

## Newsletter

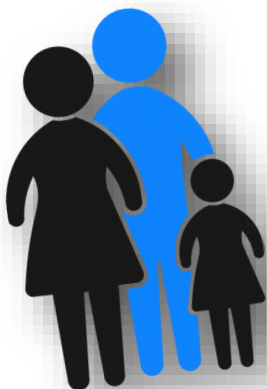
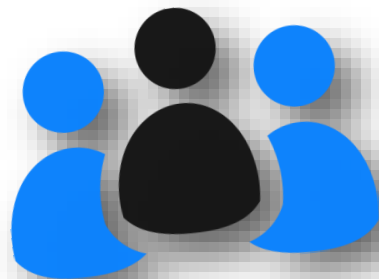
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# Spring Synod 2023



It is only just over a month until we meet for our Spring Synod Meeting 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.

We also have some plans to try and make it easier for representatives from the Cumbria and North Lancashire area easier to attend – of which more before too long.

As agreed at our last Synod Meeting, the **Book of Reports will not be sent out as a printed document for this and future meetings**. It will be sent as a pdf document, and will be available on the website. If you need a large print version, or for any reason you will require a printed copy of the Reports, please let us know by contacting Kerry at [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk)

I will be writing to all Synod representatives with more details, in the next week or so.

Tim Hopley

Synod Clerk

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



As we begin preparing for the arrival of Revd Clare Downing in the North Western Synod as our Transitional Moderator, I am pleased to confirm that Clare's Induction is to take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Chorley URC.

The service will be led by Revd Fiona Bennett, General Assembly Moderator of the United Reformed Church and will take place at 3pm on Saturday.

Further details of the service, directions for travelling to Chorley, and other practical arrangements will be shared as the date gets nearer.



## Fairhaven URC and St Anne's-on-Sea URC

They have been standing less than a couple of miles apart for well over 100 years, but as far as anyone knows the two United Reformed Churches in Lytham St Annes have never got together for a shared Sunday service. That surprising record was consigned to history on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> February, the first Sunday in Lent, when the two congregations met in worship at Fairhaven URC (better known locally as the White Church).

Members and friends from St Annes-on-Sea URC were warmly welcomed to the service led by Revd Jim Williams, and there was a strong theme of togetherness running throughout the morning. All agreed that it was wonderful to see the church so full on what was a very happy occasion. The two choirs joined together in unison to create a wonderful accompaniment to the praise and worship, and afterwards friends old and new met together for refreshments in the hall.

A date has already been set in December, the first Sunday in Advent, when St Anne's will reciprocate and welcome members and worshippers from Fairhaven – something which both congregations are very much looking forward to.





## ***Service to Mark the Completion of Ministry at Halton United Reformed Church within the Lancashire North Missional Partnership***



On the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 over one hundred people gathered at Halton United Reformed Church to give glory to God for the Church's Mission which began in 1867. Among the congregation were descendants of the original founders of the church.

The final act of worship was a collaborative process. The congregation chose the hymns to tell the story of the church's outreach over the many decades. This included children's work, regular divine worship, community outreach and action for social justice. Former serving ministers at Halton along with ecumenical friends also took part in the service. During the service pictures of church people and life were projected onto the screen.



We were pleased to welcome the Reverend Martyn Coe representing the North Western Synod. Towards the end of the service the congregation symbolically handed over to Martyn a copy of Rejoice and Sing and the front door key of the church. This was to acknowledge that after the service the congregation would cease to be a worshipping fellowship and the building will close as a United Reformed Church.



The service was brought to a close when the two Missional Partnership ministers, the Reverend Dr Irene John and the Reverend John Gordon shared together in giving the final Dismissal and Blessing. After the service outside caterers provided a wonderful buffet.

Thanks to the serving Elders, members of the congregation and the many friends of Halton URC who made our final service a very special and memorable occasion.

