

# URC HOLIDAY FORUM 2017

Saturday 19 to Friday 25 August 2017

## *Follow my Leader*

*Following, learning and leading  
in the life of the Kingdom*



A Christian holiday for all ages  
at The Hayes Conference Centre,  
Swanwick, Derbyshire.

## **Holiday Forum 2017**

### ***Follow my Leader***

Please read this booklet, complete the enclosed Return Form and **return by email or post to Angela Storer by 31 July 2017 AT THE LATEST.**

There is a wide variety of activities over the week, most of which are explained in a little more detail in this booklet. These are all optional, so please don't feel you have to attend everything.

As usual, we will be sharing The Hayes Conference Centre with other groups. Whilst this should have minimal impact on your enjoyment of Holiday Forum, please do speak to a member of the Steering Group if you have any problems.

<b>Theme Leader:</b>	Rev Alistair Smeaton
<b>Worship Leader:</b>	Rev Tony Lee
<b>Music Leader:</b>	Cathryn Rogers
<b>Steering Group:</b>	Angela Storer (Joint Chair)
	Richard Storer (Joint Chair)
	Colin Ferguson (Treasurer)
	Alison Foxwell (Bookings Secretary)
	Rowena Davies
	Teresa Diamond
	Fi Heath
	Abi Knight
	Tim Lee
	Julie McLaren
	Gaye Rees
	Wendy Roe
	Cathryn Rogers
Mair Willcox	
Meg Wilson	
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Rev Ruth Wilson

## **From the Theme Leader, Rev Alistair Smeaton**

*Follow my Leader* - Following, learning and leading in the life of the Kingdom of God. During the week we will be thinking about various aspects of being a disciple. The titles for each of the five days will be: Called to faith, Called to learn, Called to follow, Called to work together and Called to take the lead. Each day we will be drawing on stories from both the Old and the New Testament. We will be seeking insights from the story of Christianity across the centuries and I will be offering glimpses of some of the things that are going on within the Christian Church in Cumbria. I don't plan to do all the talking so please come prepared to share as well as to listen: but I have no intention of putting anyone on the spot.

## **From the Worship Leader, Rev Tony Lee**

The worship will reflect the theme of this year's Forum. We will marvel and give thanks to our Father God for his involvement in our lives. We will remind one another of the steps we take as we walk with him through life. We will Step Forward, Step Out, Step Over, Step Up, Step Into and Step Down... Mind how you tread?!

## **Workshops**

Please read the details below and indicate your choice on the Returns Form.

### **Discussion (Roger Buxton)**

Do you have any words or sayings that help you through your day? Certainly I do. Such as *Love God and do what you like*, *Let go and Let God* and how about *Do your best and leave the rest*? All easy to say but not so easy to do! I think we can have an enjoyable and thought provoking time reflecting on our inspirations, whatever they may be. As the great Irish actor and theatrical director Sir Tyrone Guthrie, who faced many problems, was heard to say: 'Rise above it'!

### **Bible Study (Julie McLaren)**

This group will follow the theme talks during the week and re-visit bible passages that Alistair uses. We will explore other passages related to the theme and see how the Bible speaks to us today. Our own experiences from a variety of situations will help us to clarify our thoughts. You will need to bring a Bible with you and perhaps a notebook to jot down references that seem useful to you. Above all come to exchange thoughts and ideas and be prepared to change your mind.

### **Choir (Cathryn Rogers)**

The aim of the week is to have fun, sing a few songs and enjoy ourselves. During the week we'll learn any new hymns or songs for worship the next day, and tackle an assorted chamber repertoire in a wide variety of styles, and from many different periods of composition. It's literally Gabrieli to Gershwin! Of course there may be a little Rutter during the week, and we'll also look at some of the recently published choral music of the Salvation Army.

### **Film Group - Marion Turner**

The first film is *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, a 2016 film from New Zealand. The Guardian review states 'this is a big-hearted film full of small, understated moments of magic - full of off-kilter charm' but it will raise points for discussion. The second film may be *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* but this could change. The third is British comedy at its best - *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. Come along and join our discussion and debate or just sit and enjoy three very different films.

## **Photography - Fred Davies**

Whether you are an experienced photographer or new to photography, this workshop could be for you. All you need is a digital camera. Throughout the week we will be taking photographs at the Hayes and hope to present an audio-visual presentation on the final evening which will include photographs from all members of the group.

