

# Information for participants

*The programme (part one)*



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**General Assembly 2018**

The Albert Hall

Nottingham

**6 to 9 July**

A programme booklet giving full details of the timetable, facilities and arrangements will be given out to all those attending Assembly at registration. This leaflet is intended to provide preliminary information you may require beforehand.



***Nigel Uden and Derek Estill***

Moderators of General Assembly 2018 to 2020

This booklet provides preliminary information and the details it contains are subject to change. Any significant changes will be posted online, so please check the General Assembly pages of the URC website for up-to-date information on Assembly 2018.

<http://generalassembly.urc.org.uk>

## Welcome by the Moderators of General Assembly

If you are reading this, it's likely you are getting ready for the United Reformed Church's 2018 General Assembly in Nottingham. Thank you for giving yourself to that moment of discernment and fellowship. Many make it a priority in busy lives, some using holidays to be there, and it is not taken for granted.

You will be part of a diverse gathering, which comes together, in Fred Kaan's words, to 'focus our thought on how far our God the people has brought' ... and to affirm 'our 'Yes' to God's call, pursuing God's future: life's fulness for all.' There will be Bible study and business, all punctuated with worship and friendship. We hope that, true to its best traditions, General Assembly will encourage us in ***Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today.***

During the days leading into Assembly, we invite you to include it in your prayers, remembering the many people who do a great deal of detailed preparation on behalf of us all.

God, beyond the limits of our language or imagination, yet made known to us in the carpenter of Nazareth, we give thanks for General Assembly as an opportunity to be built up in faith and in following; by the work of the Holy Spirit, may it be a Council of the Church which enables us to walk the Way that leads to you, to discern the Truth that reveals you, and to live the Life that proclaims you for the blessing of the world to which you came and to which you call us to go; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Until we meet in Nottingham, grace to you and peace.

**Derek Estill and Nigel Uden**

*Moderators of General Assembly 2018 to 2020*

## From the Chaplains

Our gathering as General Assembly will be enriched by worship and Bible study. On Friday we will induct Derek and Nigel to serve as Moderators, share in Communion together and Nigel will make his address. Throughout Assembly our morning and evening devotions will tie in with the Bible studies – and images from Dr Mike Colechin will aid our reflection. The Revd Dr Kathy White, Old Testament tutor at Northern College, will lead our Bible studies on: *Why walk the way? a Hebrew Bible perspective*. On Sunday morning we will gather, along with local URCs, for a service at which the Revd John Proctor, our General Secretary, will preach. Derek will share an address during closing worship on Monday.

*David Coaker and Elaine Colechin*

## An outline programme

Please note that this is only a provisional programme to give an indication of when things are likely to happen – changes may have to be made before Assembly meets. A revised, more detailed, programme will be given to you at registration. Details of times and venues of special interest meetings will also be included then.

## Friday 6 July

Registration from 1.00

- 1.30      The General Secretary will address those present – an introductory session for new members; ‘old timers’ are welcome to attend too!
  
- 2.30      Constitution of Assembly, including the induction of new Moderators, thanks and gifts to retiring Moderators and Chaplains. First Moderator’s Address by Nigel Uden and Assembly Communion. Introductions and explanations.

- 5.00 Break
- 5.30 **Business Session 1**, including the greeting of guests and responses. Formal resolutions. Welcome from the Bishop of Nottingham and the Lord Mayor of Nottingham. Outgoing Moderator reflection one. Committee reports: communications, nominations, equalities, Introduction to the report on the Future of General Assembly.  
Closing devotions – including introduction to Bible studies
- 7.30 Evening meal in the Albert Hall and Strathdon Hotel.

## Saturday 7 July

- 9.00 Worship and Bible Study – the Revd Dr Kathy White ('Walking the Half-Way' Genesis 11:31-12:4)
- 9.45 **Business Session 2**  
Children and youth committee  
Address by the Revd Dr Collin Cowan, General Secretary of the Council for World Mission (CWM)  
Pilots – 'The Big Speak Out'
- 11.30 Election of Moderators
- 12.00 Congregational Insurance – Community Project Awards
- 12.30 Lunch (packed lunches in the Albert Hall) and special interest meetings
- 2.00 **Business Session 3**  
Greeting of new ministers and any Jubilee ministers present.  
Faith and order  
Mission  
Synod Moderators report  
Ministries  
Future of Assembly working party
- 6.00 Parallel sessions
- 7.30 Dinner, followed by an Assembly Act of Worship to bring the day to a close – this will be led by young people.