## Recognition for Philip Oliver for 63 years long service

During worship on Sunday 26 February at Cheadle Hulme URC, Revd Jonnie Hill presented serving elder Mr Philip Oliver with a certificate of long service in recognition of his 63 years' service.

Philip first served as a deacon at Ladybridge Congregational Church and then as an elder after the formation of the United Reformed Church in 1972. Since Ladybridge URC closed some years ago, Philip has been a valued and much-loved member and elder at Cheadle Hulme URC.

At the young age of 87, Philip says he has no intention of slowing down. He regularly walks three to four miles a day and enjoys his regular games of walking football.

Congratulations to Philip and many thanks from all your friends at Cheadle Hulme URC.



*Picture from left to right: Sandy Smith who was re-inducted to serve as an elder, church secretary Alison Stevens, Revd Jonnie Hill, Philip Oliver and Don Phillips also re-inducted to serve as an elder.*

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## Stepwise: Faith Filled Community Group Project



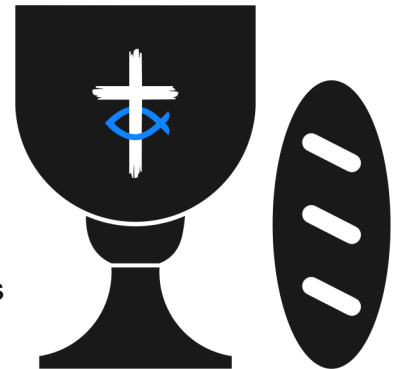
The Stepwise Faith Filled Community group created [Easter Resources](#) for the Synod and beyond. The Exploring Easter pack will be used by their local Pilot groups, Uniform Groups, Mums and Toddler groups, Warm and Welcome Spaces, Oasis Academy, Drop In for Refugees and Asylumseekers, Messy Churches and Dementia Cafe's. We would like to share it with all the churches in the Synod and beyond.

# Wedding and Funeral training



## Weddings and Funerals:

- 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



# Walking into Holy Week—alongside the Mentors

The Mentors of the North Western Synod invite you to join us Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of March so that we might “walk into Holy Week” together. We will gather at 10:30 a.m. in the parking area of the Village Hall, Hurst Green.

Our path is rated as an “easy” walk. The path includes portions of the Tolkien Walk, named after J.R.R. Tolkien, author of The Lord of the Rings, formerly a tutor at nearby Stonyhurst College.

The walk is just a hair over 3 miles. Although the path is rated easy, it can be slick. Bring a pair of sturdy walking shoes and raingear. We anticipate getting back to our start point at around 12:30 or so. If you would like, please stay for lunch at the Shireburn Arms.

RSVP with Kerry Later at [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk) or reach out to Rob Hoch ([learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk)) or Daleen Ten Cate ([daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk)) for more information.



31st March 2023 at 10:30

Meet at Hurst Green Village Hall

Avenue Rd, Hurst Green, Clitheroe BB7 9QB

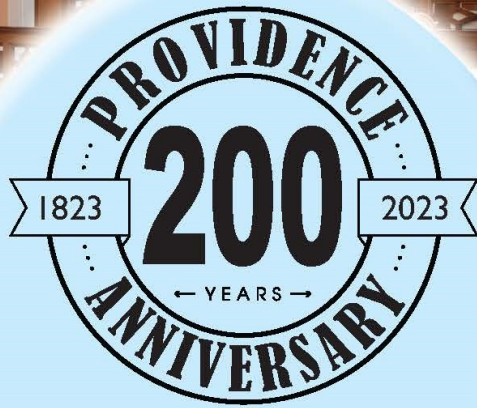
Lunch at Shireburn Arms

R.S.V.P by the 20th March

Kerry Later: [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk)

