



The North Western Synod
of the **United Reformed Church**

North Western Synod Newsletter

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Safeguarding training dates February to April 2022

Foundation (formerly Basic) and Intermediate Safeguarding Training will continue to be delivered on zoom, but these arrangements will be reviewed in April 2022 dependent on the Covid situation and guidelines.

The URC Training Framework determines what level of training is mandatory for each role in the church, see the attached Framework link for guidance [Safeguarding Training Framework](#)

Foundation (formerly Basic) Safeguarding training

The 2-hour online training session is for **ALL volunteers and paid workers, including Ministers and elders** who have **NOT** attended any URC Safeguarding training in the last 3 years.

The sessions are limited to a maximum of 20 people per session. Anyone who registers to attend the training will then be sent the Zoom link for the relevant training session.

If you haven't already attended, please register your interest with the Synod Safeguarding Adviser, by emailing Julie Rafferty on: safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk

Session no	Date	Day	Time
1	07/02/2022	Monday	6.30 – 8.30pm
2	03/03/2022	Thursday	10.30am -12.30pm
3	05/04/2022	Tuesday	7-9pm

Intermediate training

The 2.5-hour online training sessions are again for **ALL volunteers and paid workers, including Ministers and elders** who **have completed** either the recent URC Basic Safeguarding training and/ or the URC Intermediate Safeguarding training (delivered in 2018 and 2019 by myself)

Again, the sessions are limited to a maximum of 20 people per session. Anyone who registers to attend the training will then be sent the Zoom link for the relevant training session.

Please register for one of the training sessions with the Synod Safeguarding Adviser, by emailing Julie Rafferty on: safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk

Session no	Date	Day	Time
1	15/02/2022	Tuesday	6.30-9pm
2	28/02/2022	Monday	6.30-9pm
3	15/03/2022	Tuesday	6.30-9pm
4	21/03/2022	Monday	6.30-9pm
5	20/04/2022	Wednesday	10am – 12.30pm

Online Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn to support young people

- Gain an in-depth understanding of mental health and factors that can affect wellbeing in the youth sector
- Develop practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Feel confident to step in, reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhance your interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening and learn to champion self-care

For more info and to book, contact:



Children's & Youth Development Officers
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

Visit the MHFA England website at mhfaengland.org
Find us on social media @MHFAEngland

Evening Course 18:30-21:30

Tues 8, Thurs 10

Tues 15, Thurs 17

February 2022

<https://feb-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk>

Morning Course 9:30-12:30

Mon 21, Weds 23

Mon 28, Weds 30

March 2022

<https://march-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk>

We have spaces available on upcoming online Youth Mental Health First Aid course and would like to offer out this opportunity to participants from North Western Synod.

We are able to offer spaces at a subsidised rate of £27.75 per person to help cover cost of the course materials. (The full course cost is normally £300pp)

Course dates and booking links are included below.

Feb Evening Course – <https://feb-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Session 1: Tuesday 8th February - 18:30 - 21:30

Session 2: Thursday 10th February - 18:30 - 21:30

Session 3: Tuesday 15th February - 18:30 - 21:30

Session 4: Thursday 17th February - 18:30 - 21:30

March Morning Course - <https://march-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Session 1: Monday 21st March - 9:30 - 12:30

Session 2: Wednesday 23rd March - 9:30 - 12:30

Session 3: Monday 28th March - 9:30 - 12:30

Session 4: Wednesday 30th March - 9:30 - 12:30

Lent & Lunch for Preachers: Lectionary Readings, Sermon Ideas, Tips and Topics

When? Tuesdays from 12 to 1:30 (we'll try to finish before then).

For how long? Weekly, from 1 March through 29 March. Each session stands alone so feel free to join as and when you can.

Lay Preachers and Ministers of Word and Sacrament, we'll gather to talk through the week's assigned lectionary readings for the Season of Lent. Think of these sessions like a study group for preachers, lay and ordained.

Our talks will include a survey of the texts, sermonic tips and topics.

Additionally, we might ask, what does it mean to "Preach while Woke?" Or when do you know you're preaching from the "knot in your chest"?