# Sunday 8 July

- 9.00          Worship and Bible Study – the Revd Dr Kathy White  
(‘Walking the Way through Deep Waters’ Exodus 14:8-16)
- 9.45          **Business Session 4**  
Announcement of the election of the Moderators  
2020 to 2022 and greeting of present  
Pastoral Reference committee  
Guest Speaker: Amanda Mukwashi, Director of Christian Aid
- 11.00        Assembly Act of Worship – preacher, the Revd John Proctor
- 12.30        Lunch
- 2.00          **Business Session 5**  
Assembly arrangements  
Education and learning
- 2.50        Church closures report
- 3.00        Guest Speaker: Yvonne Campbell, General Secretary  
of the Congregational Federation
- 3.15        Items removed from en bloc  
Remaindered business
- 3.45        Finance
- 4.30        An Interfaith Conversation between representatives of the  
Islamic, Jewish and Christian Faiths’ with guest speakers  
Anjum Anwar, Rabbi Ephraim Guttentag and The Revd Canon  
Dr Arun John.  
Guest speaker Mr Jatinder Singh Birdi, the Co-chair  
of the Inter Faith Network  
Committee reports  
Mission Council 2
- 7.30        Dinner.

## Monday 9 July

- 9.00           Worship and Bible Study – the Revd Dr Kathy White  
(‘Walking the Desert Highway’ Isaiah 35:1-10)
- 9.45           **Business Session 6**  
Outgoing Moderator reflection two  
Synod resolutions  
Remaindered business  
Address to the Throne  
Moderators’ acceptance speeches  
Thanks and minutes
- 12.00          Closing Worship including Moderator’s Address by  
Derek Estill.

### Please note:

#### The postal address

c/o URC General Assembly,  
The Albert Hall, North Circus Street, Nottingham NG1 5AA

#### Information desk and stewards

Located in the reception area. T: 0115 908 2211

#### Assembly office:

Located in the City Suite on the second floor T: 0115 908 2210  
E: [general.assembly@urc.org.uk](mailto:general.assembly@urc.org.uk)  
Note: fax messages may be sent via the Albert Hall office:  
0115 947 6512.

#### Telephone messages

Every effort will be made to deliver a message to you if  
left at the information desk T: 0115 908 2211

Urgent messages when Assembly is in session, may be  
left with the URC Assembly office T: 0115 908 2210  
E: [general.assembly@urc.org.uk](mailto:general.assembly@urc.org.uk)

#### Before you come to Assembly

Accommodation will be booked for all members of Assembly  
and you will be notified of the arrangements made.

# Travel directions to the Albert Hall

(Postcode for satnav NG1 5AA.)

## Access

The town centre is fairly compact and the Albert Hall and most hotels are close to each other.

**The main entrance** is located on North Circus Street (one way), opposite St Barnabas Cathedral and adjacent to the Nottingham Playhouse. Access is gained via large dark wooden double doors labelled entrance 1 or 2 above the door. A large wide stone and marble staircase of 13 steps leads down to the ground floor reception area.

**The accessible entrance** is located directly off the Maid Marion Way roundabout adjacent to the Royal Bank of Scotland. Access is gained via a small ramp leading to a level entrance, labelled entrance 4, above the door. An intercom is provided at the base of the ramp, where access can be requested. Once alerted a member of our team will open the door and will be happy to assist if required.

A drop off area is available at this entrance, however vehicles will need to be parked at the front of the building on North Circus Street. There are a number of disabled bays and street parking available for blue badge holders.



The accessible entrance to the Albert Hall

## Travelling by car

Use **M1 Junction 24, or 25 (South) or 26 Junction (North)** and follow signs for the City Centre.  
(Postcode for Satnav NG1 5AA.)

## Tram network and park & ride

We are partnered with our local tram network Nottingham Express Transit (NET) and offer a £2 park and ride return deal. The nearest tram stop is 'Royal Centre' just a short walk to The Albert Hall. NET operates seven park and ride sites across the city. The nearest park and ride, seven minutes to the city is The Forest (NG7 6AQ). For other park & ride sites visit <http://www.thetram.net>.

A travel voucher can be found on page 12 of this booklet. Before travelling, Assembly representatives must fill in the left hand side of the ticket with their name, URC Assembly and the dates 6-9 July, and purchase an 'event ticket' for £2 from the machines located at the tram stops. If asked by a tram official you will need to produce the voucher as evidence of your right to travel on an event ticket. Failing to have both of these tickets could result in a penalty fare. Should you have any issues when arriving at the ticket machine, the help point on the side will put you in direct contact with the NET customer service team. The voucher can be used throughout Assembly – so don't lose it!

