



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

## North Western Synod Newsletter

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# Revd Dr Adam Scott to be the next principal at Northern College



## *Adams comments:*

I am delighted to have been appointed to serve as the next principal of Northern College. Like many, I have a deep affection for the college, and am grateful for all Northern has done to equip and prepare people to serve God within URC, whether this be in lay, commissioned or ordained roles. We are all aware that the church in Britain is facing significant challenges as it seeks to relate to our changing society, and I believe Northern College has the resources and imagination to creatively respond to these challenges. As a minister I am convinced the Spirit calls us 'to continually be reformed'. So, as Northern College looks to the future, I am confident in our ability to honour our history, while discovering new and innovative ways of equipping the 'whole people of God'.

## *Rosalind Selby's comments:*

I could not be more pleased that Adam has been appointed as the next Principal of Northern College. I am pleased for him, I am pleased for the college, and I am pleased for myself because knowing the role and the college is in strong and capable hands will enable me to leave as well as I can. Adam will bring his strength of character and leadership ability, and the very particular insights of his experience and training (as a Pastoral Minister and as a Chartered Psychologist). He's already a strong part of the staff team here, and his appointment will enable the best possible continuity for Northern College.

# Leyland URC— Ernest Wrennall

Yesterday I took my final service as a URC Lay Preacher in a special service in my home Church, Leyland URC, which was entirely based on my call to preach, my experiences as a lay Preacher and how others might, in their turn, respond to their 'call'. My decision to retire was based on my Age (88+) and the absence of demand since Covid came on the scene.

There was a good attendance at the service with some representatives from other Lay Preachers and from some of the churches which I had served. The service was split into these sections.

- My background in the church leading to my call to preach;
- My experiences as a travelling preacher.

The way that there are many other sorts of calls to serve the church. The final hymn for the service was one that I had written some time ago ( and which had appeared in a denominational "Vocation Sunday" booklet some years ago - it began "Listen , God calls us and says " I need you for there is a task that none other can do.

Following this there were two tributes from members of the church about my other local church activities and a set of personal photographs on the screen before everyone went for a buffet lunch in the church hall.

I preached my first sermon in the Leyland church on the first Sunday in May (Youth Sunday) in 1957 so my final one was on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2023. In that time I had conducted 1,625 services in a total of 62 different churches, mainly in central and north Lancashire but as far away as Southport, Kirkheaton in Yorkshire and Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria. The most services taken in any one year was 53 in 2008. The total could have been considerably more, but due to Covid restrictions and church shutdowns, I have only led worship as preacher four times since the end of 2019. As a former geography teacher I like maps so I have estimated that I covered about 45,000 miles to get to and from these preaching engagements.

For some years I acted as Secretary of the Fylde Lay Preachers Fellowship which met three times per year and also acted as District Lay Preaching Commissioner for a period, and I also never missed the old Windermere Centre weekends.

*Ernest Wrennall*

# Macclesfield & Bollington URC

When the URC Jubilee Chalice came to Macclesfield on Sunday May 29th, it was used to help the congregation focus on the environment. Our responsibility for conservation formed the theme of one of the Reflections during the service.

The chalice was filled with wildflower seed and small packets of seeds were distributed while the hymn 'Colours of Day' was sung. The congregation were asked to scatter the seeds on the soil in their garden or in a plant pot.

Wildflowers are particularly good at attracting insects but sadly it has recently been revealed that over 40% of all insects are declining, and a third are endangered.

*Every **small** action that we take can make a **big** difference.*





# Shaw & Heyside - Celebrate the Queens Jubilee



Shaw & Heyside URC celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a lunch on June 3rd. There was lots of chatter and singing enjoyed by all. We also displayed a portrait that had been done originally for the coronation in 1953.

The portrait was crocheted by Brenda Sharples who is a member of our Church.

Brenda lived in a small village called Cragg Vale in Yorkshire and as there wasn't much to do, she saw a pattern in a magazine and got to work. The image of the Queen was perfection.



# Trinity Brownhill URC—Platinum Jubilee Free Family Fun Day

After changeable weather forecasts we finally settled on expecting the British wet version and held our Platinum Jubilee event indoors. Trinity Brownhill hall was transformed from chaos to special. Would people come? We left the bouncy castle outside to encourage them. They did. Together with St Gabriels and Holy Souls we managed to produce a celebration of and for our community. Most of the hall users contributed craft activities and a vigorous and impressive contingent from Step 4ward line dancers gave an enthusiastic demonstration which had people snapping up contact details eagerly awaiting the proposed beginners' sessions. The uniformed brigades fielded enquiries too. There was plenty to amuse and engage the children from craft tables and face painting to treasure hunt and photo op as the Queen. Thanks to our organist we had an afternoon of music over the PA system. We had three worthy and proud winners of the Fancy Dress competition from a limited field – maybe now a retro item! Ward Cllr Sylvia Liddle planted an apple tree to commemorate the event. The catering was simple but busy, providing homemade Victoria sponges, ice cream and cuppas. It was so good to be able to do all this for free as the three churches had all chipped in as had the local Tesco and Co-op stores and many grateful parents commented on what a pleasant surprise this was. As ever it was the behind the scenes folk who put in the extra miles that made it all possible and fun.