## **Needlework – Alison Foxwell**

The needlework group this year will be following the theme with the cross stitch pattern of an individual following God's command.

All are welcome to have a go at the pattern or continue with your own stitching work, knitting or just relaxing with friends.

I will provide fabric, threads and needles so all you need to bring are sharp scissors and glasses (if you need them).

## **Young People's Group - Tim Lee & Meg Wilson**

This group is for older-teenagers/young adults who are perhaps too old for the children's groups, but don't yet want to join in with the theme talk and the after coffee workshops. The group will be very fluid, so that anyone can choose to attend the theme talk before coffee on some days and join this group on other days. Various activities are planned for each day including drama, crafts and possibly outdoor activities. We also aim to spend time on the overall theme by looking at Bible passages and discussing how we might apply what we learn in today's world and in our own lives. We may also create a contribution for the Forum Evening.

## **Children's Workshops – Carol & Douglas Fleming (Co-ordinators) & Others**

Before morning coffee (during the theme talks) there will be children's groups as follows: Crèche for the 0-4 year olds, All Age Craft and All Age Activity Games.

After morning coffee, when adults are in their workshops, there will be theme related children's workshops as follows: *Sparks* (ages 0-4), *Flames* (Reception/Years 1-4), and *Lasers* (Year 5 upwards)

## **Welcome and Walkabout (Saturday) –**

### **Colin Ferguson/Teresa Diamond/Meg Wilson**

If this is your first visit to Holiday Forum – welcome! It can be a bit daunting at first, particularly if you have never been to the Hayes before or if you're coming on your own. So come and meet Colin (who has been coming to Holiday Forum more years than most), Teresa and Meg in **Main Reception at 5:00pm** for a brief stroll around the site so you know where things are. They'll also answer any queries that you have about the week.

## **Musicians' Meeting (Saturday) – Cathryn Rogers**

If you are a musician and would like to help out during the week, please let us know on the Return Form so we can make sure you have the opportunity and we have suitable music available. **Also, please come to the above short meeting in the Main Conference Hall at 5:20pm.**

## **Family Meeting (Saturday) – Carol & Douglas Fleming/Rowena Davies**

**If you are bringing children to Holiday Forum, it is important that you attend this meeting at 5:45pm in the Main Conference Hall.** Key information regarding the children's workshops will be discussed at this meeting so please do come along even if you have been to Holiday Forum for many years.

## **Other Activities**

### **Welcome Event (Saturday) – Steering Group**

A chance to get to know one another and the opportunity to meet the leaders. There will also be a short time of worship before retiring to the bar for...

### **Pub Quiz (Saturday) – Fi Heath/Cathryn Rogers**

Like quizzing??? Enjoy sharing knowledge both useless and fascinating??? Want to get the week off to a quizzing bang??? Then the Forum Pub Quiz is for you! This classic quiz follows the Welcome Event. Come along and join a team in the formal lounge for a fun evening to showcase your knowledge on a range of subjects. **All age teams mean a fun time for all.** Come along and quiz your socks off!

### **Morning Prayers (from Sunday) – Wendy Roe**

Morning prayers will follow the usual pattern of song, reading and short reflection.

### **Short Walk (Sunday)**

A Sunday afternoon walk from the Hayes. Please meet in reception at 2:15pm.

### **Desert Island Discs (Sunday and Wednesday) – Bill Hales**

An hour to relax, in two separate sessions, with a selection of music to keep us company on our lonely desert island...

### **Evening Meditation (from Sunday) – Various**

Come and end the day in quiet meditation. Each session will be led by a different person, with words and music to create an ambience for reflections and thoughts.

### **Messy Craft (Sunday) – Gaye Rees (Co-ordinator)**

Following last year's success, the idea of Messy Church is returning to Holiday Forum this year with a session based on the story of Abraham which fits into the theme of *Follow my Leader* based on Genesis 12.21. It's for all ages and abilities and is a way of engaging everyone in understanding the Bible through craft and activities. When we follow a story and then combine it with crafts or activities it helps us to remember the story and cement it in our minds. We'll start with a short video that tells the story, and maybe a song, and then we'll share in some exciting activities, so please come along, and find out, as even a story you thought you knew well often has a new slant or angle that brings it even more alive.