Here's the schedule & readings:

Tuesday, 1 March First Sunday of Lent

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Gospel Luke 4:1-13

Tuesday, 8 March Second Sunday of Lent

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:31-35

Tuesday, 15 March Third Sunday of Lent:

- Isaiah 55:1-9
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9

Tuesday, 22 March Fourth Sunday of Lent

- Joshua 5:9-12
- Psalm 32
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Tuesday, 29 March Fifth Sunday of Lent

- Isaiah 43:16-21
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- John 12:1-8

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 894 9694 9268 Passcode: 415535

Questions? Email Rob Hoch, our Training and Learning Mentor at

Learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk

As you all know, the Synod now have a travelling Labyrinth that you can reserve to use. Many Partnerships and Churches are planning to engage with the Labyrinth in the next few weeks on Away days, Lent and Easter celebrations etc. The beauty of a Labyrinth is that we can engage with it indoors and outdoors (an excellent way to engage with the community in your Eco Garden)

Labyrinths designed to enable a spiritual journey - an ancient and powerful spiritual exercise. It's why you'll often find them within medieval cathedrals, for example. They've experienced a revival in recent years, particularly during lockdown. You journey into the centre of the labyrinth to meet Jesus, and finally wend your way back out re-engage with the world, refreshed, revitalised, and nourished. If you haven't experienced labyrinths before, or would like to get ideas about the different ways you can use them, this is a workshop for you.

This is what you'll be doing:

- Introduction to labyrinths - history, use, types and where they are found.
- Experience a labyrinth finger tracing meditation
- Other ideas for using labyrinths for personal use and with the public including spaces like gardens, car parks, schools, church halls etc
- Local labyrinths in your Synod areas for walking.
- Next steps
- Questions

Please let Daleen ten Cate know if you would like to attend the workshop: Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk and pass it on to as many people as possible



NW SYNOD PRESENTS

LABYRINTH WORKSHOP

A ZOOM WORKSHOP LED BY ALICE WHITE

9 MARCH 10AM - 12 NOON

Meeting ID: 508 408 0903
Passcode: DTC
Link: <https://bit.ly/350PyDy>



Jesus at the movies

The Bolton & Salford Missional Partnership of the United Reformed Church invites you to join us this Lent to explore Jesus in a series of films.

Come and watch the film, followed by a short discussion and time to share our thoughts.

Sunday 6 March, 2pm Wednesday 9 March, 7pm	JESUS (1999, International; starring Jeremy Sisto as Jesus, Gary Oldman as Pontius Pilate, Debra Messing [Will & Grace] as Mary Magdalene. From a series of 13 films called "The Bible".)	
Sunday 13 March, 7pm Wednesday 16 March, 7pm	GODSPELL (1973, USA; musical by Stephen Schwartz based on Matthew's Gospel, starring Victor Garber as Jesus and set in modern-day New York.)	
Sunday 20 March, 2pm Wednesday 23 March, 7pm	JESUS OF NAZARETH [Part 4/4] (1977, USA; award-winning drama, starring Robert Powell as Jesus, Laurence Olivier as Nicodemus, directed by Franco Zeffirelli.)	
Sunday 27 March, 2pm Wednesday 30 March, 7pm	SON OF MAN (2006, South Africa; one man's journey of love, deception and betrayal in the contemporary fictional state of Judaea in Southern Africa.) In English and Xhosa.	
Sunday 3 April, 2pm Wednesday 6 April, 7pm	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST (2004, USA; directed by Mel Gibson, starring Jim Caviezel as Jesus.) In Aramaic and Latin. <i>Contains graphic violence of the Crucifixion. Subtitled.</i>	
Sunday 10 April, 2pm Wednesday 13 April, 7pm	JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (2000, UK; by Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice. Musical theatre production, starring Glenn Carter as Jesus, Jérôme Pradon as Judas, Renée Castle as Mary.)	

