

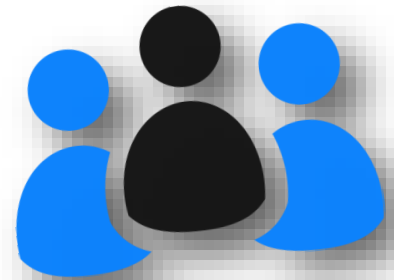
## Newsletter



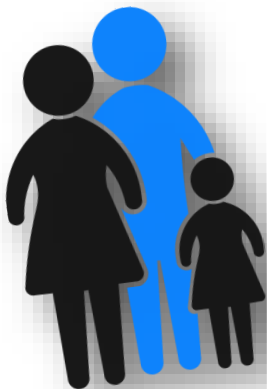
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## Save the dates

There are two upcoming events which you may want to put in your diaries:

### Extraordinary Synod Meeting - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm



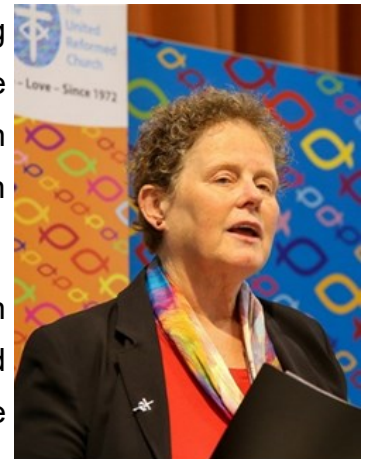
There is a matter of business which Executive wishes to bring to Synod, and which is time sensitive such that it needs to be considered before the end of February. For that reason, we will hold a 'Zoom' online Extraordinary Synod Meeting on the evening of Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Whilst it is impossible to be exact about timings, it is not expected that this will be an especially long meeting, and it is only expected to have one item of business to deal with.

I will be writing separately to Synod Representatives letting them know about this meeting, and nearer the 20<sup>th</sup> February, the papers, resolution and Zoom link for the meeting will be circulated.

### Induction of our Transitional Moderator – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023

This is advance notice that the Induction of the Revd Clare Downing as our Transitional Moderator will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The time and venue are yet to be confirmed, but I very much hope as many as possible from across the Synod will be able to join in celebrating Clare's appointment.

In the coming weeks, I hope that there will be some more information coming out about what the role of Transitional Moderator means, and some more details about Clare's Induction service. But in the meantime, please keep the 10<sup>th</sup> June free if you are able!



### And a reminder



You hopefully already have this one in your diary, but our Spring Synod is taking place on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023** at Oasis, Salford. This will be a hybrid meeting, so although I hope you are able to attend in person, there is still opportunity to join and fully engage with the business of Synod Meeting via Zoom if that is

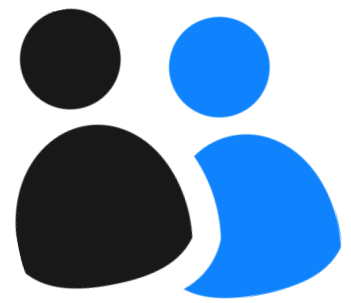
easier for you.

There will be further information, along with the Book of Reports and the Zoom link for those attending remotely, nearer the time.

*Tim Hopley, Synod Clerk*

## Calling all people with Governance experience!

If you are a church member, Elder, Minister (stipendiary, non-stipendiary, CRCW) or any other church worker with experience of governance, we'd like to hear from you for a role as a Missional Partnership Steering Group convenor.



Some positions are vacant and we're looking for those who have some experience of chairing and coordinating a strategic group to hold together a range of opinions and to discern a common mind. If you've been a school governor, a health sector non-executive director, a trustee in a charitable organisation, have had a senior role in schools, local authority or any other kind of organisation which has a social remit, we'd like to hear from you.

If you are interested in learning more about the role of Convenor, we are holding two Zoom meetings where there will be an opportunity to talk to two experienced Convenors about their experiences, and to ask questions and chat about how the role works in practice.

We'd be really pleased to see you, even if you are only curious and don't think that the role is really for you. To accommodate those of you struggle with a daytime meeting, there is also an evening meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 2pm

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83015054351?pwd=UC9EMFZSNGVKb0tGeFpMbzNaanpKQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 1505 4351

Passcode: 324395

GOOD NEWS



# Talking NW Synod, News, views & Inspirations

In the first of an occasional NW Synod podcast, Lawrence Heath-Moore talks to Revd Elizabeth Gray-King about exciting developments in the Synod's immediate future: the appointment of Revd Clare Downing as the Synod's Transitional Moderator and the Mission & Discipleship Mentors' investment in the ministry of Elders. **Please click [here](#) to listen.**



TALKING NW SYNOD

News, views & inspiration

## Mindfulness Cafe Style Church at Halton URC

In the final month of ministry at Halton URC, I was privilege to lead one of the last services at this special church. I always said that Halton URC is a small church with a big heart. This is a church who welcomed all and embraced a variety worship styles. I can imagine that they make God's heart sing. They lived out radical welcome and showed hospitality to all. It was a privilege to work alongside this tiny church for more than 5 years. May their legacy live on.