Altogether a happy afternoon, a great sense of community and tremendous to do it in partnership with our neighbouring churches.





# Tree planting at Elswick URC

We celebrated our 373rd anniversary, the URC's 50th anniversary and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting a new willow tree on our front lawn with help from our youngest and most senior members. The Junior Church also used the spade to bury a time capsule at the tree.



## Darwen Central URC honoured people's lives with the planting of a tree using the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spade

Darwen Central URC honoured the life of the late Rev Geoff Tolley by planting a tree in his name. We thank God for the ministry and services Rev Geoff Tolley brought to the community in Lancashire and further a field.

This followed a special memorial service remembering friends and family who sadly died during the pandemic. We also scattered a beloved member of Darwen Central's ashes in the garden.





# Sacrament Training

We are happy to announce additional sacraments training on the following dates, either in person or by way of Zoom:

- Sacrament Baptism: 14 June | 10:30 a.m. to 12 pm, face to face – location Radcliffe & Stand;
- Sacrament Baptism: 22 June | 7 pm to 9:30 pm, Zoom (link below) !! **limited spaces left !!**

Primary course leadership will be by Rev. Jacky Embrey, Bolton & Salford Missional Partnership. Rev. Dr. Rob Hoch, Training and Learning Mentor, will support.

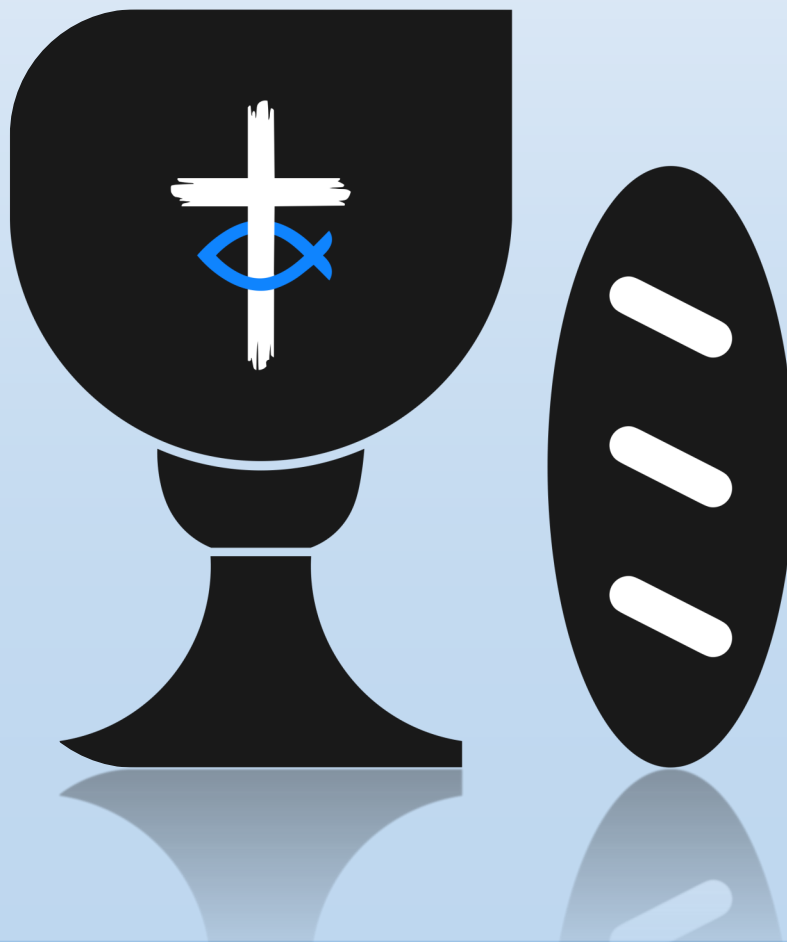
Please email Kerry at [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk) to secure your spot as soon as possible. Each section (face to face and Zoom) is limited to 30 people.

If this is your first training, please write in your subject line, “First Sacrament Training” — you will need a mentor for the first year of your service as a presider.