### **Ceilidh (Sunday) Alistair Smeaton and Friends**

In modern use we usually instantly think of dancing when we hear the word Ceilidh, but the original meaning of the Gaelic means more of a general social time. The evening will include folk singing (but not necessarily Scottish in origin), perhaps some storytelling and poetry recitation, and even a little dancing. Feel free to take part or just watch and listen, as you please.

## **Fishers of Men (Monday – 2:00pm (building) & 7:45pm (racing)) – Angela & Richard Storer**

Following the success of *Horsing Around* last year, this year Forum is having its very own Regatta! Instead of racing horses, we'll be racing boats (steered by Jesus) as this ties in with the theme of *Fishers of men*! The format otherwise is exactly the same - in two sessions. **This is for all ages to join in with.** Participation isn't compulsory, but it's not too active either if you want to give it a try.

The first (afternoon) session is to design and 'build' the boats in teams... so bring your creative flair! The second (evening) session (on the same day) is 'Regatta Day' and here we need a crowd to cheer as well as people to race the boats. So please... come and race, or come and watch even if you didn't come to the afternoon session. We NEED a crowd... and it's great fun!

## **Performing Arts Workshop (Monday) – Teresa Diamond**

How many of you have watched previous years of *Forum's Got Talent*, wanting to get on stage but being unsure what to do, or a little nervous to do something yourself?! The Performing Arts Workshop will give you the chance to take part in a professional vocal and body warm up (straight from the West End) and to learn a musical theatre routine which you will have the chance to showcase to your friends and family at this year's *Forum's Got Talent*. The workshop has in the past been open to children, but I'm happy to accommodate a group of adults too. Nothing makes you feel young like singing and dancing with your friends!

## **Praise Be! (Monday) – Colin Ferguson**

A time for you to choose the songs/hymns you'd like to sing. I have the pleasure of putting it all together for you this year. Hymns with a touch of the theme will be considered first and, if, as in the past, there are too many to fit in the allotted time, please let me know which verses you'd prefer to concentrate on. Please put your requests on the Returns Sheet including the hymn book (or an indication that you'll bring a copy of the music). There will be space for the choice of younger people too. **This is an all age gathering.**

## **Outing – Nottingham (Tuesday) - Angela & Richard Storer/Gaye Rees**

This year's outing is to Nottingham where there are a lot of things to do eg: Castle, parks and arboretum, National Justice Museum, Museum of Nottingham Life etc. A leaflet with possibilities will be provided once at Forum. You may wish to Google beforehand! A packed lunch will be provided.

The cost is £12.00 per person for the coach (Children 14 and under £5.00) and the bus will leave the Hayes at 12.45.

*(continued on page 8)*

## 2017 Programme

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Duty Elder	Angela & Richard	Teresa & Alison	Mair & Wendy	Abi, Meg & Tim	Gaye & Julie	Colin & Rowena	Angela & Richard
7:45	Morning Prayers						
8:15	Breakfast						
9:15	Worship						Depart
9:45	Notices / Children leave for groups						
10:05	Theme Talk / Children's Crafts and Activities						
10:50	Coffee						
11:20	Adult Workshops / Children's Age Group Workshops						
12:30	Workshops end / Collect Children						
1:00	Lunch						
2:15		Cricket / Rounders or Short Walk	Fishers of Men (Part I) (2:00pm)	Outing	Meet the Moderator' or Treasure Hunt	Open Meeting	
3:30	Arrivals					T'ai Chi for beginners (3:00pm)	
4:00	Tea						
5:00	Welcome and Walkabout	Desert Island Discs (5:00pm) or Messy Crafts (4:45pm)	Praise Be! or	Outing	Poetry Please (5:00pm) or The Saturday Morning Flicks Experience (4:45pm)	Communion Service	
5:20	Musicians' Meeting		Performing Arts Workshop (Both 4:45pm)				
5:45	Family Meeting						
6:00	Approximate end of post-tea activities						
6:30	Dinner						
7:45	Welcome Event	Ceilidh	Fishers of Men (Part II)	Forum's Got Talent	Wellbeing Service,	Forum Evening (7:30pm)	
8:45	Pub Quiz				Desert Island Discs or Activity Games (All 7:45pm)		
9:30		Evening Meditation				Evening Meditation	

## **Poetry Please (Wednesday) – Colin Ferguson**

An hour of sharing the poems that have given us pleasure - perhaps even something you've written yourself? **All ages welcome**.