## Car parking

**Some hotels have their own parking facilities**, but there is no parking at the Albert Hall.

### On street metered parking

All the streets surrounding the Albert Hall offer metered parking. Zone 1 from £1.00 or 30 minutes and zone 2 from £1.00 per hour. Please read all signs and meters carefully.

### Car parking

Secure NCP parking: reduced day and 24hr rates are available for two nearby multi story car parks, both are within easy walking

distance of the Albert Hall. You will receive a ticket which can then be validated on your arrival at the Albert Hall reception.

NCP St James Street (NG1 6EY).

NCP Nottingham City on Mount Street (NG1 6HG).

### **Advanced pre-booked only parking**

We are partnered with Q-Park to offer pre-bookable car parking at a reduced rate. Please visit <https://www.q-park.co.uk/parking/nottingham/q-park-talbot-street> to pre-book your space using promo code PT0217ALBERT and pay £6 for daytime parking and £5 for evening parking.

### **Loading/unloading**

Is achieved via the main entrance and Great Hall access on North Circus Street. There is also flat access to the rear of the venue off the Maid Marion way roundabout. Further details available on request.

## **Public Transport**

**By rail:** The Albert Hall is a 20 minute walk or five minute taxi/tram journey from Nottingham train station. Leave Nottingham station by the central bridge for taxis and the tram, not the front entrance.

**By tram:** A five minute walk from stops at either Old Market Square or the Royal Centre. See page nine for details of the special arrangement with Nottingham trams; don't forget to cut out the voucher found on the back page of this booklet.

**By bus:** A five minute walk from Old Market Square, a 15 minute walk from Victoria and Broadmarsh bus station. Long distance buses will drop people outside the railway station.

**By air:** use the Nottingham Skylink service from East Midlands Airport (45 Minutes) alight at the Friar Lane stop, then it's a four minute walk to the Albert Hall.

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For more travel information we recommend you use one of the recognised websites giving details of routes and costs for travel by road, rail, coach or air.

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## Nottingham map

A street plan of the town is enclosed in your information pack and this shows the main hotels, the location of the Albert Hall, where Assembly will be held, St Andrews with Castle Gate and the railway station.

## Arrival and registration

### On arrival in Nottingham

Unless you are likely to arrive after 1.30pm, you should go directly to your hotel and check in there, leaving your baggage in your room, if it is already available, or in their left luggage room. If you arrive after 1.30pm please go straight to the Albert Hall, register and leave your baggage in the secure cloakroom store provided; check in to your hotel as soon as possible after the first session.

**Assembly registration** is at the information desk to which you will be directed as you enter the Albert Hall. When you have checked in at your hotel you should make your way to the Albert Hall and register.

At registration you will be provided with the detailed programme, other papers and information and your badge. The badge needs to be worn throughout Assembly as it will be required for recognition purposes at the Albert Hall and at the Strathdon Hotel to obtain meals and also if you are using the 'events' tram ticket (see page nine and over).

There will be an **information desk** staffed by stewards at the Albert Hall. T: 0115 9082 211

## While at Assembly

### Refreshments

Tea, coffee and light refreshments are available and may be purchased on the premises at the Albert Hall and there are many coffee shops, restaurants and cafes in the town centre nearby.

### Lunches and dinners

A packed lunch will be provided for all members of Assembly on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Dinner will also be provided Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at the Albert Hall and Strathdon Hotel. For other meals Nottingham abounds in a great variety of places to eat to suit every taste.

### At the close of Assembly

You will probably have to vacate your accommodation by 10am on Monday 9 July, in which case your luggage can often be left by arrangement in your hotel's luggage room, if you prefer or may be stored by arrangement at the cloakroom at the Albert Hall until the close of Assembly.

Below is the tramway voucher people will need to use on the trams (see information on Tram Network and Park & Ride above).

Please fill in your details below.

NAME

EVENT NAME:

DATE ATTENDING:

**This voucher entitles you to travel on NET Trams for just £2 return with the purchase of an Event Ticket.**

**How to use:** Select the "Event Ticket" option at any Tram ticket machine on the network. If requested by Tram staff, this voucher must be shown in conjunction with the event ticket to qualify for the offer. Please note that failure to do so may result in a penalty fare. Free parking is available in our 7 Park and Ride sites across the city. For more information, including journey planning, please visit [www.thetram.net](http://www.thetram.net)



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