If you have questions, please contact me, Rob Hoch, Training and Learning Mentor, at [learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89187283565?pwd=L01rRUp5UWNFa3JtaHVpZ0FXTU5YUT09>



# Training for Church DBS Verifiers



The URC Church House Safeguarding team have organised several 2-hour zoom training sessions for church DBS verifiers with Due Diligence Checking (DDC), incorporating a safer recruitment element from Carrie Kaunda, the URC Safeguarding Training Coordinator.

## The dates for the training are:

1. Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7 – 9pm
2. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 12pm
3. Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2 – 4pm
4. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 7 – 9pm

To register for the training please email Carrie Kaunda [carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk](mailto:carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk)

# Foundation and Intermediate Safeguarding training

Julie Rafferty, the Synod Safeguarding Adviser, is in the process of organising several zoom Foundation and Intermediate training sessions, although the intention is to deliver training more locally and face to face. If any church or group of churches have 8 or more people that need Foundation and/ or Intermediate training, please contact Julie Rafferty by email: [safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk)



# Eco Church Invitation

A Rocha UK (ARUK) warmly invite all Cumbrian URC churches to free workshops this June to explore becoming an Eco Church. The Eco Church award scheme is for churches who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.

There are three ecumenical Eco Church workshops (organised by Churches Together in Cumbria & Carlisle Diocese) across the county. Lots of help will be provided for churches to get started with Eco Church or move on to the next stage - along with practical tips and inspiration from people who've done the journey before them in the county.

Lucy Foster, ARUK's 'Eco Church Officer for Northern England' is helping to run the workshops, and Pam Martin, an ARUK volunteer from the Gold award-winning church in Levens, near Kendal, will be sharing her vast experience.

Some of you may remember Lucy from her time working for Kendal URC. She would love to see folks from across the Cumbrian URC family again and help churches on their journey to join Grange-over-Sands URC in attaining an Eco Church Bronze.

More information about Eco Church is on ARUK's website:

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Workshops are at:

- Ulverston Parish Church (Sat 11 June, 10am),
- Penrith Christ Church (Mon 13 June, 7pm)
- Harrington, St Mary's (Wed 15 June, 2pm).

Please book in advance via Eventbrite so you can be sent resources in advance and to guarantee there is enough tea and coffee to hand!: <https://carlisle-diocese.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b0ea9c29686293ec9577401bf&id=2c8868777c&e=402fba5b4c>

Email [lucy.foster@arocha.org](mailto:lucy.foster@arocha.org) or [anna.newlove@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:anna.newlove@carlisle-diocese.org.uk) if you have any queries about the workshops.



Follow Daily Care Deeply  
Speak Boldly Tread Gently



# ROC CONVERSATION OASIS MEDIA CITY



THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHARITY

[www.roc.uk.com](http://www.roc.uk.com)

<b>DATE</b>	WED 6TH JUL	<b>TIME</b>	1900 - 2100
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**BOOK** | [www.roc.uk.com/oasismediacity](http://www.roc.uk.com/oasismediacity)

Come and meet with passionate people from your local community including Police, Fire and Ambulance services, the Local Council, community and faith based groups and residents to discuss ways of working together for the good of our community. If you live, work or volunteer in Salford then you are welcome to join us...all are welcome.





