

Newsletter

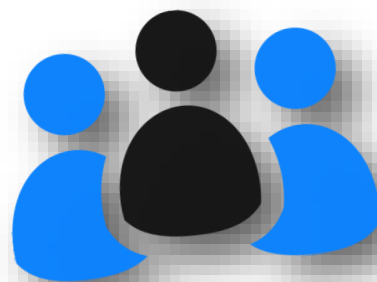
Save the dates



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- Moderator appointment—Wessex Synod



** Repeated items

For your Prayers

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**



Jonnie Hill's Induction - East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders



The sun shone, and the newly refurbished Hatherlow and George Lane church building was full, as people from East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders Missional Partnership and further afield joined to celebrate the induction of Revd Jonnie Hill to his new Partnership.

The service was a joyful and happy one, presided over by Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe. Revd Andy Braunston travelled south from his Scottish home to preach, and Revd Alison Termie and Revd Mike Aspinall, Jonnie's new colleagues in the East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders Partnership and members of the local churches took part in the service.

It was a real celebration, and ended with refreshments and an opportunity to chat, eat and welcome Jonnie informally.

We wish Jonnie every happiness in his new post, and every blessing on his ministry in his new Partnership of churches



Levenshulme Inspire

A group of five from Levenshulme Inspire URC ran the Great Manchester Run on Sunday. Two ran the half marathon, one ran the 10k and two ran the Junior run to raise money for L'Arche Manchester and their plans to refurbish one of their community houses which supports adults with learning difficulties. They were part of a larger team of runners raising money for the charity.



Kendal URC—Completion of Stained Glass Window Project

At a recent Christian Aid service taken by Rev. Martyn Coe, the Designated Minister for Kendal URC, a service of dedication was held at which a capacity congregation witnessed the retired NSM Rev. Pam Noonan dedicate a new window of the Worship Space in the redeveloped premises at 106 Highgate. The window was given in memory of Alan Hogarth, a member who died in 2020. The family of the donor were present as well as the local designer, Debbie Copley and her friends. Attractive momentos of the occasion were distributed in the form of bookmarks, each with a picture of the window and a prayer on the reverse.



Heald Green URC

We celebrated Coronation Weekend with a joyful and successful event. As the King wished, on Sunday *The Big Lunch* was celebrated throughout the nation with street-parties and festivities, and Heald Green joined in with a lovely picnic lunch arranged by Columba Club, the church ladies' group, with delicious food served after the traditional Loyal Toast. The hall and tables were decorated, with flags and bunting everywhere. Congregation members were invited and some special guests, all enjoying the buffet. Sharing food and drink was important to Jesus, and it was fitting for us to follow his example. Having only one minister amongst the many churches in our partnership, opportunities to be with him and his family are few, and it was delightful to welcome them socially, and to enjoy conversation. These moments and memories of this historic weekend will be treasured for always.



A Special Sunday in Blackburn

Sunday 19th May was certainly a special day of celebrations for three United Reformed churches in Blackburn, namely: Revidge Fold, Trinity Brownhill and Westbury Gardens. The 3 congregations joined together for Sunday Worship, led by Revd Daleen ten Cate, Missional Mentor for our East Lancashire Partnership.



Firstly, Lorraine Breeze was ordained as a Revidge Fold Elder and given a warm welcome. Lorraine has already proved herself to be an asset to our Revidge Fold congregation. Having taken early retirement from her career as a paediatric nurse, Lorraine enrolled on the Stepwise course in Autumn 2021 and very ably completed the course.

Showing an abundance of dedication, hard work and tenacity, Lorraine grew in confidence and discovered her aptitude for leading Worship, always speaking from her heart and inspiring her listeners to more deeply appreciate the love of God in their lives. Lorraine had personal health issues to contend with throughout her Stepwise training and, more recently, she has been caring for her husband, Mal Breeze (our Church Related Community Minister) who has also had serious health problems. It was so heartening to see Mal back in church, after an 8-week hospital stay, being strong enough to read from the Bible and be present at Lorraine's ordination.



After our Sunday service, it was time for a Jacob's Join Lunch. We continued our celebrations



in congratulating our CRCW trainee, Alice Gilbert, for completing her training and getting ready to take up a CRCW post at Priesthill URC in Glasgow. For the past 2 years, Alice has taken part in and supported the weekly Art & Craft class at Westbury Gardens and the Memory Café at Revidge Fold. Alice's artistic

streak and her IT skills have benefitted our 3 churches as she has produced the best promotional posters we've ever had. We'll miss you Alice! Best wishes for your next step along life's journey.

Yes, there was much to celebrate and be thankful for. God is good.

