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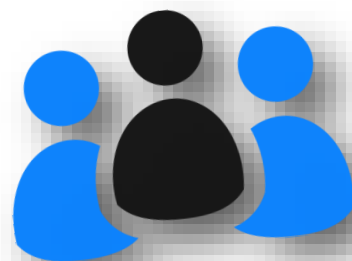


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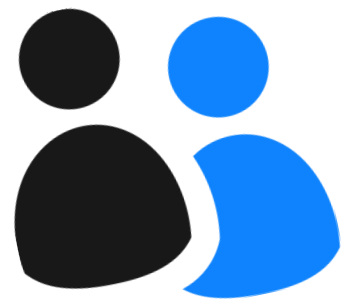
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Calling all people with Governance experience!

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 6th February 2023.

Monday 6th February 2023 at 2pm

Monday 6th February 2023 at 7pm

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

Meeting ID: 830 1505 4351

Passcode: 324395



Janet cooper ex secretary of Bolton road urc celebrates her 90 birthday

Several friends of The exBolton Road URC dmDarwen who now Worship at CentralURC and many friends Celebrated Janet's 90th birthday at Riverside Heights. Janet was church secretary, member and an elder for many years. We wish her congratulations and we thank God for her service.



Picture of Janet with Daughters Diana and Julie.

Visit of the Assembly Moderator to Cumbria, Sunday 12th February—Carver Uniting Church, Lake Road, Windermere, LA23 2BY



The Revd Fiona Bennett, URC Assembly Moderator, will take the morning service at Carver Uniting Church, Windermere, on Sunday 12th February at 10.45am.

All our URC churches in Cumbria are encouraged to gather at Carver on this day.

It will be the first opportunity for our churches to worship together after lockdown had kept us separated and when only zoom services were possible. It will be an opportunity too to celebrate Communion together and to hear Fiona's message for our churches.

All are invited to stay for a finger buffet lunch afterwards.

We extend this invitation beyond the county of Cumbria to anyone interested in joining us at Carver to hear Fiona that day. It would be necessary to let us know of your coming by the end of January. Please contact Judith Bartlett 015394 47939
judithf.bartlett@googlemail.com



Come and hear more about Leading Your Church Into Growth

Tuesday 31st January 2023

7.30pm

Meeting ID: 898 5129 3330

Passcode: 053406

A Mission & Discipleship Network
meeting on Zoom open to all

For more details contact:

Revd Richard Bradley

01706 369622 // 07483 155807

richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk



On November 11 people from NW Synod along with people from the other 4 northerly Synods attended the LYCIG Conference in Leeds.

LYCIG originated in the Church of England but is now used by many different URCs in many different Synods. The people that went from NW Synod got a lot from it. Here are comments from two people who attended:

"[LYCIG] showed me how to pull together the things about church growth that I already knew and make them work effectively"

"Martin Luther once said: "If only I could pray like my dog longs for meat! His thoughts are focused solely on the meat." May God grant us the same passion in prayer for growth."

On Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 7.30pm you are invited to hear more about LYCIG at a meeting of the "Mission and Discipleship Network" This meeting will take place on Zoom.

Revd Ashley Evans from Yorkshire Synod will be leading us and sharing more insights on LYCIG and the work he does with LYCIG across the URC and beyond.

If you want further information please contact me on the details on the poster. The Zoom details are also on the poster.

Revd Richard Bradley , Convenor of the Synod Mission and Discipleship Network.

For more information on LYCIG please look at the website: <https://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/>

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

Something strange in Gruesome Grange

The show is called "Something Strange in Gruesome Grange". The story is set in the town of Gruesome Grange where friendly monsters live, and follows a fierce competition that develops between Count Dracula and Dr Frankenstein. Who will be victorious? Step into a world of family fun and meet vampires, werewolves, ghosts, and many more strange and wondrous characters.

Venue: Ashton-on-Mersey URC

The Music Group PRESENTS

SOMETHING STRANGE IN GRUESOME GRANGE

A PANTOMIME

Written by Becky Vanden,
Chris and Luke Garrattley

**TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY TO
SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2023**

**ADULT £10
TUESDAY £8
CHILD £7
TUESDAY £6**

TO BOOK



themusicgroup.eventbrite.com
**If you're not able to book online, please call or email*
music.group.sale@gmail.com
07958 747 359

VENUE

Ashton-on-Mersey United Reformed Church,
Whitefield Road, Sale, Cheshire, M33 6NZ





NORTHERN COLLEGE

Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders' Conference

Friday 24th — Saturday 25th February 2023

The kingdom of God as Holy Anarchy?