## Oberammergau 2022 passion play

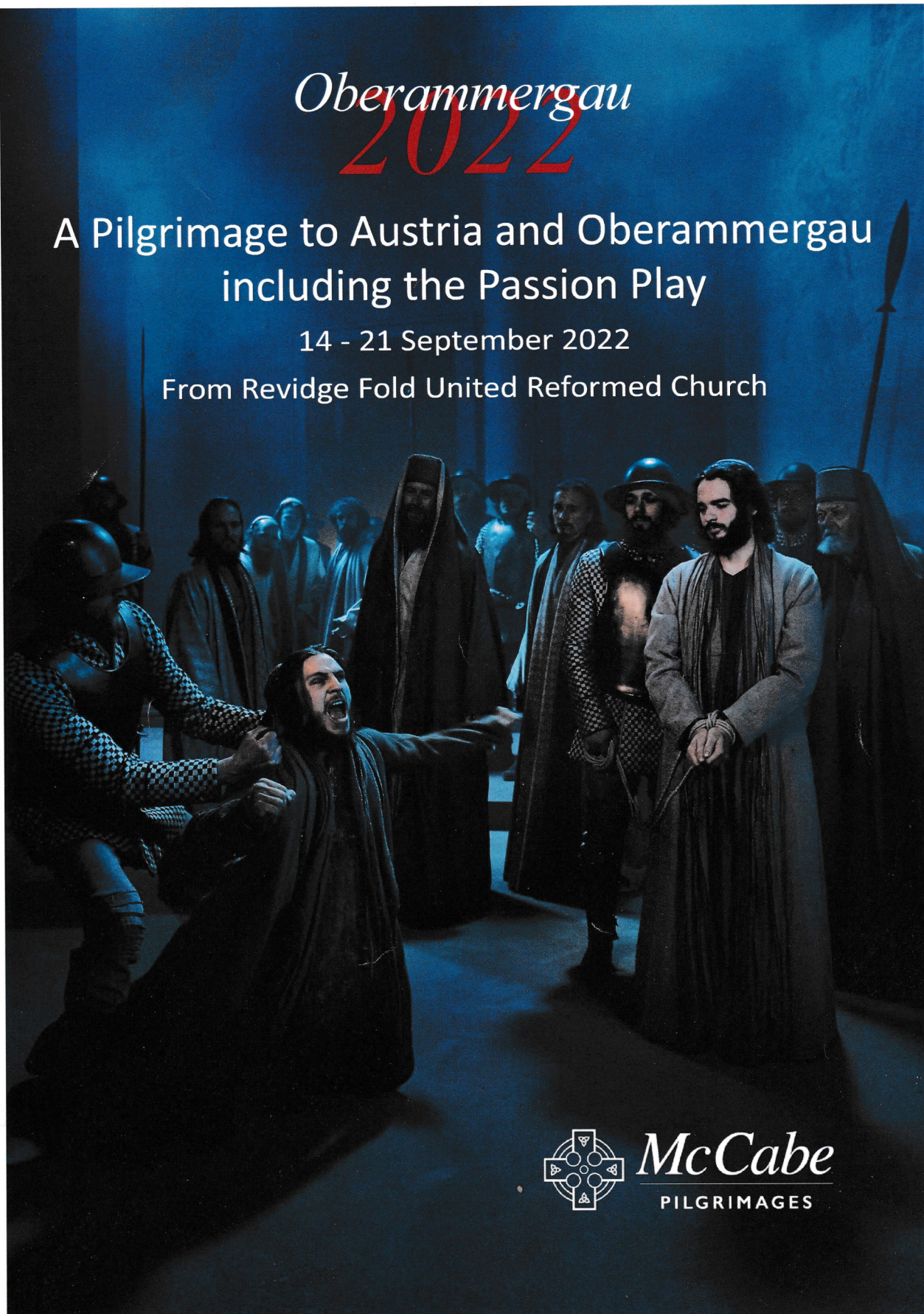
Due to the rearranged Oberammergau Passion Play to this year Mal Breeze has a few vacancies if anyone is interested please contact him on [malbreeze@me.com](mailto:malbreeze@me.com) 01254 674862 or 07825662203 and he will be happy to send you a brochure and booking form. Only twin bedded or double rooms available.

# *Oberammergau* **2022**

A Pilgrimage to Austria and Oberammergau  
including the Passion Play

14 - 21 September 2022

From Revidge Fold United Reformed Church



**McCabe**  
PILGRIMAGES



# TASTER WEEKEND

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Fri 22nd -  
Sun 24th July  
2022



NORTHERN  
COLLEGE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to study theology?

Northern College is offering a unique opportunity.

You are invited to a **Taster Weekend** at Luther King House, Manchester from 5.30pm on Friday 22nd July, to 2.30pm on Sunday 24th July 2022.

Come and be a theological student for a weekend, participating in 'taster' classes in Old and New Testament Studies, World Christianity, Church-Related Community Work and Ministerial Formation.

- ◆ £50 for URC Members
- ◆ £100 for non-URC Members

These costs are heavily subsidised and include accommodation for two nights and all classes, meals and refreshments (with the exception of Saturday Dinner, when there will be an opportunity to visit Manchester's famous Curry Mile). Even better, these costs can be deducted from the cost of any formal study at Northern College in 2022-23.

For further information and to claim one of the limited number of places please contact our administrator -

[Paul.barrett@lutherking.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.barrett@lutherking.ac.uk)



Messy Church - VERY advanced notice!

# Messy Harvest

MONDAY 05.09.2022



7 - 8:30pm

Join us to explore the theme of harvest  
<https://bit.ly/5NSMessyHarvest>

The children's and youth team for the 5 northerly synods have been offering advice and support to Messy Churches throughout our region. 4 times a year, we hold a Zoom meeting for anyone who is interested to look at how Messy Churches might explore an upcoming theme.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, we will be exploring the theme of Harvest... come along and get some ideas – or share what you are thinking of doing – with Messy Church volunteers from across the 5 northerly synods.