Bicentenary Celebrations at Providence, New Mills



Providence New Mills has recently held a real celebration to be proud of; from 30th April to 7th May the church was open to celebrate 200 years of being here!

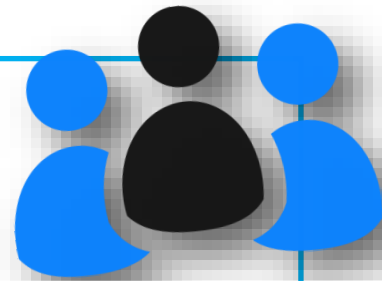
It was wonderful to be able to look back at our history, to remember the people who set us on the path we are on today, to celebrate the present and look forward to our future.

Gordon Stewart's exuberant organ concert on Sunday, a fascinating talk on our history by Mike Daniels of the Local History Society, a wonderful glimpse into the life and workings of our organ by David Wood and his friend and colleague Gordon Stewart, a cheese and wine party, a Sunday School reunion party.....and two moving and inspiring services of worship to open and close our celebrations. The first of those was led by Revd. David Jenkins who led our 165th Anniversary service 45 years ago! The second was led by Revd. Jonnie Hill, a little more recently on the scene but every bit as much a part of us now.

Providence was open daily for people to view the archives. It was a special experience to meet those with deep connections to our past and to hear their stories.

We all felt very proud to be part of such a church, and so thankful to God who set us here in the first place.





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 graphic features the logo of The United Reformed Church Training, which includes a cross and a fish. The text on the graphic reads: 'Thursdays 22nd and 29th June and 6th July 7.15-8.45pm on Zoom'. Below this, it says 'Exploring resilience for churches Led by Adam Scott and Alex Clare-Young'. The word 'RESILIENCE' is written in large, bold, orange letters. At the bottom, it says 'To register go to https://bit.ly/Resilience4churches'.

Synod email addresses for Synod roles and Working with multiple email addresses

Do you have a Synod Role? Would you like to know more about accessing a Synod email address...why dont you join us @7pm 6th June

Elizabeth Gray-King and Lawrence Heath-Moore are hosting an online meeting for all those in a Synod role who would like to know more about switching over to a Synod email address, and discuss any questions you may have like...why the need for change and setting up your email address on your device.

So whether you have 1, 2 or 3 email accounts, Elizabeth and Lawrence will show you the best way to manage these.

**To register please contact Kerry at the Synod
Office office@nwsynod.org.uk**

Jun 6, 2023 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88636207395>

The Samuel Ferguson Lecture 2023

Only a week to go until the Samuel Ferguson Lecture 2023 on **Thursday, 1 June 2023!**

Please feel free to circulate the information below. Both events are free, and tickets are not required.

The 2023 Ferguson lecturer is Prof. [Willie James Jennings](#) (Yale).

Professor Jennings is the author of *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (2010); *Acts: A Commentary* (2017); and *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging* (2020).

Prof. Jennings will make a presentation at Manchester Cathedral at 12 noon and give a lecture at 4 PM at the University of Manchester.

More details as follows:

Ferguson presentation, 'Considering Hope as a Discipline',

12 – 1 PM, [Manchester Cathedral](#), followed by lunch.

Our current climate seems to deny the possibility of hope. There are a number of intellectuals who share in the belief that hope is an inappropriate intellectual gesture for two fundamental reasons. First, the climate emergency, the ravages of capitalist logics, the relentless power of white supremacy, and the constant demonization and violence against LGBTQIA communities, along with several other constant struggles suggest intractable problems. Secondly, the facile optimism of liberal democracy has been shown to offer limited ways forward through these struggles. Yet Christian hope should be situated differently than the optimism of liberal democracy or the worldly wisdom of hopelessness. Christian hope is not a feeling or a sentiment or even an intuition. It is a discipline and in this brief presentation I will consider the significance of hope as a discipline.

Ferguson lecture, 'A Good Assimilation: Christian Faith and the Expansions of Identity',

4-5.30 PM, conference room C1.18 in the Ellen Wilkinson building (no. 77 on the [campus map](#)) at the University of Manchester, followed by a reception.

This lecture considers the problem of assimilation for Christianity and its horrific legacies that yet haunt the present. Assimilation is the drawing of one into another. Christianity in the western world promoted a colonial and racial assimilation of diverse peoples and their lands through violence, coercion, or seduction. This tragic legacy of assimilation created a host of problems that thwart the enacting of a redemptive life together. The question I will explore in

this lecture is what might it mean to return to the idea of assimilation as the drawing of one into another and rethink the idea of assimilation from its Christological and pneumatological dimensions. My argument is that in order to think the relation of the body to land today in more helpful ways, we are in urgent need of capturing the significance of a good assimilation.

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All are warmly invited to either or both events.



