

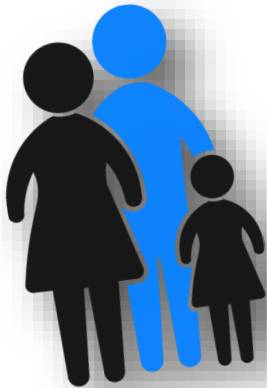
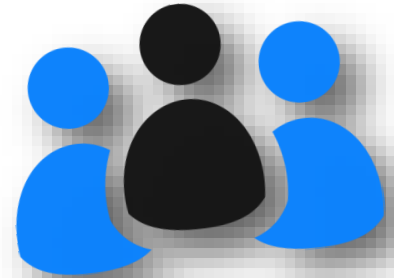
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Spring Synod 2023



North Western's Spring Synod meeting is taking place this Saturday 25th March 2023, starting at 10am. We aim to be finished no later than 4pm. We are meeting at Oasis Academy, Media City, King William Street, Salford M50 3UQ.

There is plenty of car parking available, as well as Disabled Parking spaces, if you are travelling by car. The Academy can also be easily reached by train into Piccadilly railway station from where you take a tram, alighting at Anchorage, Salford Quays.

Tea, coffee and a bacon sandwich (or vegetarian alternative) will be available on your arrival from 9.15 onwards; please bring your own packed lunch.

We intend to run this meeting as a fully hybrid meeting: whilst we hope that as many of you as possible are able to join us in person, you will also be able to join via Zoom online, and to engage in the discussions, voting and to participate fully in the meeting.

However, as a new experiment, we are also introducing the 'Kendal Hub'. The hope is that those Synod Reps from Cumbria and North Lancashire who prefer not, or are not able, to travel down to Salford could meet together in Kendal instead, and then link to the Synod meeting via Zoom. The 'Kendal Hub' will be one screen on Zoom, but will be together as a group for discussion and fellowship.

Kendal URC's new home is 106 Highgate, Kendal, LA9 4HE: it is accessible, it has parking close by, and although there won't be a bacon sandwich when you arrive, there will be soup at lunchtime to complement your own packed lunch. And of course, there will be tea and coffee. There are four dedicated parking spaces at the church itself, but you will need to book one of these in advance if you need parking very close to the venue.

Please let Synod office know if you intend to go to Kendal – it is important that we know numbers in advance, so please be sure to contact us on 0161 769 1122 or office@nwsynod.org.uk

In addition, Leo Roberts (Children and Youth Development Officer) is launching URC Children –you may have seen the advertisement in the newsletter ([click here](#)). If there are children aged 5 – 11 in your congregation, please invite them to come along – but **please** ensure that they are booked in advance by emailing cydo@nwsynod.org.uk.

As was agreed at last year's Autumn Synod, and in line with our efforts to become more environmentally aware, we **are not** printing copies of the Book of Reports.

The Reports will be sent out by email as a pdf document, and will also be accessible via the website. We hope that you can use an electronic device at Oasis or the Kendal Hub, to refer to the book of reports on the day of the meeting. We will make printed copies (and large print) copies available at the meeting on the 25th March, but **only** if you request a copy in advance. If you need a printed copy of the reports, please let Synod office know by 4pm on Wednesday 22nd March at the latest on 0161 769 1122 or office@nwsynod.org.uk.

Synod Executive has, once again, invited the Revd. Dave Herbert, Moderator of Northern Synod to convene and chair our Spring Synod. The Synod will be invited to appoint him as its chair in the opening session. As over the past two years, we hope that this is acceptable to the Synod, but if you have any concerns about this, please contact Synod office as soon as possible; we would not be able to make alternative arrangements at short notice. Our incoming Transitional Moderator, Revd Clare Downing, is still Moderator of Wessex Synod until the end of March, and is not able to be with us on the 25th.

Revd Kurauone Mutimwii and Revd Dave Herbert are leading the opening worship, which will include the induction of Revd Dr. Robert Hoch, our Training and Learning Mentor; Leo Roberts, our CYDO (Children and Youth Development Officer) will lead our closing worship.

If you are not able to attend for any reason, then your church might wish to send someone else in your stead as their Synod Representative. If you are not able to attend and need to give apologies, or are sending someone else as Synod Representative, could you please let Synod office know as soon as possible and, in any event, no later than Thursday 23rd March 2023. You can contact the office by email to office@nwsynod.org.uk or by telephone on 0161 769 1122.