Daleen ten Cate

Missional Discipleship Mentor for Lancashire





# Manchester and Salford Urban Mission— Workshop and Worship Day



Good fellowship and good food were shared when members of the 9 churches in the Manchester and Salford Urban Mission met for a getting-to-know-you-better session on 28<sup>th</sup> January. As a missional Partnership we know that it is good to meet, worship and pray together, and this seemed especially important as two churches – Dandelion

Community and Oasis/MediaCity church and Community Hub have joined in the past six months.

The day began, of course, with a welcome hot drink and biscuits and continued with reflective and challenging worship led by Liz Delafield, our mission and Discipleship Mentor. Breaking into small groups, we shared the stories of our individual churches and some personal faith journeys. There was much to discuss, and rich histories of churches meeting different challenges and often working together in past groupings. All the churches are in urban settings and often serving congregations in areas of deprivation, so a clear common theme was about finding ways to involve and serve the local communities in their various needs.

Relationships were strengthened over lunch as we shared common concerns, and celebrated an informal communion. The final session brought us together to learn more about the priorities of Dandelion Community and their openness to their neighbours in Wythenshawe.



# Hong Kong Fellowship at Edgeley Community Church

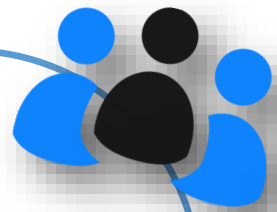
Edgeley Community Church (URC/Methodist LEP) launched Hong Kong Fellowship on Sunday 15th January - an interactive, family-friendly monthly service on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2-3pm with activities and refreshments. This is in response to the needs of the Hong Kong community in Edgeley and Stockport areas, and whilst the Hongkongers would like to build their faith with their own language, their service is open to anyone.

*Mei-Yuk Wong*

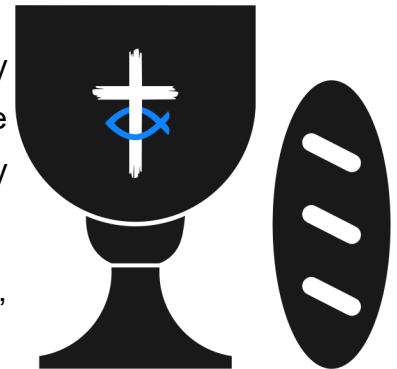
*Edgeley Community Development Worker*



# Sacraments Classes & Wedding and Funerals



On Wednesday, **22 February, @ 7 p.m.** Rev. Jacky Embrey and Rev. Dr Rob Hoch, Training and Learning Mentor, will be offering the basic course on the Sacrament of **Baptism** by way of Zoom.



If you have never had a course on the Sacrament of Baptism, this course is required.

If it has been three years since your last Sacrament of Baptism course, this course will satisfy that requirement. Note: The Sacrament of Healing class being offered by Dr Adam Scott on 16th of February satisfies the "refreshment" requirement. **Which is now full to capacity.**

If you find Zoom problematic, please let us know and we will pair you up with someone in your area who can share their computer with you for this course. Class Limit: 20

**Weddings and Funerals:** Sent by direct email to our lay preacher list:

- On Wednesday, **29 March, @ 7 p.m.** Rev. Jacky Embrey and Rev. Dr Rob Hoch, Training and Learning Mentor, will be offering a class on the theology and practice of **funerals** by way of Zoom. If you find Zoom problematic, please let us know and we will pair you up with someone in your area who can share their computer with you for this course. Class Limit: 20
- **On Wednesday, 19 April, @ 7 p.m.** Rev. Jacky Embrey and Rev. Dr Rob Hoch, Training and Learning Mentor, will be offering a class on the theology and practice of **weddings** by way of Zoom. If you find Zoom problematic, please let us know and will pair you up with someone in your area who can share their computer with you for this course. Class Limit: 20



# LENT ECO BIBLESTUDY

TUESDAYS AT 7PM VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 508 408 0903  
PASSCODE: DTC

**WHY** and **HOW** should the  
Church respond to Climate  
Change?

28/2 Session 1: **Beauty**

7/3 Session 2: **Truth**

14/3 Session 3: **Justice**

23/3 Session 4: **Lament**

28/3 Session 5: **Action**

4/4 Session 6: **Hope**

**LED BY THE ECO NETWORK TEAM:**  
DALEEN, LIZ, ROSALIND, CATHY, KATE AND MIKE

PLEASE REGISTER BY EMAIL: [OFFICE@NWSYNOD.ORG.UK](mailto:OFFICE@NWSYNOD.ORG.UK)

# Eco Church Training

If you already have Eco Church status and would like to progress to the next level or just need a few ideas to achieve Eco Church status, this is the workshop for you! Lucy Foster from Arocha and Richard Baker from the Methodist church will be joining the Eco Network NW Synod.