Appreciating Church Annual Conferences

Saturday 30 September 2023

Onsite | Priory Rooms, Birmingham | 10:30 - 16:00

Online | Zoom | 09:30 - 16:30

Appreciating the tough stuff

**How do we.
How can we.
How might we.**

These two conferences will run in parallel
as practitioner-led events
with interactive workshops

Speakers from the church and beyond will reflect on
using appreciative inquiry in challenging situations

How will you use
this opportunity to
deepen and share
your appreciative
inquiry practice?

Fee for either conference

Early bird booking
by 30th June is
£100

After that the
fee will be **£130**

enquiries@appreciating.church

Appreciating Church is running a conference on 30th September 2023, with a theme of "Appreciating the tough stuff". It will be a day full of inspiration and wisdom from AI practitioners, including speakers and interactive workshops. It will be a hybrid conference, with an online (Zoom) and onsite (Priory Rooms, Birmingham) conference running in parallel. Much thought has been given to the hybrid nature of this conference, and will be tailored, separately, to both parties of attendees.

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

Grand Reopening of MediaCityUK Church

MediaCityUK Church which will meet on Sunday mornings at 11am, initially on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month starting on Sunday 28 May (Pentecost Sunday). All welcome to attend to explore further what it means to be a disciple with music; prayer; discussion etc.

Sundays 11am MediaCityUK Church (from 28th May)

Come along and find out more!!"



A partnership between



GRAND REOPENING OF MEDIACITYUK CHURCH

SUNDAY 28 MAY 2023

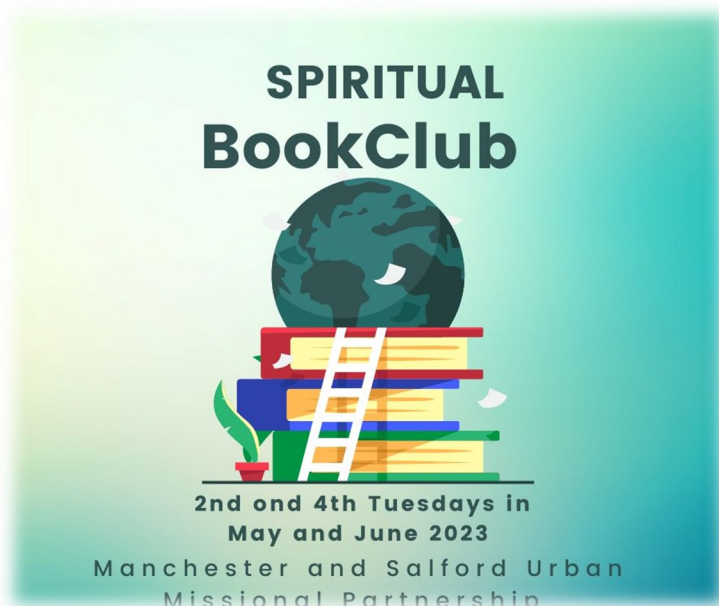
11AM

All are welcome at our Sunday worship at
MediaCityUK Church, Oasis Hub MediaCityUK,
Trafford Road, Salford, M50 3UQ



@mediacityhub

Manchester and Salford Urban Missional Partnership Spiritual Book club



13th June: cultivating creativity; Cultivating play and rest; cultivating calm and stillness, cultivating intuition and trusting faith.

27th June: Cultivating meaningful work; Cultivating laughter, song and dance; Final thoughts. What next?

This book club is being organised on behalf of the Manchester and Salford Urban Missional Partnership. Everyone is welcome, wherever you are from.

The zoom link is at the bottom of this notice.

Please advertise in your local churches and let Liz Delafield know how many are intending to come. Liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk

A small group will be meeting at the Dandelion community in Wythenshawe to access the book club together. Contact Kate Grey if you are interested in joining this group. revdkategray@virginmedia.com

Meeting ID: 897 4610 9506

Passcode: 593945

Events coming soon ... update from Anton Muller (CTI Lancashire)

Surfstage – A Lancashire Christian Festival in Wigan is 30th June – 2nd July

Did you know that Lancashire has a Christian Festival? I met with organisers Katie and Rachel on Zoom this morning and I was blown away by the vision for this event aimed at all ages, for the whole family but especially to offer something special and amazing for young people. There really is something for everyone. Please do download and share the flyer. If you want to know more or get involved, please do contact the organisers at hello@surfstage.co.uk. I will be putting more out about this. Please put the date in your diary and make it a date for your churches and groups.