Light refreshments (tea, coffee, water) **available**

Venue: St Andrew & St George's Church,
St George's Road, Bolton BL1 2BX

Accessibility: Disabled lift, Hearing loop 

Parking: NCP Topp Way (BL1 2DJ) [3 hours = £3.60]
or NCP Upper Bark Street (BL1 2AX)



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



The URC Waldensian Fellowship On-Line

Monday, 28th February at 7.30 pm

The Bible in Italian History and Culture

with

Eric Noffke

former President of the Italian Bible Society and currently Professor of
New Testament Studies at the Waldensian Theological Faculty in
Rome.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84233646575?pwd=dWZxemRuZVUwVnlycGtJTWlwMW9Sdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 3364 6575

Passcode: 087152

One tap mobile

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A Year with Luke's Jesus

A 4-session overview of Luke's gospel for ministers and lay preachers

Dear colleagues and fellow-disciples

Translation

I have spent much of the past six months working with the Greek text in translating Luke's gospel. It has been a transformative experience! Translation occupies the space between transliteration (a "word for word" rendering of the text) and interpretation (rendering the meaning and intention of the text). You might assume that our interpretation emerges from reading the text - a linear, one-way street process. While that might be the case much of the time, the reality is that the interpretive framework we have inherited also significantly shapes and sometimes determines how we read and understand the text. It's a much more dynamic process, in other words.

Changed landscape

Within the past 40 years, archaeological discoveries in Asia Minor have revolutionised our understanding of Roman Imperial theology (the theology of the Emperor and the Roman Empire). Very particularly, they've shown us how our gospels are written as a direct and deliberate confrontation with that theology. Think of Ched Myers' commentary on Mark, *Binding the Strong Man*.

What I'm offering

Surprisingly, Lukan scholars and commentators have largely come late to this particular party. It is for this reason that, in conversation with Robert Hoch, I am offering a 4-session overview of Luke's gospel that reads his story of Jesus through the lens of Jesus' confrontation with the Roman Occupation, the Purity System interpretation of the Judaism of his day, and the hopes of the Little People for liberation from oppression.

Aim and outcome

The aim is to understand and illuminate the story Luke tells, foregrounding what Jesus and Luke (as opposed to the church) understand by the salvation of the world that God effects through Jesus - particularly Easter. My conviction is that it will transform our preaching, connecting directly to our journey of discipleship as parrot of Walking the Way and making the connections with our own contemporary context natural and obvious.

I'm offering a morning and evening session of each on the **15, 17, 21 and 28 February** so as to maximise the opportunity for participation. You're free to mix and match timings as best suits for you.

Registration

All the details are [here](#). Please register with Kerry (admin@nwsynod.org.uk). It would help me if you could indicate a preference for sessions (morning, evening, a mixture) but this in no way prevents you changing as necessary!

I hope to see you there!

Best

Lawrence

Leading your Church into growth

Due to the Covid situation we had to postpone the LYCIG conference until later this year. If you were unsure of what it is all about. Now is your chance to find out more. The mentors invite you to join the LYCIG taster session, alongside all the Northerly Synods.

Lawrence Heath-Moore is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LYCIG Taster Session

Time: Feb 1, 2022 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84874075047?pwd=UndCcDNYTGNMcktaY21ocUd6T0Y2QT09>

Meeting ID: 848 7407 5047

Passcode: 685929

T A S T E R E V E N T

**TUES
1 FEB**



**10AM-
NOON**

Leading your Church
into Growth

**A free taster to see if
Leading Your Church into Growth
is for you.**

**Contact Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk
for Zoom details.**

For more info on LYCIG go to
www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/lycig

Fulwood URC

Fulwood URC started off as two separate churches – St Margaret’s Presbyterian Church (1866) and Garstang Road Congregational Church (1894). The two churches united in 1968 using the Garstang Rd building and 30 year later the two-storey building was adapted to create a single story building with a multi-purpose Worship Area/Hall. The congregation has been an active member of Churches Together in Fulwood & Broughton since it was formed in 1988. Sadly, due to a decreasing congregation it was agreed that the church should close and a Closing Service was held on 8th January 2022 led by Rev Lena Talbot.

Many people from around the Synod and Lancashire Area have been familiar with the building having attended meetings or trainings etc. We have been very grateful for the Retired Ministers and Lay Preachers who have led worship for us over the years.