Please register your attendance with the Green Apostles

Rev Daleen ten Cate [Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk) or

Liz Delafield [liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk)

**The North of the United Reformed Church**

**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

# Eco Church Training

**Wednesday 15th February 7pm**  
By the United Reformed church  
Northwestern Synod. Eco Network  
Open to all.

**On zoom**  
Meeting ID: 886  
8206 2324  
Passcode: 872016

**For churches moving forward with Eco Church**

Moving from bronze-silver or silver-gold. What is the best way forward for your church and our planet?  
Please email us to let us know if you are attending.  
[liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk)



[liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk)  
[daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk)



07740 112 628



<https://nwsynod.org.uk>



## Bishop remembers victims of the holocaust and genocide

As the County prepares to join with people around the UK and the world to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day this Friday the new Bishop of Blackburn-elect, Rt Rev. Philip North, has issued a reflective statement.

Holocaust Memorial Day, and the associated HMD Trust, encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. It promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) the international day on January 27 each year set aside to remember the six million Jews murdered during The Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi rule.

The date chosen marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp in 1945. The HMD Trust also remembers those lost in more recent genocides, such as Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia.

Events to mark HMD are taking place across the County and include exhibitions at the Anglican Cathedral in Blackburn, running until February 3. The high schools' team from the Diocesan Board of Education has co-organised the Cathedral exhibitions, working in partnership with organisations including Blackburn with Darwen Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE); the North East Religious Resources Centre; the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Cathedral itself.

Children and young people from across the Diocese will get the chance to visit the exhibitions this week and next.

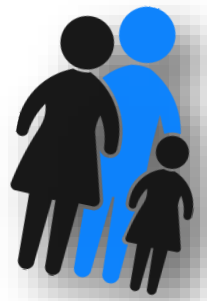
Speaking today, Bishop Philip commented:

"The Holocaust, also known as The Shoah in Hebrew, was a pivotal moment in history. "It was the first time the killing of human beings was industrialised and to a scale where, eventually, two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe at the time - men, women and children - were murdered by the Nazis. Other groups that didn't fit the 'Nazi ideal' were also victims alongside the Jews. "As the numbers of survivors able to recall those terrible events rapidly dwindles, we who remain have a duty to continue to keep the memory of The Holocaust alive; and of other genocides since. "Holocaust Memorial Day is an important way we can do this; as we collectively take the opportunity to commit ourselves to stand together against antisemitism and all other kinds of prejudice and injustice."

The link for the Cathedral Exhibition marking Holocaust Memorial Day is here:

<https://blackburncathedral.com/exhibitions-at-blackburn-cathedral/>

# Talking About... Mentoring Young People - 23.02 7-8pm on Zoom



**Talking About...Mentoring  
Young People**  
How we might use a mentor model to help young  
people reach their full potential



**Thursday, 23rd February 2023, 7-8pm**



Supporting young people to explore and grow in the faith is a vital element of the Mission of the Church.

'Walk with Me' is a unique Christian mentoring approach which invites young people to go on a journey of faith ([walkwithmejourneys.org](http://walkwithmejourneys.org)).

To find out more we will be joined by Jill Senechal from Walk With Me to help us discover more about this approach.

There will also be an optional follow up training session online for anyone interested from the United Reformed Church.

If you'd like the link for the meeting, contact Leo [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

## Crafty Questions: 24/04 7-8:30pm on Zoom



### Crafty Questions

**Making the links between the activities we offer and the faith we want to share**

It's not about the crafts we do - but about the things we share while doing them

**Monday, 24th April 7-8:30pm**

Join us by logging in to [bit.ly/5NSCraftyQuestions](https://bit.ly/5NSCraftyQuestions)

Crafts can, I am assured, be fun. We use them all the time in our Junior Church/Messy Church/Pilots/Uniformed Organisation sessions. But do we use them effectively to open up conversations about faith and our relationship with God (and God's relationship with us!)?

This training session, led by the children and youth officers from the 5 northerly synods, will look at how we can make the links between the activity and the conversation.

No need to book – just log on to [www.bit.ly/5NSCraftyQuestions](https://www.bit.ly/5NSCraftyQuestions) on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.



## Faith Adventures with Children Together



Faith Adventures for Children Together is a weekly Bible-based resource for church children's groups. It provides a structure with stories, activities, prayers and challenges for ages 12 and under, the age range covered by URC Children. It follows the success of Families on Faith Adventures @ Home (now discontinued, but still available as back issues online) and is designed to support employed workers and volunteers in their engagement with children and families.