*Walking into  
Holy Week  
alongside the Mentors*





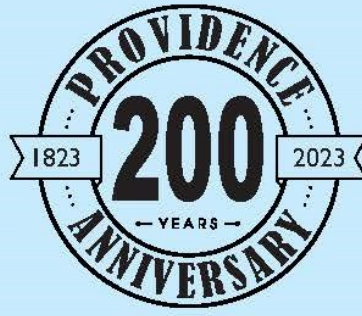
**Providence Church, New Mills  
celebrates its  
200th anniversary  
with a week of events**

*April 30 – May 7*

Providence Church  
Mellor Road  
New Mills  
SK22 4DP

[www.providencechurch.co.uk](http://www.providencechurch.co.uk)





<b>Sunday 30 April</b> 10.30am	<i>Celebration Service with Rev David Jenkins.</i>
<b>Sunday 30 April</b> 3pm	<i>Gordon Stewart plays a celebration concert on the church's famous 1914 James Jepson Binns organ.</i>
<b>Tuesday 2 May</b> 7.00pm	<i>Mike Daniels from the New Mills History Society talks about Providence Church, its history and place in the life of New Mills.</i>
<b>Thursday 4 May</b> 7.30pm	<i>David Wood and Gordon Stewart talk about the 1914 J J Binns organ, how it works, and why it is a significant instrument - with video of the interior and with musical examples.</i>
<b>Friday 5 May</b> 6.30pm	<i>Cheese and wine evening.</i>
<b>Sunday 7 May</b> 10.30am	<i>Closing service with Rev Jonnie Hill.</i>
<b>Sunday 7 May</b> 3pm	<i>Sunday School reunion tea party.</i>

**Throughout the week, Monday to Friday, archives and photographs will be on show in the church from 11am - 2pm.**

**Refreshments will be available.**

**Admission to all events is free.**



# 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**

21/3 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)

## Spring into Stepwise with these Facilitator Training sessions

We are offering two opportunities to come and learn more about Stepwise and be enthused and equipped to facilitate Stepwise in your church, community or wider context.

An **online session** will take place on **Tuesday 21 March from 10.00am – 12.30pm.**

This will be repeated with an **in-person session at Church House, London on Wednesday 19 April, 11.00am - 3.00pm with lunch provided.**

If you are interested in finding out what Stepwise has to offer, what's involved in facilitating Stepwise and how you might go about setting up a group as a facilitator, then please come along to either session. It would be great to see you!

*For further details and to register for either session please contact David Salsbury [david.salsbury@urc.org.uk](mailto:david.salsbury@urc.org.uk) or Marion Brown [marion.brown@urc.org.uk](mailto:marion.brown@urc.org.uk)*





## **DDC VERIFIERS AND SAFER RECRUITMENT TRAINING DATES 2023**

Are you a DBS verifier for your church?

Are you involved in the recruitment of staff or  
volunteers?

These sessions will run back to back so you can book on  
one or both of them

**If you missed the training in 2022 then  
Please book onto one of the following  
training dates...**

**February 28th 1.30pm – 3.30 pm**

**April 18th 6.30pm – 8.30pm**

**June 13th 6.30pm – 8.30pm**

**September 12th 6.30pm – 8.30pm**

**November 15th 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

**Training will be delivered on zoom**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



## **DBS VERIFIER TRAINING 1 HOUR**

The training will cover...

- The role of a Verifier?
- Service features and benefits
- The support and assistance available to Verifiers
- Recent changes at the DBS
- Eligibility
- Blemished disclosure process
- FAQ's and real case studies

## **SAFER RECRUITMENT TRAINING 1 HOUR**

The training will cover...

- Learning from Past Cases
- Preparing to Recruit
- The Selection Process
- The Interview Process
- After the Interview
- Pre-Appointment
- Starting Employment

### **TO BOOK....**

Please contact Emma Pearce

[emma.pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:emma.pearce@urc.org.uk)



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



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



Have you invited the children in your church? There are only 40 places available for a day of party games, party food and fun. You can book your places by emailing [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

Children **MUST** be booked in so that permission forms can be returned. We cannot accept children on the day.