## **Treasure Hunt (Wednesday) – Steven Neville**

Follow the clues and be rewarded with treasure. A fun time for everyone – 'real' kids and grown-up kids alike!

## **Forum's Got Talent (Tuesday) – Teresa Diamond**

Forum's Got Talent is a big part of Forum week and something that 'most of us' look forward to. Each year we are blessed with amazing talent and comedy, and are never disappointed! We have delighted in many acts over the years from stories about cats, to Tap Dancing and the amazing Victoria Wood tribute that Cathryn and Fi treated us to last year. This year we hope to raise the bar again. If you would like to take part in this Summer's FGT, be sure to add your name to the list in the Vinery. If you don't fancy performing, please do come along to support/laugh at those taking part. See your Forum buddies in a different light and relax in the chaos of Forum's Got Talent.

*Note – as with recent years, there'll be no performances at the Forum Evening on the last night which will be solely for group/workshop feedback from the week. So if you want to 'perform', this is your chance.*

## **Meet the Moderator (Wednesday) – Colin Ferguson (Chair)**

An informal gathering but sadly this year it won't be with the Moderator. Rev Kevin Watson, currently Joint Moderator of the URC, can't be with us due to administrative error/diary omission in his office. (He'll be in Australia at his son's wedding instead!) But watch this space, as we hope to have someone else from the URC/Church House in this slot instead.)

## **The Saturday Morning Flicks Experience (Wednesday) – 4:45pm start – Rowena & Fred Davies**

If you have never experienced the excitement of Saturday morning cinema, come and join those who remember it well. The experience will include excerpts from black and white movies: Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin, The Keystone Cops and the Lone Ranger. During the interval there will be a Yoyo competition (Yoyos provided). Suitable for all ages – all are welcome.

## **Open Meeting (Thursday)**

All are welcome to this meeting – this is your chance to ask the Steering Group any questions you might have about Holiday Forum. Feedback is welcomed here, but there are also feedback forms available for you to fill out in your own time and hand in before you leave. The Booking Forms for Holiday Forum 2018 will also be available hot off the press!



### **T'ai Chi for Beginners (Thursday) – Gaye Rees**

T'ai Chi is a form of exercise suitable for all ages and abilities – even those who have difficulty in standing, as this can be done sitting down! I'll be teaching the 'Yang' style (proved beneficial for many health issues including high blood pressure, joint problems and through visualisation helping with stress related issues). By using slow repetitive movements and breathing correctly we use the Chi within our own bodies which helps our own healing processes. So just turn up and copy my movements - I'll talk you through them. Come to the garden and meet the Peacocks, Dragons and Tigers along with the Fair Lady. No special clothing required.

### **Forum Evening (Thursday) – 7:30pm start (Angela & Richard Storer)**

The final evening of the holiday presents an opportunity to share what's been going on throughout the week, as the gifts and talents from the groups and workshops are harvested and the tournament prizes are awarded.

**Competitions** – There will be the usual scrabble, table tennis, croquet and boule competitions. Look at the noticeboard for further information.

## **Other Important Information**

For fire regulations and insurance purposes, no bedrooms can be changed without permission from Alison Foxwell, the Bookings Secretary. Every effort will be made to take into account any preferences that have been requested, but final decisions remain the discretion of the Bookings Secretary.

**For fire regulation purposes, if you go off site at any point during the week for any reason, please sign out on the list on the desk in main reception.**

### **Fire Bell**

This is a continuous ringing sound. Each room displays The Hayes Fire Procedure which should be studied carefully.

### **Alcohol**

No alcohol may be brought onto the premises, but adults may purchase alcohol from the bar which will be open before lunch, before dinner and in the evening. Please drink responsibly.

### **Games Room**

Adult supervision is required at all times.

### **Smoking**

The Hayes operates a **NO SMOKING** policy in all buildings, including bedrooms. If you smoke outside, please be aware of people around you and of open windows and doors.

### **Your property**

Neither The Hayes (The Christian Conference Trust), the United Reformed Church nor the Holiday Forum Steering Group accepts responsibility for any personal items (including, but not limited to, musical instruments, computers, audio or photographic equipment). Please ensure adequate insurance is taken out before attending Holiday Forum. Care should be taken to avoid leaving valuables in your rooms. The staff of The Hayes will be pleased to advise regarding the storage of valuable items.

