

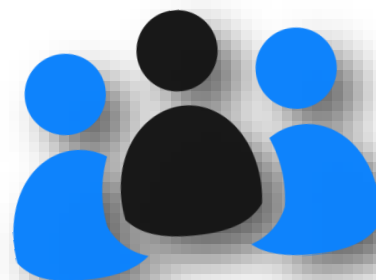
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GOOD NEWS

Induction of Revd Clare Downing as Transitional Moderator of North Western Synod

I hope that many of you are able to join us at Chorley URC on Saturday 10th June 2023 at 3pm for the induction of Revd Clare Downing as our Transitional Moderator.

The service will be led by Revd Fiona Bennett (Moderator of General Assembly), and Revd Dr John Bradbury (General Secretary) will preach. It should be a great opportunity to welcome Clare to our Synod.

There is parking available at Chorley URC and directly across the road from the Church which is also free to park. Parking is also available further down the hill from the Church and there will be Stewards outside to direct you if needed.

If you are not able to come in person, there will be an opportunity to watch the service on a live stream and you will be able to do this by Zoom via the link which is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84484260976?pwd=S3pqR0hlWWd6d1VVdkNRbC9TT05YZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 8426 0976

Passcode: 248852

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 10th June.

Save the dates

- **Induction of Clare Downing as Moderator of North Western Synod—10th June 2023**
- **Minister's Away Day at Brockholes—16 September 2023**
- **Legacies of Slavery: A Guided Walk through Manchester—21 October 2023**

Refreshing your ministry Conference

Places are limited at our next Refreshing Your Ministry Conference. First come first served - Book now to guarantee your space on what looks to be an exciting and refreshing week!

Speakers include **Rev. Anne Calver, Rev. Eddie Boon & Rachel Hickson**

More details and booking form can be found here: <https://www.gear.org.uk/events/refreshing-your-ministry/> Or Contact Rev. Richard Bradley

Richard.bradley@northwesternsynod.org.uk

A gathering for serving URC Ministers and CRCWs, including Synod-appointed Local Leaders and retired Ministers who are in pastoral charge

Refreshing your Ministry



Tue 10th to Thu 12th October 2023

High Leigh Conference Centre, Herts

Total cost is £220. This includes a £50 booking fee, with the balance of £170 due by 1st September.

Bookings are now open via our website.



October Holy Land Pilgrimage

Have you ever fancied walking where Jesus walked? Seeing the same sights, smelling the same smells?

Or sitting on a boat on the Sea of Galilee, reading the story of Jesus walking on water?

Or what about standing in a cave similar to that which King David would have slept in when he was a shepherd boy?



All these experiences and more are what you can expect when you go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A wonderful land, a land that will enhance your faith – a trip of a lifetime. Mark Woodhouse (my Dad and also a URC Minister in Plymouth) and I are leading a small group of about 20 people there in October. We will be visiting many of the magnificent sites mentioned in the Bible; the sites that we hear about so often. We will be eating the food, visiting the places, meeting the people who live there and experiencing a little of what life is like now and then. Reading the Bible will never quite be the same again, when you can say I have walked (or sailed) in that place.

If you are interested in joining us, we have a few spare places. Follow the link below for more information, where you will find the dates, the full program and pricing for the trip.

<http://www.maranatha.co.uk/HolyLand2023-RevdsMark&Adam/>

Also, feel free to contact me for a chat or more information if you would find that helpful (adam.woodhouse@nwsynod.org.uk) or join us for a Zoom meeting on 27th June (7:30pm) on Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82413287849?pwd=YUVuYzhMc0hmOEhxMVdhNG53Wkxxdz09>

Adam (Woodhouse)

Minister in the East Lancashire Missional Partnership



NW Synod Children Together @ Blackpool Zoo



Does your Church have ANY children's activities, organisations or families (including grandparents and great grandparents!)?

If so they, and you, are invited to join us for a fun day out to Blackpool Zoo on

Saturday 30th September 2023

Cost: £8.50 for Children aged 3-15 (under 3's free)
£12.50 for Adults

The final closing date for replies is 9th September.
For further details and booking form please contact
David Normington (davidnorm@talktalk.net)
or Leo Roberts (cydo@nwsynod.org.uk).



Scouts



This event is being administered by NW Pilots.

Faith Filled Worship Northwestern Synod Taster Session

Monday 12th June 7pm via zoom

Faith filled worship is those who have already completed Faith Filled Life, and would like to continue their journey by exploring the breadth and depth of Christian Worship, building confidence and equipping participants for leading and participating in worship. It is the URC's main training course for locally recognised lay preachers. It will be Synod wide via zoom.