Induction of the new Moderator for United Reformed Church North West Synod

The Revd Clare Downing will be inducted and welcomed to Lancashire on Saturday 10th June at Chorley URC 3pm. We pray for Clare as she prepares for this new stage of ministry in the North West and especially in Lancashire. I am delighted that Clare is coming to Lancashire – ecumenism is at the very heart of the URC. Clare will take her place at the regular meeting of the Church Leaders for Lancashire as they gather in prayer and fellowship and live out that calling to be one.

Enthronement of the Bishop of Blackburn

The Rt Revd Philip North was consecrated Bishop of Blackburn in York Minister on April 25th. Bishop Philip will be enthroned in Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday 24th June at 2pm. Our prayers are with Bishop Philip as he sets out on this new stage of mission and ministry in Lancashire in prayerful fellowship with all the churches in our County.

DEO News (Denominational Ecumenical Officers)

Our fantastic team of DEOs will be meeting with the Cumbria DEOs at Rydal Hall on June 20th. This will be to share the experiences of the Ecumenical County of Cumbria, now in its tenth year. There will be the opportunity to explore the challenges and opportunities that have arisen and so examine what a vision for ecumenism in Lancashire might look like in the light of these experiences. The work of the DEOs is invaluable to local ecumenism. If you are not in touch with your DEO or you do not know who they are, take a look here:

[https://www.ctlancashire.org.uk/whos-who/#lightbox\[pageimages\]/7/](https://www.ctlancashire.org.uk/whos-who/#lightbox[pageimages]/7/) Please note that this website is currently being renewed and will take on a new look soon... and new photos!!

Royal Lancashire Show 2023 21-23 July

Plans for the Church Tent at this year's Royal Lancashire Show are progressing well. The Tent will offer a free drink and somewhere to sit and relax for a while. Whilst in the Tent you will be able to meet with various agencies that provide much needed support for farming and rural communities. This year our central theme is Farming and Modern Slavery. I am delighted that the Director of the Clewer Initiative (<https://theclewerinitiative.org/>) will be joining us for the three days and will be helping to resource this area.

There will be activities for children organised by the Diocese of Blackburn's Children's Work Adviser, Sarah Earnshaw and her team. We will also have the Methodist District Godly Play Bus. If you are intending to visit the Show, please do visit us in the Churches Together in Lancashire Tent. On Sunday 23rd July there will be a Tent Service (outside if dry) led by Leaders across the whole Church in Lancashire. Come and be part of this witness to the unity we share in Christ to the people of Lancashire.

Can you support the Church Tent? If you would like to sponsor the Church Tent, please let me know. Donations toward the cost of the Marquee and equipment would be most appreciated. Most of all, please come and support the Tent in person if you are planning to visit the Show this year. We would love to see you and have a brew and a chat!

Vacancies

The North Lancashire Methodist Circuit is seeking to recruit a Circuit Operations Manager. (Full time £31k pa). For further information and for an application form, please contact:

Mrs Ruth Champley - ruth787@btinternet.com or 01524-417031 / 07394 591 394

Director of Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Prayer and Discipleship (Full-Time, live-in accommodation £35, 391 pa)

For an informal conversation please ring Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn, on 07866 778791 or email mark.ireland@blackburn.anglican.org.

We hold these important appointments in prayer as the appointing panels and all those who apply seek the Lord's guidance in these areas of mission and ministry to Lancashire.



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

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

Moderator appointment — Wessex Synod



Moderator Wessex Synod Full-time, seven-year termed appointment Minister's stipend

General Assembly wishes to appoint a United Reformed Church minister to serve as Wessex Synod Moderator from December 2023 or shortly afterwards

As Christians, our primary call is to be disciples of Jesus. As members of the United Reformed Church we are to follow that call together, whatever our age or ability.

As our Synod Moderator you will be leading us in how we follow our synod strategy, the basis on which we have sought to develop our work supporting and equipping the churches in walking the way as disciples of Jesus. A key opportunity will be leading us in the next phase of our life as a synod, in how we share ministry which sustains the life of our congregations and enables the future mission and growth of our churches.

[About the Synod - URC Wessex Synod](#)

The successful applicant will be an authentic example of faith, a strong and enthusiastic encourager, and a sensitive leader able to celebrate the joys and grapple with the sorrows that are a reality for our churches. A sense of humour is of vital importance!

An information pack and application form can be found on the jobs page of the website www.urch.org.uk/jobs

If you wish to nominate a minister for this post, please write to Deepti Upadhyaya at recruitment@urch.org.uk by **Sunday 18 June 2023**

If you wish to apply for this post, please complete an application form and send it to Deepti Upadhyaya at recruitment@urch.org.uk Human Resources, The United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, 020 7691 9871 by **12 noon Monday 17 July 2023**

Interview date: Wednesday 30 August 2023

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part1; Schedule 9 there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church. This post also requires an enhanced DBS certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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