## Talking About... Holiday Clubs



**Talking About... Holiday Clubs**

**Thursday, March 23rd 7-8pm**  
**Book your place at**  
**[www.bit.ly/URCChildrenandYouth](http://www.bit.ly/URCChildrenandYouth)**

*We know that summer still seems a long way off – but the time for planning Holiday Clubs is now!*

*The sooner you start planning, the longer you have to make sure that this aspect of your church's mission to children and young people is as relevant, enjoyable and as stress free as it can be.*

*Once again this year, the URC Children's and Youth Work team are providing free Holiday Club material for use in local churches.*

*Join us for this session as Lorraine Webb, the Children's and Youth Work Programme Officer for the United Reformed Church, is ready to share with us the "Dos and Don'ts" gathered from her long experience of planning and delivering holiday clubs.*

*There might even be a sneak preview of this year's new material (on the theme 'Love Is...')*

*Book your free tickets at [www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout](http://www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout)*



## Crafty Questions – Online



### 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)

Messy Church is a discipleship opportunity for churches to engage with children and their families but, all too often, it becomes a whirlwind of craft and activities with little opportunity to share meaningfully with those who come. Of course, this can sometimes also be true of Junior Church, as well! So how can we make our time more fruitful?

In this session the CYDO+ representatives from the 5 northerly synods will share tips and tactics on asking questions, listening to answers and developing conversations to give added value to your Messy Church meetings.

As always, it is free to attend - just click on the link: [www.bit.ly/5NSCraftyQuestions](https://www.bit.ly/5NSCraftyQuestions) on Monday, April 24th at 7pm

We look forward to seeing you there.



# Youth Mental Health First Aid

## 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](mailto:cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk)  
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett [cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk)

Visit the MHFA England website at [mhfaengland.org](http://mhfaengland.org)  
Find us on social media @MHFAEngland



[www.bit.ly/march-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/march-mhfa)

March 2023 - Morning Course

9:30-12:30

4 online sessions

Mon 20, Weds 22,

Mon 27, Weds 29



[www.bit.ly/may-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/may-mhfa)

May 2023 - Evening Course

18:30-21:30

4 online sessions

Tues 16, Thurs 18

Tues 23, Thurs 25



Were you unable to attend the 'in person' MHFA course recently?

Here is an opportunity to undertake the same course over 4 online sessions. The fee covers the cost of the manual only – so book your place at [www.bit.ly/march-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/march-mhfa) or [www.bit.ly/may-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/may-mhfa)

# Children and Youth Friendly Church Award



The Children and Youth Friendly Church Scheme can help your church improve the welcome it gives to children, young people and families.

Churches that join the scheme work with our CYDO, Leo Roberts, who helps them to identify what they're currently doing to welcome young people and develop ways to improve it.

Leo will see if your church:

- has a comprehensive and shared vision for children's and youth work
- provides good opportunities for the voices of children and young people to be heard
- takes seriously and responds to feedback from children and young people
- provides opportunities for children and young people to be involved in planning, organising and delivering child friendly church services
- makes suitable provision for under 5s in church
- provides groups and organisations to help nurture children and young people
- takes safeguarding, health & safety and first aid seriously
- 

Churches receive a certificate and plaque upon successful completion of the scheme.

If your church is interested in joining the scheme or would like more information, contact Leo on [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

## Virtual Gathered Youth Group



Every Wednesday evening from 7-8pm our Synod CYDO, Leo Roberts, runs a 'virtual Youth Group' on Zoom with young people from across the synod. The evening is aimed at 14-21 year olds and is full of games, discussions and general chat.

If there are young people in your church who would like to join they would be more than welcome. They can access the session by clicking [www.bit.ly/gatheredyouthgroup](https://www.bit.ly/gatheredyouthgroup)

## General Assembly 2023

General Assembly, the full meeting of the United Reformed Church, has gone back to annual gatherings (from an earlier pattern of meeting every 2 years). This year, General Assembly will take place between 30<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July, at Swanwick Conference Centre in Derbyshire. Each Synod is able to send 16 representatives, comprising ministers, lay people and 2 'under-25s'.