Fancy something a bit different? A new book, "Holy Anarchy", by Revd Dr Graham Adams, our mission tutor, will be the springboard for us to explore topics related to worship and preaching. The book includes new hymns and worship resources, but also offers prompts for us to engage creatively with the challenge of God's kingdom, by looking at:

- preaching the kingdom
- a spirituality of play
- conflicts within scripture
- the challenge of suffering
- community work
- creation-care

The Conference will take place at Luther King House in Manchester. The cost of the event is **£147.50 (residential)** or **£85 (non-residential)**. Additional bednights can be booked on request at an additional charge.

To register please contact [**Paul.barrett@lutherking.ac.uk**](mailto:Paul.barrett@lutherking.ac.uk)

Northern College is an open and inclusive community of learning, worship and fellowship, supporting the development of the 'whole people of God'

[**www.northerncollege.co.uk**](http://www.northerncollege.co.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 or

Liz Delafield 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



liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk
daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk



07740 112 628



<https://nwsynod.org.uk>

Online concert by Abigail Birch-Price



THEN & NOW

Online concert

**Saturday 28th
January, 8pm**

CELEBRATING 2 YEARS SINCE
LAUNCHING HER MUSIC
CAREER, ABIGAIL'S LATEST
CONCERT FEATURES LIVE
MUSIC, PRIZE DRAW RAFFLE
AND ONLINE MUSIC DISCOUNT

£5 SINGLE, £8 HOUSEHOLD

TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/JBUCBFCN8ERPPVU6](https://forms.gle/JBUCBFCN8ERPPVU6)

A selection of pieces written by Abigail Birch-Price, celebrating 2 years since launching her website! It's online (on YouTube) so tickets have to be bought in advance but you can get them here: <https://forms.gle/GGjLxQ32uCMows9m9>. Or you can get more info on the concert and all my pieces here: <https://abigailbirchprice.wixsite.com/music/blank-page> .

Talking Climate Justice this Lent:



This Lent - reflect on the transformative nature of our faith and seeking justice. In this 6 week Talking Climate Justice small group discussion guide you'll explore Lenten themes (repentance, sacrifice, redemption, reparation and restoration) to help you grapple with the realities of the climate crisis.

Each week you'll explore a new theme with bible readings, stories and prayers to stir up ideas of how you and your church can act together for climate justice.

Perfect for small/home groups and flexible for Lenten lunches and café church.

To find out more, or to download the study, click below:

[Talking Climate Justice - Lent Discussion Guide - Christian Aid](#)

If you'd like any more information, or would like to chat about anything else, please do get in touch – my details are below.

Darren Staunton DStaunton@christian-aid.org

Countywide Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 24th January 7.30pm by Zoom



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE

The resources for the WPCU are produced each by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The theme this year is “Be-longing: praying for unity amidst injustice”. This year is the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence and so this service reflects on that and other situations of injustice. I am delighted that we will be joined by Peter Colwell, the Deputy General Secretary of CTBI who will introduce the theme. At the start of this service The Revd Phil Gough, Chair of the Lancashire Methodist District will be commissioned as the Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire. At Phil’s commissioning as the new Chair of District Phil spoke passionately about his “beating heart” for ecumenism. This will be an opportunity to pray for Phil as he takes on this role.

Please circulate this note widely and encourage as many as you can to join the service. The link is here:

Time: Jan 24, 2023 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84830329318?pwd=YWo1VVdKSXFibExKVGkrQ2JYM0hoQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 3032 9318

Passcode: 169164

Youth Mental Health First Aid



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/november-mhfa



30 Nov - 1 Dec 2022
URC Church House,
London WC1H 9RT

www.bit.ly/february-mhfa



2 Feb - 3 Feb 2023
Northern College,
Manchester M14 5JP

At General Assembly 2022, the United Reformed Church passed a resolution brought by URC Youth Assembly encouraging all local churches to enable someone in the congregation to undertake Mental Health First Aid Training.

A certificated, 2 day course, run by two registered trainers, is being offered to URC participants at Luther King House in Rusholme in February (2nd/3rd). The course is being run at cost - £27.50 to ensure finance is not a barrier to participants to access the training. This payment covers the cost of the accompanying course manual. The course will focus on those who work with young people.

You can book your place on the course at www.bit.ly/february-mhfa

Youth Leaders Gathering

YOUTH LEADERS' GATHERING



A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ANYONE INVOLVED IN ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, YOUNG ADULTS OR CHILDREN IN THE URC



A SPACE TO LEARN, SHARE AND GROW TOGETHER AS WE EXPLORE HOW WE
LOVE GOD
LOVE OTHERS AND
LOVE OURSELVES WELL

JAN 27-29, 2023

£119 ALL-INCLUSIVE

WHITEMOOR LAKES, STAFFORDSHIRE
ALONGSIDE URC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

THE GATHERING IS DELIBERATELY LESS OF A TRAINING EVENT AND MORE OF A SHARED LEARNING IN COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
BOOK YOUR PLACE CONTACT BY EMAIL
CHILDREN.YOUTH@URC.ORG.UK
OR CALL 020-7916-8683

Leaders are invited to join us at the Youth Leaders Gathering 2023 for a dedicated programme alongside URC Youth Assembly at Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire between 27-29 January. We will follow this year's children and youth work theme 'Love is' in our own dedicated space.