The main aims of this stream are:

- to explore the various building blocks of Christian worship
- to consider worship, as an individual and in community, as a response to God's love and faithfulness.
- to think about how worship is a transformative activity where God is encountered and lives are changed.
- to examine how to hear, interpret and share God's word in scripture, prayer and preaching.
- to look at how to create contextual, meaningful and inclusive worship.
- to equip you for your discipleship journey and think about how worship is a central part of this.

Faith-filled Worship takes approximately 12 months to complete, going at the pace of the local group. Group meetings will take place approximately monthly. Between the group meetings you will also create a reflective journal and meet with a mentor – guidance for both of these activities is provided.

If you have already completed the Faith filled life strand, and are interested in joining this group please contact liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk

Zoom Link: 818 3586 5350 Passcode. 021226

Faith Filled Life
Northwestern Synod South Area
Taster Session
Friday 16th June 2pm via zoom

We are forming a new group to explore our faith journeys. The group will meet via a combination of zoom and in person meetings in the South area of the North Western Synod. We will arrange car shares if needed, and organise meeting times to suit the availability of participants. (Usually fortnightly)

Faith filled life is a seven session (about 2 hours per session) course exploring:

- Who am I? Exploring identity and faith
- Where do I fit? How faith shapes our daily life
- Where do I fit in my community? Thinking more about God's mission in the world and how you are part of it.
- My walk with God - what journey am I on?
- Dealing with challenges? Building confidence and resilience for facing life's challenges
- Which way now? Looking back and looking forward.

It is an essential first Step in the URC's Stepwise training course and, for some opens a door to other Stepwise strands such as Faith Filled worship or leadership. It is for anyone, at whatever point in their faith journey, to explore their faith journey within a supportive group. It also involves a group project, meetings with a mentor and additional reflection/perperation between sessions.

If you are interested in joining the taster session, or for further information, please contact liz Delafield at liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk

Zoom Link: 874 1882 5372. Passcode. 303324

United Reformed Church members show support to coffee morning event during the Refugee Week in Blackburn

On 22 June, Community Harmony Project (CHP - Blackburn) will celebrate Refugee Week through the Coffee Morning at the Quakers Meeting House, Blackburn. Theme of the event is 'Compassion.' Some members of the local United Reformed Churches will attend the event to show their support to the refugee initiatives in Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

The event will be an opportunity to celebrate Refugee Week, to listen to the encouraging and resilient voices of asylum seekers and refugees. It would also be a time to recognise the services of refugees' locally. The Mayor of Blackburn, Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar, will give an award to a refugee who showed compassion to the destitute people.

There will be a quiz and lighting the Peace & Harmony Candle. International food will also be served.

More than fifty people from different walks of life (councillors, members of local charities and concerned citizens) will attend the event.

Refugee Week

COMMUNITY HARMONY PROJECT
CIC
Service by the community for the community

Funded by:
Lancashire County Council

COFFEE MORNING

THEME

COMPASSION

Thursday, 22 June 2023
10 am to 1 pm
Quakers Meeting House, Blackburn
Paradise Lane, King Street, Blackburn, BB2 1LY

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE.

QUIZ
DISCUSSION
REFRESHMENTS

CONTACT
M: 07874866321
E: communityharmonyproject@gmail.com

Exploring Resilience In Churches

**URC Training- a collaboration between
Children and Youth Work and Education and Learning.**

Thursday 22nd June- self-care and resilience. 7.15-8.45pm. Led by Adam Scott.

This first session will focus on personal resilience or self-care. Resilience is a word we use a lot, especially recently, and Adam will help us explore what it means for us as individuals in the world we live in as we adapt and endure through times of change.

Thursday 29th June- Resilience and community-care. 7.15-8.45pm. Led by Adam Scott.

This second session will focus on community resilience or community care. We can be adaptable and have worked on our own resilience, but our external environment affects us each day. Adam will help us explore what community resilience is, how important it is and how change can help us all flourish.

The Revd Dr Adam Scott is the Principal at Northern College, Manchester, which is one of the Resource Centres for Learning that offers learning and training opportunities for the URC.

Thursday 6th July- Enabling resilience (making safe spaces). 7.15-8.45pm.

Led by Alex Clare-Young.

This session will focus on practical things we can do/offer/give access to in church buildings, gatherings and community spaces. Alex will encourage thinking around how we manage space and self in relation to enabling resilience and flourishing.

The Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young is an ordained URC Minister working in a Pioneer role with Downing Place Church in Cambridge City Centre

To book onto these sessions go to the Eventbrite link [here](#)



The poster features the logo of The United Reformed Church Training, which consists of a black cross with a blue fish symbol inside it. The text on the poster is as follows:

**Thursdays 22nd and 29th June
and 6th July
7.15-8.45pm
on Zoom**

**Exploring resilience for churches
Led by Adam Scott and Alex Clare-Young**

RESILIENCE

**To register go to
<https://bit.ly/Resilience4churches>**

URC Church Safeguarding Coordinators training



This is an online training course for all existing and new Church Safeguarding Coordinators (including Deputies) to understand their roles and responsibilities. All United Reformed Churches are required to appoint a safeguarding coordinator for children and adults. Smaller churches may consider appointing one or two coordinators for a group of churches.

Understand how the role of the Church Safeguarding Coordinator can work with the leadership of the church to ensure that they can create a positive safeguarding culture

There are SIX sessions, all of which are the same, so please choose one which best suits you:

- Thursday 15 June 2023 2-4pm
- Tuesday 20 June 2023 6.30-8.30pm
- Monday 3 July 2023 10.30am-12.30pm
- Wednesday 19 July 2023 6.30-8.30pm
- Thursday 3 August 2023 10.30am-12.30pm

Tuesday 15 August 2023 1.30-3.30pm

Please sign up for a session using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/urc-church-safeguarding-coordinator-training-m-nw-synods-tickets-635482855327>

Other Safeguarding Training events in 2023 (click on the links for the PDFs to download and print):

[URC DDC verifier and Safer Recruitment training](#)

[National Safeguarding training 2023](#)

[Intermediate & Advanced Safeguarding training](#)

Further face to face Intermediate safeguarding training sessions are currently being finalised for each missional partnership, the dates and venues will be circulated in the next few weeks



Safeguarding

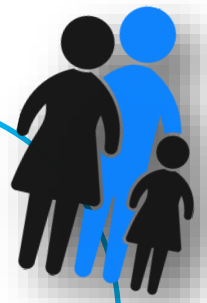
Advanced Safeguarding training will be taking place in the autumn.

[Safeguarding Contacts](#)

Julie Rafferty, is the Synod Safeguarding Adviser and is supported by Pauline Burke, who is the Safeguarding Administrator.

For General safeguarding queries, relating to safeguarding training, DBS and the annual church safeguarding returns, please contact Pauline on: safeguardingadminnwandm@urcmerseysynod.org.uk

For queries relating to safeguarding policy & procedure and safeguarding allegations/concerns, please contact Julie on: safeguarding@urcmerseysynod.org.uk or mobile number: 07376-053044



Glorious Grandparenting



Calling all grandparents!

Fun, challenging, inspiring, exhausting, the grandparenting years can mark a glorious time with our younger generations.

Come to a free workshop for grandparents of teenagers, children and pre-schoolers:

- * Enrich your relationships at different ages and stages
- * Share your faith – overcoming barriers
- * Celebrate the challenges and blessings.

Online sessions:

Thursday 15 June 2023 from 10.30am to 12.30pm

Monday 19 June 2023 from 7pm to 8.45pm

Children in Church morning: Saturday 17th June

10am-12:45

Being open to welcome everyone, whatever their age, is vital to our church's mission. On Saturday 17th June, you are invited to share a morning with us at Gatley URC. This is for those who work with children in churches (in any role- messy church volunteers, Sunday school leaders, club organisers, preachers/worship leaders who sometimes talk to mixed age congregations). If your church hopes to encourage more children and families and want some ideas to start, this is for you too.

The morning will be hosted by Gina Gibson from Gatley URC Church, with sessions facilitated by Leo Roberts (Children and Youth Development Officer) and Liz Delafield (Mission and Discipleship Mentor). A free sandwich lunch will be provided. Please bring your favourite children's work resource or idea for "show and tell".



Gatley URC can be found at Elm Rd, Gatley, Cheadle SK8 4LY. There is on street parking nearby.

This is the plan for the day:

10-10:15: Arrivals: Tea and coffee.

10:15: Introductions and opening activity (Leo)

10:20-10:40: Opening reflection (Liz)

10:40-11am: Why do we want children in church? (Leo)

11-12: Workshops Refill coffee/teacups between workshops. (30 minutes per workshop)

Working with children: a practical guide. Following a request for more practical guidance about working with children, Liz Delafield will facilitate this workshop exploring: Behaviour and safety. Being a role model, Engagement and attention.

Becoming a children and youth friendly church. The children and youth friendly award scheme can help a church to improve the welcome it gives to young people and families. Find out a bit more about how your church could develop its welcome and work towards this award. (With Leo Roberts).



12pm-12:30pm: "Show and tell." Sharing of resources and ideas. Please bring something related to children in church. (a book, a game, a picture, a recipe, a toy, something made or drawn by a child)

12:30-12:40 pm: Where next? Other training opportunities, what will you take back from today?

Leo

Evaluation forms.