Although closing a church is sad, we are pleased that many of the contents have been ‘adopted’ by other churches and will continue to be used. The pulpit, lectern, digital piano and several banners have gone to Christ Church, Longridge. The sound system and digital projector, some chairs and tables are now at Leyland URC along with the internal stained glass window which is to be installed over the front door. The Communion table & chair, chalice & plate and table-top font have been given to Barrow United Reformed Church Primary School, near Clitheroe along with 3 suitcases of nativity play costumes. A pair of Communion glass trays was requested by a former member for her church in Chelmsford, she has recently been authorised to preside at Communion and will now be using the trays which her father used to use as an Elder serving wine. A set of stacking chairs have also been given to a local Sikh Temple. Other smaller items have been given away but look out in a later newsletter as there still some things needing good homes.

A word of advice to others – check the back of your cupboards, store rooms, cellars & lofts regularly and don’t let the clutter accumulate... we are going to need a big skip!



Digital Content Officer (Digital Worship)

Permanent contract, 21 hours per week
Salary: £18,524

Are you ready to help the discipleship and mission of the Church through digital worship?

Working in the creative Communications team and closely with the Minister for Digital Worship, this role supports the teams purpose to promote effective communication and celebration of the Gospel in and beyond the URC; giving voice to good news and facilitating regional and national communications.

You already have experience in website content development, extensive knowledge of digital platforms and experience of managing internal and external digital communications. You have a wide set of digital editing and production skills, with experience in online videos, images, podcasts, social media, websites, PowerPoints, and emails. You possess excellent English language skills including writing for social and digital media. You are highly organised with an ability to multi-task and work to tight deadlines. An awareness of Christian mission and language, and appreciation for worship in varied formats is essential. Experience of managing focus groups and delivering training events would be advantageous.

We can offer you a friendly work environment: flexibility to be home-based or hybrid working from United Reformed Church House in London and from home (following a successful probationary period).

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
020 7691 9871 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/jobs

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 21 February 2022 Interview date: Tuesday 8 March 2022



Programme Assistant Children's and Youth Work

Permanent contract, 21 hours per week

Salary: £16,334

Are you passionate about building a Church which caters effectively for children and young people? Are you a team player committed to working with others to develop resources and programmes for children and young people?

An opportunity has arisen for a new role to support the Children's and Youth Work Office of the United Reformed Church.

In this role you will contribute to projects, programmes and resources for local churches as well as support the Children's and Youth Work team in maintaining communication and a strong web presence. This is a varied role requiring flexibility within a lively team.

You will be an experienced and creative children's and youth worker with excellent communication skills.

You will need to be able to work with a diverse group of colleagues and volunteers. You will ensure that the various events, publications, online materials, and opportunities offered for children, young people, their families and workers, are delivered to a high standard.

We can offer a friendly and flexible working environment; hybrid working from Church House in London and from home is possible.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
T: 020 7691 9871 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 4 February 2022 Interview date: Tuesday 15 February 2022

This post requires a satisfactory enhanced DBS certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service

JOIN OUR TEAM



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER AT OASIS MEDIACITYUK



Are you passionate about developing and leading youth work within the church and wider community in Salford?

To find out more about the role, please contact Rev Ruth Watson

07811 859706 

Ruth.Watson@oasismediacityuk.org 

Applications close:
Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 9:00AM

For your prayers

In each newsletter we would like to share peoples situations and Churches who you might remember in your prayers. If you have any prayer requests to include in this section please send them to office@nwsynod.org.uk.

This week we invite you to pray for:

- For the congregations of churches which have decided to close, and for all those who are facing difficult decisions about the future of their fellowships and buildings.

Peter Pay - Moderators of General Assembly—A service of thanksgiving

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Pay, one of the Moderators of The United Reformed Church General Assembly, 2020-2022, who died in December, will take place at Salisbury Methodist Church at 1pm on Friday 11 February.

The address of the church is St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 1EF. The service will follow a private family committal earlier in the day, and only family flowers have been requested.

To give an idea about the numbers expected, if you are hoping to attend in person, please contact Deborah Walker at the Wessex Synod office by email at office@urcwessex.org.uk

The service will also be livestream here are the details <https://youtu.be/c7Z7xgSiTRQ>.

You can also visit the Wessex Synod website, <https://wessexsynodurc.org.uk/>, in the next few days for other details such as where to send donations in lieu of flowers.