We will explore this theme by reflecting on the greatest commandment – 'Love God and Love others as yourself'. There will be space to share, learn, reflect, worship and relax together as a community. Join with others so that you might be both encouraged and recharged for your ministry with young people.

The Gathering is deliberately less of a training event and more of a shared learning in community experience – with great coffee, cake and the chance to hear about the latest resources and initiatives from within the URC and beyond. You bring your experience and stories to share with others so we that we all contribute.

North Western Synod will cover the conference fee. A creche is available for any children aged 0-5 that are accompanying you.

For more information or to book your place contact by email children.youth@urc.org.uk or call 020-7916-8683

Talking About...Outdoor Church 26th January 2023, 7-8pm on Zoom

TALKING ABOUT... OUTDOOR CHURCH

Exploring the
opportunities of
worshipping outside



Thursday, 26th January 7-8pm on Zoom

Book your free place at: bit.ly/TAoutdoorchurch



Worship doesn't HAVE to be inside... how much easier it must be to give thanks for God's creation when you're surrounded by the sights, and sounds, of nature.

As the days gradually become longer, and the weather warms up, maybe you'd like to explore the possibilities of worshipping 'outside'.

In this 1-hour session we will explore some of the 'new' expressions of being church in an outside space - including Muddy Church and Forest Church.

We will be led in our discussions by Jo Hopkins who has a wealth of experience of 'doing church outside'.

You can book your free place on www.bit.ly/TAoutdoorchurch

Feel free to share the link with friends.

Too Old For Messy/Junior Church?

How old is 'too old' for Messy/Junior Church? Monday, January 23rd, 7-8:30pm

Too Old For Messy Church?

How do we engage with older children
in our gatherings?



Monday, January 23rd 7-8:30pm

<https://bit.ly/5NSTooOldForMessyChurch>

We have a long tradition of effective work with children, but we know that the numbers drop off as they get older - is this because what we offer is no longer engaging for older children/young people?

If so, what might we do to correct that?

This session, offered by the CYDO+ team from the 5 Northerly Synods, will look at what changes we might need to make to our sessions to more effectively engage with our children and young people as they grow and develop in faith, and in all other aspects of their lives.

To join us, just log on to <https://bit.ly/5NSTooOldForMessyChurch>

Youth Service

You are all cordially invited... young or old.

YOUTH SERVICE

We are all children of God

Time: 4pm

Date: January 22nd

Location: Roby
Church, 307
Dickenson Rd,
Longsight,
Manchester
M13 0YW

Contact:

[joanne.west@lev-
inspire.org.uk](mailto:joanne.west@lev-inspire.org.uk)

Music * Food * Prayer

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](#)





Chorlton Central Church:

working with Children and Families



Job Description

Children and Families Worker

Chorlton Central Church

16 hours per week

Salary: £9,984 plus expenses and 3% pension contribution

Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ To be responsible for the pastoral care of and development of the programme of activities for children and their families within the church and community, in consultation with the Deacons' and the Church Meeting
- ▶ To enable children and their families to participate fully in the life of the church and community, seeking to provide a positive experience of Christian people, Christian faith and the Christian church
- ▶ To work with an ecumenical group of church leaders to scope and develop the potential for longer-term work with children and families in the area

How to Apply

For a full Job Description and Person Specification please email secretary.chorltoncentral@gmail.com

Applicants should send their CV and a covering letter addressing the Person Specification outlining why you are suitable for the post.

Closing date: **10th February 2023**

Interview dates: **week beginning 20th February 2023**

Further queries: **contact Mike on 07941 427 966**

Northern Synod - No. 84', Redcar, Cleveland

Is New Monasticism catching your attention? Does being part of a small innovative residential missional community appeal?

Does taking time out to think and pray through new possibilities, or taking a gap year feel timely?

Are you excited by new ways of being and doing Church?

From Spring 2023 onwards for those aged 18 and over, Redcar has a rare opportunity in the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church to become part of a household of three living within a simple Rule of praying, eating, studying and serving together while accompanying Redcar United Reformed Church & Redcar Baptist Church in missional presence in Redcar.

If needed, a modest maintenance allowance is available.

You are invited to register your interest by Friday March 31st 2023.

Information Packs available from

Lisa McAvoy, Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, 4 College Lane,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8JJ. Tel 0191 232 1168

lisa.mcavoy@urc-northernsynod.org

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

