leading a team to offer this here in East Anglia!

Do contact me if you want to know more or look at the [website](#). [Revd Jon Sermon](#)

The Milton Mount Foundation bursaries

the Milton Mount Foundation offers bursaries to ministers' daughters, and where possible also to their sons, to assist with the costs of secondary, higher and postgraduate education. For information and application forms, do email or call [Rosie](mailto:Rosie@mmf.org.uk) on 01252 715087.



A celebration of 200 years at Princes Street

Revd Nigel Uden (centre) Co-Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church cuts the celebration cake after a special service held at Princes Street United Reformed Church, Norwich, to mark its 200th anniversary.

He was accompanied by The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Vaughan Thomas, and The Worshipful the Sheriff of Norwich, Dr Marian Prinsley.

On 1st December, 2019 it was 200 years to the exact date that the first act of worship was held in the building. Over 100 people gathered from across all six United Reformed Churches in the Norwich area for the service led by the two group ministers Revd John Potter and Revd Bruno Boldrini. Revd Uden preached the sermon referencing the same Bible text from Exodus 20 that was used in the first service on 1st Dec 1819. Mr David Uden (a relation of Revd Nigel) played the famous Willis organ and a combined choir enhanced the worship. The cake was enjoyed by everyone with a cuppa afterwards.

[Revd John Potter](#) said: "The service was a truly inspirational celebration of the 200 years of this church and an opportunity for us to reflect on Advent Sunday what may be ahead of us in the future." See the website [here](#).



Annual Church Returns still outstanding

Thank you to those churches that have sent in Church Returns - this is very much appreciated.

I still have some outstanding and would be glad to receive these, please.

If you are struggling and would find it helpful, I can always email you a copy of your last year's return, as a guide - just let me know.

[Jane Langford-Horder, PA to the Moderator](#)

Forthcoming events

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

Dates for your diary 2020:

22nd Jan, 18th July, 13th October, The *Gathering*. Westminster College CB3 0AA

7th March - JPIT Conference Renewal and Rebellion: Faith, Economy and Climate. Riverside Centre, Riverside Court, Derby DE24 8HY

11th March - Shaped by Worship: Generous Welcome. St Aloysius, London NX1 1TA

16th-20th March - Ministers' Refresher Week. Westminster College

21st March - Faith in Maintenance. St Peter & St Pauls', Wisbech PE13 1HP

28th March - Looking up, Joining in, Reaching Out. Christ Church Chelmsford CM2 0AW

6th June - Life Together - LEPs today and tomorrow. Westminster College

13th June - Big Day Out. Trinity Park, Ipswich IP3 8UH

3rd July-5th July - Still Waters Run Deep. Clare Priory, Ashen Rd, Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8NX

22nd-28th August - URC Holiday Forum, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanick DE55 1AU

There are a range of events at Westminster College throughout the year
For full details of all events, please see the [website](#).

Apologies for no January newsletter - Synod internet went down for two weeks, just after Christmas, meaning we were unable to access the relevant sites.

The next newsletter no 49 will be sent out in mid-May, 2019. Please send your articles to Jane Langford-Holder, the Moderator's PA on: modpa@urceastern.org.uk or post to: Mrs J Langford-Holder, The URC Eastern Synod, Duxford Rd, 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 830770