Why not consider using it to resource your clubs and groups, Pilots, Messy Church, junior church, holiday clubs, toddler groups and more, or to use the take-home sheets to give to church members to share with their extended family?

Faith Adventures for Children Together (FACT) will be launched on 1 March for use during April, but we will be running two online sessions to introduce the resource using a sample session. Members of the writing team, including our CYDO, Leo Roberts, will be there to familiarise you with the resource and how you might adapt it for your setting. Book now for those sessions:

Saturday, 4 February 2023 at 10.30am

Saturday, 11 March 2023 at 10:00

Book your place at [Faith Adventures for Children Together Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

And keep your eye on a new Facebook page for FACT: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/512896934320244>

# Launch of URC Children in North Western Synod – March 25th

URC Children was launched at general Assembly 2022. We've been waiting to launch it officially in North Western synod for a venue to be available where our children can come together... and it's going to be at the Spring Synod Meeting in Oasis MediaCity. We hope that synod representatives will be able to bring children from their local churches (and even their mums/dads/carers) so that the children can party whilst synod meets.

There will be 40 places available for children aged 5-12 – and we'll have games and party food, maybe even a cake!

Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis – contact Leo ([cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)) if you want to book a place for your child/children.

# Virtual Gathered Youth Group (vGYG)

## Virtual Gathered Youth Group

Every Wednesday 7-8pm on ZOOM



Contact [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk) for link

Leo started the vGYG during the first lockdown as a way of letting young people continue to meet together whilst stuck at home.

After lockdown closed, the young people decided that they wanted to carry on meeting – and so we have.

The vGYG is open to anyone aged 14-25 and meets every Wednesday evening on Zoom between 7-8pm.

If you have young people in your church who might be interested, please pass on this link for next Wednesday's (February 8<sup>th</sup>) meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86141472390?  
pwd=TzdENXNwOC9OTDlCa1RNeNlRweURNZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86141472390?pwd=TzdENXNwOC9OTDlCa1RNeNlRweURNZz09)

Meeting ID: 861 4147 2390

Passcode: 824385

## Worship Resources for Racial Justice Sunday

As you prepare worship for **Racial Justice Sunday on 12 February 2023**, the Mission and Discipleship Network asks you to browse through the following resources prepared by Rev. Dr Rob Hoch, Training and Learning Mentor. The resource includes a “potluck” of poetry, videos, hymns, sermons, commentary, musings and more to assist you as plan for worship. [Resources for Racial Justice Sunday 12 February 2023](#)



## Liverpool Children and Youth Pioneer

**Salary: £25,000**

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of children and young people?

Do you want to help us organise and lead a successful outreach programme between three local churches and the community in Liverpool?

United Reformed Church Mersey Synod are looking to appoint a full-time Children and Youth Pioneer to build links between churches and their local communities and to support and develop the children's work both in and outside the church.

We will offer you a competitive salary with flexible working hours and the full support of a management team.

If you think you can make the difference we are looking for please go to <https://www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/jobvacancies.htm> for the application form, person specification and job description.

For more information, and to submit applications please contact Steven:  
Email: [cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk) or telephone 07387 580834

**(Please note that we do not accept CVs)**

**Closing date for applications: 3 March**

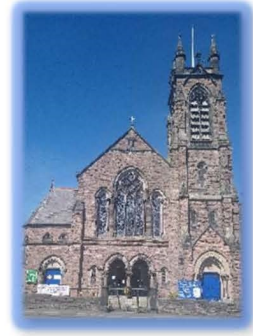
**Interviews will be held on 17 March.**

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the job holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 Part 1, Schedule 9.

Any appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance.



# Macclesfield & Bollington URC



## Church Outreach Leader

We are looking for a **Church Outreach Leader** who will help us grow our church and assist the congregation fulfil its purpose of being a visible and known Christian presence in the community.

### The role will include:

- Introducing and leading new projects that will provide opportunities for outreach.
- Strengthening relationships with other local churches and groups and encouraging further collaboration.
- Developing and supporting the church's work with children, families and young people.
- Arranging support, mentoring and teaching for new believers and running courses for those seeking to find out more about the Christian faith.

Salary in the range £25K- £30K, based on experience and qualifications plus 5% pension contribution.

Full time (flexible working) including some evening & weekend working.

To apply, please contact the Church Secretary for an application pack at [secretary@thechurchparkgreen.co.uk](mailto:secretary@thechurchparkgreen.co.uk)

Closing date: 28<sup>th</sup> February. Interviews early March.

## 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
- Revd Michele Jarmany as she begins her retirement 14 years after her ordination in 2009; giving thanks for her ministry over many years and for her continued service in different ways, in retirement