### **Holiday Forum Conference Office**

Each day the **Duty Elders** will be in the Main Reception area from 8:45-9:00am, 10:45-11:15am and 2:00-2:30pm to answer any questions. Duty Elders and other members of the Steering Group will be available to help you at any other time.

## **First Aid**

Should anyone require First Aid, please contact a Duty Elder. Anyone who has had a medical condition requiring treatment in the fortnight preceding Forum should advise on arrival. Anyone able to provide First Aid help, please advise on arrival.

## **Day Visitors**

If you are expecting visitors any day, please let Alison Foxwell (Bookings Secretary) know as early as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made with the Hayes. A charge is made for visitors which must be paid in advance.

## **Lost Property**

Any articles of lost property should be handed to a Duty Elder who will try and re-unite them with their owners.

## **Drinks**

Tea and coffee facilities are available in all en-suite bedrooms free of charge and there are refreshment points available for standard rooms. There are hot drinks machines in the bar area too, also free of charge and available at times other than mealtimes or coffee/tea breaks. There are vending machines available for a selection of soft drinks and snacks.

## **Newspapers**

Please state your preference of newspaper on the Return Form. Payment should be made to the Treasurer during the week. There will be no newspapers on the days of arrival (Saturday) and departure (Friday). These will be available for collection in Main Reception area.

## FORUM 2018

Please consider booking early – even as you leave *this* Forum. (It helps the Steering Group's planning when numbers are known earlier.)

2018 will be extra exciting as it's an anniversary year and the various leaders have all shared in leadership at Forum in the past.

### *Jesus-shaped Church*

*- mission and discipleship versus survivalism -*

After 2100 years of Christian history, Jesus has lost none of his chic or credibility. The church that claims his name, by contrast, is viewed actively as Bad News. Churches would be overflowing and among the most widely respected and valued institutions in our society if they were recognisably like Jesus. Instead, we're hovering on the edge of extinction, because people are aware of the contradiction and aren't prepared to be part of the whole church project. When you stop and think about it, it's strange that we don't define churches as 'communities of people that act like Jesus', isn't it? If people looked at Jesus and saw what God was like, it should surely be the case that people look at churches and individual Christians to see what Jesus is like? Something went badly wrong somewhere in Christian history. If we're going to be faithful disciples of Jesus, making a Jesus-shaped difference to our communities and being part of the Good News we proclaim, we need to start following Jesus more closely and more faithfully. That means letting go of our obsession with survival and success, and rediscovering what discipleship and mission are all about instead. Jesus called it, 'denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following - losing our lives in order to find them!' It's risky and it's scary, but it is also being where Jesus is, and there is no other way to find life in all its fullness! **Are you up for the journey?**

And what a fantastic team to help celebrate  
an anniversary year in Forum's history!

**Theme Leader** - Lawrence Moore

**Worship Leaders** - Rev Kay Alberg, Rev David Fraser,

Rev David Legge, Rev Iain McLaren,

Rev Jenny Mills, Rev John Steele

**Music Leader** – Cathryn Rogers

**Blank for Notes:**

## **CONTACT NUMBERS**

In case of emergency, please dial 999. If you have an urgent issue overnight, please ring the Hayes Duty Manager. The number can be found in the reception areas of your accommodation (Alan Booth, Lakeside or Main House).

During the day, please speak to a member of the Steering Group first (preferably the Duty Elders for that day). If this isn't possible, please go to the Hayes' Admin Office in the Main House.

If you have any problems or issues during the week, and are unable to find us, please feel free to ring or text one of the Joint Chairs:

- **Richard Storer**
- **Angela Storer**

**Address:** The Hayes Conference Centre, Hayes Lane,  
Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU

**By road:** The Hayes is 5 miles from Junction 28 of the M1. From Junction 28, take the A38 towards Derby. Leave at the marked exit for A615 Matlock/A61 Chesterfield and take the B6179 towards Swanwick/Ripley. At the traffic lights by the church in Swanwick turn left towards Somercotes (B6016). After 500 yards turn right into Hayes Lane. The Conference Centre is straight ahead. There is plenty of free parking.

**By train:** The local railway station is Alfreton on the Sheffield-Nottingham line, but trains are limited. It is about 3 miles from The Hayes. Taxis are available.  
Alternatively, from Derby Station, catch a bus or taxi (approx. 15 miles).

## **Arrivals**

Please try not to arrive before 3:30pm. Afternoon tea will be served around 4.00pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. If you intend to arrive after 6:30pm, please let us know.