I hope that as many of you as possible are able to join us for our Spring Synod 2023, and look forward to seeing you there.

Yours faithfully

Tim Hopley

Bronze Eco Church Award at Providence, New Mills

At our Missional Partnership Steering Group meeting in February, we were delighted to present a certificate to Penny Noon celebrating Bronze Eco Church status at Providence, New Mills. Thank you to Michael Brueck and the ECO Team at Providence who have worked hard with Craig and Kereena Tipler to gain this award.

We also thank Kereena and Craig, our Partnership Green Apostles, for supporting all the churches in the Partnership to look towards Eco Church awards.



Wood Street Hero Award— Marple Bridge

Congratulations go to Chris and Terry Lomax from Marple Bridge URC , Stockport, for receiving a Wood Street Mission Hero Award.

Wood Street was established in 1869 and is a children's charity that helps children and families living on low income in Manchester and Salford.

They provide practical help to meet children's needs, ranging from, clothing, bedding, toys and books.

Chris and Terry collect for the charity all year round from church and local folk.

They are especially passionate about co-ordinating the collection of toys which are given to children at Christmas time.

Luckily they have a good sized garage so that they can store all the donations they collect throughout the year !

They would encourage everyone to get involved in this wonderful charity.

WOOD STREET HEROES – CHRISTINE AND TERRY LOMAX



City of Manchester Anti-Poverty Strategy: Making Manchester Fairer



On Monday 27th February Manchester City Council launched an anti-poverty strategy at The Peoples' History Museum, Manchester. Representatives of charities, faith groups and various council departments gathered to discuss a refreshed five-year strategy for tackling poverty in the city. The report states, "By adopting this strategy we are making it clear that poverty is unacceptable and is incompatible with our vision for the city. Collectively, we are

committed to doing everything within our power to reduce and eliminate poverty in Manchester."

The city council has produced a set of priorities grouped under 4 themes:

Preventing poverty

Mitigating the impact of poverty

Pathways out of poverty

Inclusive and effective delivery

A full copy of the strategy can be found by following this link: https://www.manchester.gov.uk/downloads/download/7541/making_manchester_fairer_anti-poverty_strategy_2023-2027



The city council is committed to working with partners across the city, including faith groups to develop and deliver this strategy. They are currently inviting applications for the Programme Board and Communities and Power Forum, to develop these partnerships. If you are interested in this an application pack is available here.

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500288/public_health/8477/making_manchester_fairer



It was good to see the URC represented at this launch along with other churches and faith groups. Not only is poverty incompatible with the city council's vision for the City of Manchester, but it is also incompatible with our vision of the kingdom of God.

Liz Delafield

Mission and Discipleship Mentor: South Area

Stepwise: Faith Filled Community Group Project



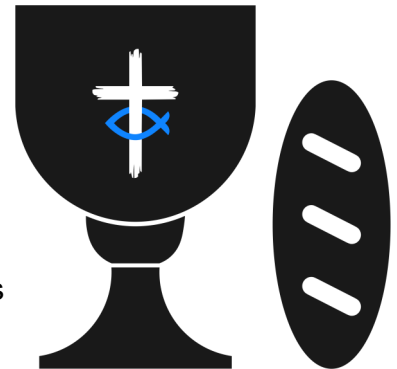
The Stepwise Faith Filled Community group created [Easter Resources](#) for the Synod and beyond. The Exploring Easter pack will be used by their local Pilot groups, Uniform Groups, Mums and Toddler groups, Warm and Welcome Spaces, Oasis Academy, Drop In for Refugees and Asylumseekers, Messy Churches 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

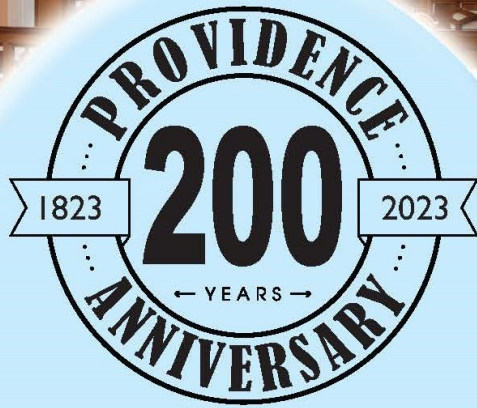
The Mentors of the North Western Synod invite you to join us Friday the 31st of March so that we might “walk into Holy Week” together. We will gather at 10:30 a.m. in the parking area of the Village Hall, Hurst Green.