[bit.ly/5NSMessyHarvest](https://bit.ly/5NSMessyHarvest)



Northerly  
Synods



## parenting for faith®

**A course for anyone who longs for  
children and young people to know  
God for themselves.**

A free 6 week zoom course which will run from 7pm to 8.30pm  
on the following dates:

~~25 April 2022~~

~~9 May 2022~~

~~25 May 2022~~

~~6 June 2022~~

20 June 2022

4 July 2022

To book your place please contact your Synod CYDO+.

## Parenting For Faith

Our CYDO, along with the children and youth work colleagues from the other northerly synods, are running a second Parenting For Faith course. Meeting fortnightly, the 6 sessions are aimed at parents, grandparents, carers and those who work with children as part of their church's mission – including parents & toddler groups and Junior Church.

It is, of course, free of charge. To book a place, please email Leo on [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

# Safeguarding & Church Security

The Government are running a scheme to provide funding if your church has experienced hate crime or if you feel the church is vulnerable to hate crime - for example if hate crime has happened at other places in your community, or to people attending.

The funding is available to any church used regularly as a place of worship, but not for other buildings that may only be used for community use or similar.

The application process is open until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The scheme covers the free supply and installation of measures such as CCTV, secure fencing, and intruder alarms.

Full details of the scheme can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>





# Tree planting for the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church

As part of the celebrations of the United Reformed Church 50th Anniversary every Synod was invited to plant at least 50 trees. Many churches already took on this challenge. If your church yard doesn't have enough space for another tree, please offer to plant a tree in your local school, park, woodlands or abroad. Once you planted your tree, please let Kerry (and the Green Apostles) know at the Synod Office ([Office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:Office@nwsynod.org.uk)) or send in photos to the Synod Newsletter in order to spread the good news.

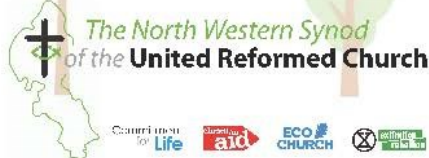
'Eternal God, Your love's  
**Treemendous  
glory!**

**Plant a Tree!**  
to  
Celebrate **50** Years  
of the URC!

What better way to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church than to plant a commemorative tree in your church grounds.

Every Synod is looking to find 50 churches to plant a new tree as part of our celebrations.

Just let us know when you have planted one, maybe send us a picture from the ceremony, and we'll let you all know when 50 have been planted.



Courtesy of Life

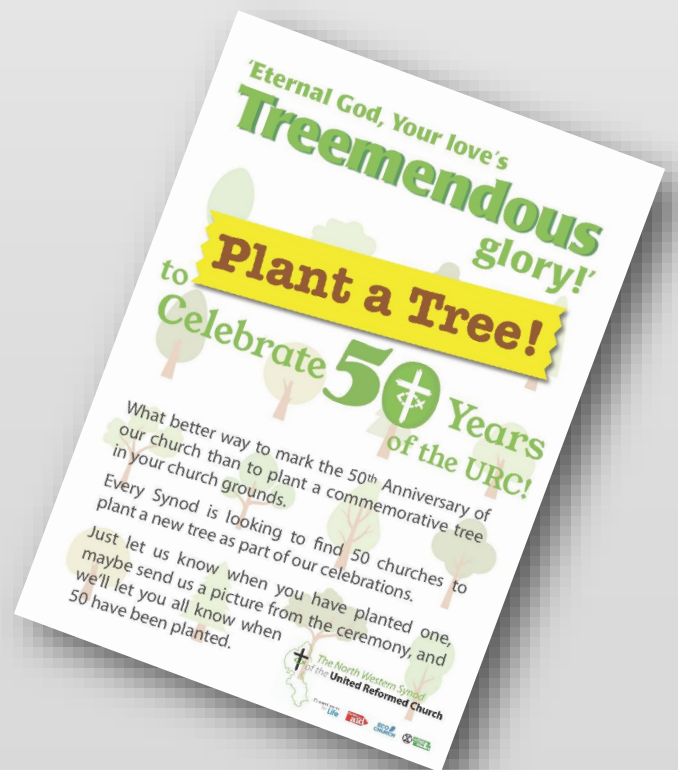
World aid

ECO CHURCH

United Reformed Church

# Plant a tree to celebrate 50 years of the URC—Have you planted yours?

If your Church has planted a tree to Celebrate 50 years of the URC please can you let Kerry know at the Synod Office [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk) and also send a picture in for the newsletter.



## 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](mailto: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.
- Pray for Ukraine.