12:40: Closing prayer (Gina)

12:45 Lunch

You are welcome to stay for lunch. You may also stay for a while afterwards to ask further questions, browse resources or for a guided tour of Gatley's children's facilities- including fabulous outdoor areas.

There will be a certificate of participation for all who attend.

To register your place, please contact liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk telephone 07740 112 628.

Please let us know if you would like to stay for lunch, and if you have any dietary requirements.

Lundie Award

The Lundie Memorial Award celebrates the good work a child or young person is doing for their church and community.

If you know a child or young person who is playing their part in the mission of God in their church or Synod, their local community or the wider world, please nominate them for a Lundie Memorial Award and help shine a light on their achievements.

Each month, a medal and certificate will be awarded to one of the nominated children and young people, along with a financial gift of £100 to be spent to benefit children and/or young people in the church, synod or local community, however the award winner chooses.

Nomination areas

Good work can be interpreted in many different ways, so there are no hard and fast categories for this award. Suggested nomination areas are:

- a young carer
- a young person running a holiday club
- a child volunteering at a dementia café
- a young person fund raising for a Messy Church outing
- a young person providing live music for services
- a child raising money for an overseas development project
- a young person training older people in the use of technology
- a child who turns up early every week to set out the chairs for a club
- a young person volunteering as a peer mentor at college
- anyone under 26 who is playing their part in the mission of God in any way

Making a nomination

Anyone under the age of 25 can be nominated and anybody can make a nomination at any time of the year.

To make a nomination, download and complete a nomination form ([Lundie Memorial Award - United Reformed Church](#)) and send it by post or email to cydo@nwsynod.org.uk

You will also need to get the nominee (and their parents if they are under 18) to sign the form to show they agree to you sending their details.

It would be great if you can send a good quality original sized photo of the nominee, preferably doing something connected with their nomination. If they win, this photograph may be used on the URC website or other publicity to celebrate their achievement.

Virtual Gathered Youth Group

VIRTUAL GATHERED YOUTH GROUP

Every Wednesday
7-8pm



Join in at bit.ly/gatheredyouthgroup

Every Wednesday evening from 7-8pm(ish) 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



Dear Eco Church Friend,

I am writing to you, following my March email, to thank you very much if you have responded to our first Eco Church annual gift appeal. We've been delighted with the response and your messages of support.

To give you an insight into how much your support is needed - and appreciated - just in the two and half months since I first wrote to you, we've received over 200 award applications, of which eight are gold applications.

With your help we can build a sustainable Eco Church programme - supporting churches to embed creation care into church life for the long term and providing multiple stories of action and hope in a world that desperately needs both. So thank you again for your support.

We acknowledge that some of you may have given recently or expect to do so in the autumn. If, for whatever reason, you haven't been able to support or pledge to support us yet, it's not too late to give to this year's appeal. Here's a reminder of how you can do this - though we also understand if you are unable to do so this time.

Giving your 2023 gift towards A Rocha UK's Eco Church costs is very easy via bank transfer. To do this, please follow the instructions on this [online form](#). Please start your reference with **"ECGIFT" and your church postcode** when making the payment. You can also donate by cheque payable to A Rocha UK. **Please put "ECGIFT" and your church postcode on the back of the cheque**, and send to A Rocha UK, 80 Windmill Road, Brentford, TW8 0QH

Thank you so much for your support which we receive in multiple ways (as well as financial). We know that some of you pray with us regularly, and here's the link to our [quarterly prayer diary](#) should your church wish to join us.

We wish you every blessing in your ongoing Eco Church work, and may your church community flourish even more because of it.

CHURCH AND OUTREACH WORKER for Altrincham United Reformed Church,

Cecil Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 9NT

We are a friendly and welcoming church family seeking a person who will help us in developing relationships with the wider community through innovative projects. Why not come and join us on the church's journey in the Altrincham area? You will also play a full and active part in the life of our church.

This is an exciting new post with the full support of a small management team. There is an office base although some homeworking will be an option. The position is available for up to 37.5 hours per week. Flexibility on when the hours are worked will be required with some work on evenings and weekends.

Salary will be between £27k to 30k (full time) depending on experience. The post is budget limited but expected to last for three years initially and will be subject to review after six months.

A job description is available from the Church Secretary Sue Jesson:

Contact jessonsusan@gmail.com.

To apply, please send a covering letter detailing your reasons for applying together with a copy of your CV to Sue Jesson, Church Secretary at the above address.

Closing date for applications is 15th July 2023

Date of interview to be advised.

If you wish to have an informal discussion about this role please contact Sue Jesson on 07973 391154.

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
- Revd Clare Downing on her induction as Moderator of North Western Synod which will take place on 10th June at Chorley URC.