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 or reach out to Rob Hoch (learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk) or Daleen Ten Cate (daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk) for more information.



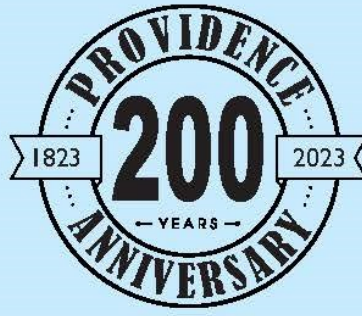


**Providence Church, New Mills
celebrates its
200th anniversary
with a week of events**

April 30 – May 7

Providence Church
Mellor Road
New Mills
SK22 4DP

www.providencechurch.co.uk



Sunday 30 April 10.30am	<i>Celebration Service with Rev David Jenkins.</i>
Sunday 30 April 3pm	<i>Gordon Stewart plays a celebration concert on the church's famous 1914 James Jepson Binns organ.</i>
Tuesday 2 May 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>
Thursday 4 May 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>
Friday 5 May 6.30pm	<i>Cheese and wine evening.</i>
Sunday 7 May 10.30am	<i>Closing service with Rev Jonnie Hill.</i>
Sunday 7 May 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

Online - Safeguarding Training

Foundation Training

Thank you for joining the foundation safeguarding training. Please click on the link best suited to your needs. There are different versions depending on whether you choose to complete the course on a computer or a phone or tablet. We have also created a narrated version where each slide is read out. You can navigate through the course at your own pace and spend as long as you need on each slide, once you have read the information you can click the white arrow on the right centre of the page to move to the next slide. You can skip back to look over previous pages if you need to by clicking on the white arrow on the left centre of the page. If you are completing the training on a laptop or desktop computer there are interactive quizzes throughout the training. Click on the buttons as directed and answer the questions you are asked. You can return to the main training by clicking on the right-hand centre arrow. On the last page is a final quiz – this will take you to a Microsoft form which you need to complete to register that you have done the course. Once you have submitted this form you will automatically be sent a certificate. If the certificate doesn't arrive, please check your junk mail or email carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk



Standard Course for a phone or laptop

[North West and Mersey Safeguarding Foundation E-Course for phone and tablet \(canva.com\)](#)

Standard Course for a Laptop or Desktop Computer

[North Western and Mersey Safeguarding Foundation E-Course \(canva.com\)](#)

CHRISM (CHRistians In Secular Ministry)

National association for all those who see their work as their ministry, and their supporters. Please see our website: chrism.org.uk

CHRistians In Secular Ministry CHRISM

“I Go to the Hills....”

In the tradition of MSE,
what does it mean to go to the hills to encounter God in Work?

Annual Conference, 23rd – 25th June 2023
Rydal Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9LX (www.rydalhall.org)

Where do we find work in the area of the Lake District? How do we encounter God at work in it? What are the competing pressures on the landscape - tourism, farming, rewilding? Many people come here as a place of refreshment. What do we do to recharge our batteries? Another opportunity to meet face-to face.

Cost, from dinner on Friday evening to lunch on Sunday, inclusive:

£250 (members and spouses); **£260** (non-members)

Grants may be available from your Church to cover all or part of the cost – apply now to get their support! A limited number of bursaries are available to enable attendance. Please ask CHRISM for details or a receipt. CHRISM can accept payments through GoCardless - to use this, please email: rob.fox36@gmail.com

In the usual format of a conference weekend there will be time for discussion, personal contributions and group work, walks and visits to prompt our reflection. The weekend will include the CHRISM AGM.

We shall review and advise on the current Covid precautions required by Rydal Hall and provide more detailed guidance before the event.

Set in over thirty acres of garden, woodland and natural beauty in the Lake District UNESCO World Heritage Site, Rydal Hall is the ideal venue for retreats, events, activity weekends or just a family holiday. With wonderful views over the Rothay valley and with the Fairfield Horseshoe and Nab Scar as a backdrop, the Hall and its grounds are the perfect place to enjoy this beautiful part of the world.