We are particularly looking for any lay people who would like to be involved in General Assembly – an opportunity to be involved in discussions about the current and future work of the church, and to listen to varied speakers and conversations.

If you are interested in learning more about General Assembly, you can look at the links on the URC website [here](#). You can also [read the report](#) from some of the representatives from our Synod who attended last year's General Assembly to read their reflections and thoughts.

If you would be interested in attending this year, could you please contact the Synod Clerk at [clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk). You won't be guaranteed a place, but it would be good to know that you are interested in joining us.

## Calling budding editors

The recently established Communications Committee is looking for a group of people to make up an 'Editorial team' for Synod papers. As the Committee becomes more actively involved in overseeing articles and documents produced for the Synod, a need for skilled people to provide an editorial oversight of those documents has become a clear need. So the Committee is looking for:

People who can proof read documents to spot 'typos' and grammatical errors

People who can consider the content, and ensure a consistent message

People who can ensure that the documents are written in 'plain English'

People who can edit for clarity and copyright issues

If you have any (or all!) of those skills, and would be willing to be part of the Editorial team, please get in touch. This is something which you could do from home, and wouldn't need you to come into the office if travelling was problematic for you – so please give it thought, and consider whether this is something you could do.

Please get in touch with the Synod Clerk at [clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk)

## **Halton United Reformed Church, High Road, Halton, Lancaster, LA2 6PS**

As a result of the Church closing on Saturday 18th February there are a number of items that are available, free of charge, to any Church within the Synod after that date. Smaller items can be posted, larger items will need to be collected at a mutually convenient time.

Please click on the link [here](#) to view all items—NB all measurements are approximate.

If you would like any of the items listed, on a first come – first served basis, or require any further information or pictures of anything not shown, please contact David Normington at [haltonurclancaster@gmail.com](mailto:haltonurclancaster@gmail.com) or 07811 731593 as soon as possible.





## Exciting Opportunity!

### Family and Children's Worker

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC in Rochdale is looking for a dynamic, part-time worker to help us reach out into our community with the emphasis on families and children.

30 hours per week

Salary £17 000 - £20 000 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

The position is expected to last for about 3 years initially.

#### Responsibilities of the post include

- Offer support to those groups in Church which work with young people and their families
- Organise activities which are fun/exciting raising awareness of and promoting the Christian faith.
- Establish links and liaise with schools and other local organisations to develop opportunities to outreach to children and their families and promote the Christian faith and values.
- Use appropriate social media to share information about opportunities for children and their families driven by the Church and reflecting Christian values.

#### How to apply

For further information and to request a full Job Description and Person Specification, email to [bcandnchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bcandnchurch@gmail.com)

Send your CV and covering letter outlining why you are suitable for the role of Family & Children's Worker to [bcandnchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bcandnchurch@gmail.com)

Closing date 31 March 2023





Kendal  
United  
Reformed  
Church

OneOSix



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
North Western  
Synod

## Pioneering Outreach Worker -

Full time (3 years fixed term)

***Are you the right person to help, encourage and challenge us?***

Join us and work from our refurbished multi-use building in Kendal's vibrant town centre as our **106 Outreach Worker.**

Supporting the congregation and helping us to build stronger relationships with our local community, working jointly with others in our neighbourhood.

We have a strong social conscience and a desire to share our buildings and God's love. As a visible and known Christian presence you will build relationships and open up the possibility of people exploring faith.

**Salary:** £26-£30k dependent on experience

**Applications close:** noon 15th March

**Interviews:** 29th March, application pack from:

[kurc106treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:kurc106treasurer@outlook.com)

*This post will require a DBS and carries a genuine occupational requirement that the holder be a practising Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010.*

## 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