The Hall is located with easy access from the M6 (J36 from the South – 23 miles, J40 from the North, 28 miles) A591 to Rydal. There are rail connections to Windermere station (via Oxenholme on the West Coast mainline) which is only 4 miles from Rydal Hall. Lifts can be arranged

Please return this slip (before 20th May, 2023).

Yes, I wish to attend the Annual Conference at Rydal Hall, 23rd - 25th June 2023

Name:

Tel:

Address:

Email:

I enclose a cheque (payable to CHRISM) for £250 / £260

or deposit of £50

I would be prepared to share: Yes / No

With whom:

I have the following special dietary (or other) needs:

Please return to: Rob Fox, 51 St Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay, NE26 4JW. Email: rob.fox36@gmail.com

The data you provide on this form will be used to contact you about future CHRISM events.

If you do not want CHRISM to contact you in future, please tick this box.

Visit the CHRISM website at www.chrism.org.uk





aimed at 5 – 11 year olds

The Circus Praise Party is being held at
Lytham YMCA on Mythop Road FY8 4HB

on Saturday 18th March 2023

2pm – 3.30pm

Tickets sold through the local churches and Eventbrite

£5 per adult £3 per child

Small group booking £10 for 1 adult and up to 3 children

Hosted by The Churches in Lytham

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

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

The United Reformed Church Children
The United Reformed Church Youth

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

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

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 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
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

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



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

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 or 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

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

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



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

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

Closing date 31 March 2023



<https://www.bcchurch.org.uk/>



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

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.

CLAS - call for evidence on UK refugee and asylum system

The Woolf Institute in Cambridge, which explores the relationship between religion and society, is sponsoring a Commission on the Integration of Refugees.

The Chair of the Commission is Lord (Alex) Carlile of Berriew, the Vice-Chair is the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, and the Convenor is Dr Edward Kessler. It is undertaking what it describes as “a holistic review of the UK refugee and asylum system, with an aim to improving the integration of refugees”.

It has released a Call for Evidence, which will remain open until **31 March 2023**. It is keen to hear from as broad a range of views as possible, especially from faith communities. Evidence can be submitted, as an individual or an organisation, by completing the form on the website: <https://refugeeintegrationuk.com/call-for-evidence/>, or this PDF form:

https://refugeeintegrationuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/CIR_Call_for_Evidence.pdf

Please return this to the Commission at: contact@refugeeintegrationuk.com

If you have any questions about the Commission or the Call for Evidence, please contact Chris Cooper-Davies, Head of the Commission Secretariat: cc961@cam.ac.uk.

JPIT's Response to the 'Illegal Migration Bill' – March 2023

We are appalled by the proposals in the government's 'Illegal Migration Bill' to detain, punish and reject thousands of people seeking safety. They are completely incompatible with our Christian conviction that all human beings are made in the image of God, and are therefore inherently worthy of treatment which honours their dignity. Instead of dignity, these plans will foster discrimination and distrust, and cause immeasurable harm to people already made vulnerable by conflict and persecution. If ever there was a contemporary example of ignoring our neighbour and walking by on the other side, this is it.

When two in three people who cross the channel to seek sanctuary in the UK are granted asylum following rigorous checks, it seems unthinkable to reject them before they have even had a chance to have their claim for asylum heard. Many people fleeing war and persecution in countries such as Iraq, Iran, Syria, Eritrea and Sudan have been left with no safe and accessible routes to claim asylum in the UK, forcing people to make difficult and dangerous decisions. The UK falls far behind our global neighbours in welcoming people seeking sanctuary into our communities, and yet these plans essentially put a ban on claiming asylum and reject the UK's responsibility to play our part in responding to global inequalities and conflict.

We all agree that we cannot continue to see thousands of people risk their lives to reach safety in the UK, but the solution cannot be deterrence and punishment. As Christians, we believe that we should be amongst the first to welcome the stranger with open arms. We urge the government to withdraw this legislation, to honour our moral and international obligations and to behave with compassion and fairness by establishing safe and accessible routes to enable the UK to play its part in welcoming people in need of safety.

ADD YOUR SUPPORT

Signed by Revd Fiona Bennett, URC General Assembly Moderator, Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference

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
- For Mersey Synod as they prepare for their Spring Synod Meeting on Saturday 11th march

