



The North Western Synod  
of the United Reformed Church

23 June 2023

# Newsletter

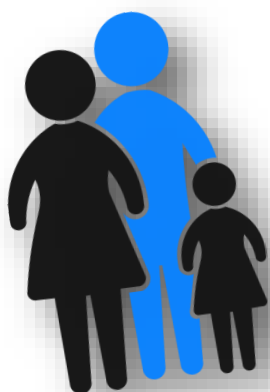
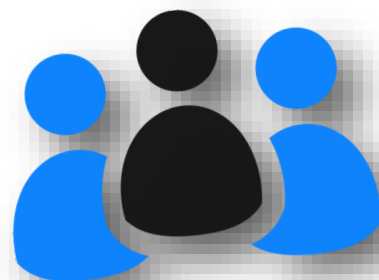
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## A message from Clare Downing—Synod Moderator

First of all I'd like to say a big thank you for the welcome I have received in North Western Synod. The Synod staff have been great - they've kept my caffeine levels up, fed me with cake, rearranged the office and put up with plenty of silly questions. I'm gradually getting out and about, and it was good to meet so many people at my induction, and at various other events. Hopefully I'll recognise faces, but apologies in advance if I don't remember names and the places you come from. I'll learn gradually. Thanks to all who helped make the induction go smoothly - folk at Chorley, and from the wider Synod. Apart from getting a bit over-heated, it was a really good day.

I'm gradually finding my way around, and am looking forward to meeting more of you on your own home ground. I'm trying to get to Missional Partnership Steering Groups over the next couple of month, to get a flavour of the region, and am also leading worship regularly from August onwards. Kerry and I will be working on next year's preaching plan before too long, so feel free to get in touch with her.

I know that Moderators have the reputation for always being busy (and we are) but that does not mean that I'm not available. Obviously I can't be involved in everything, but I do want to be 'hands on' rather than spend my whole time behind a desk. Again, Kerry is the person to ask, as she's in charge of my diary.

# Extraordinary Synod Meeting - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Synod Executive wishes to call an Extraordinary Synod meeting to take place, by Zoom, on the evening of Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 starting at 7pm. Please save this date, and join the meeting if you are able to do so.

The main piece of business is a continuation of the very productive and useful conversations which began at our Spring Synod as we consider how best to deploy the ordained ministers available to us within North Western Synod.

Synod will be invited to consider the appointment of an Ecumenical Mentor whose focus will be on ecumenical partnerships around the North West. We are fortunate to have a number of LEPs (Local Ecumenical Projects) within the Synod; 'God for All' and the South West United Area, in Cumbria are exciting and positive opportunities to develop work with our ecumenical partners; opportunities to work together across the wider Synod with ecumenical partners are ever present and could be developed as we work more closely – all of which could benefit from a dedicated Ecumenical Mentor supporting and encouraging that work.

Synod will also be asked to think about appointing a Transitional Minister – someone who would be available to help a church or group of churches, or Missional Partnership anywhere within the Synod when a particular need arises. Examples are where a particular project is being undertaken which would benefit from additional input from a Minister; situations where a particular congregation or Partnership is struggling and needs some intensive support from a Minister; periods when a Partnership is in vacancy, between the departure of a Partnership minister and the call of a new one....the possibilities are extensive, and exciting.

A short video has been prepared, which you can see [here](#) explains a bit of the thinking about the two new roles, and I would encourage you to watch it if you have a moment. (It is less than ten minutes long!).

The third piece of business will be the re-establishing of the Children and Youth Work Committee, so support the work of Leo Roberts, our CYDO, and all those across the Synod who do such tremendous work with our children and young people.

There will be papers coming out in the next week in readiness for the meeting, along with a Zoom link as the date approaches.

Please do try to attend this meeting if you are able to do so. Tim Hopley



## Cornerstone URC



There was a final well-attended and poignant service at Didsbury URC on 3 June which mirrored the final service of Christ Church South Manchester the previous Sunday.

On Sunday 4 June a uniting service was held at our Parris Wood Road site. Some 170 people, including past members and friends of both congregations who had moved away, former ministers, and representatives of other local churches, joined with our current congregations to celebrate the formation of Cornerstone URC. The service was led by a team from both former congregations, and Rev Clare Downing preached the sermon. Clare, our new Synod Moderator, was formerly a member of Christ Church South Manchester. After the service we all enjoyed a buffet in the church hall and a chance to catch up with old friends.





## Egerton URC

On Sunday 18 June, Egerton URC welcomed four new members. In a special Sunday service in which all four members contributed a part, the readings and sermon reflected on love in the context of our relationship with God and with each other, after which we sang together the Revd. Alan Gaunt's hymn "The True Church Is Found" to the lovely tune "Streets of Laredo".

The congregation together affirmed the Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC. Then, the four new members – Gary, Karen, Lindsay and Stuart – made their promises, and the congregation in turn promised to support them. The Church Secretary presented each of them with their Certificate of Membership. The service concluded with Communion, followed by refreshments.

Egerton URC is at the heart of Egerton village, just to the North of Bolton, on the way to Darwen. The church is home to many community groups, and it also has its own thriving and growing film-club and book-club. The congregation is also looking forward to the ordination of a new elder in August.





The United Reformed Church North Western Synod cordially invites you to

**The Ordination of  
Walt Johnson  
and induction to  
the Bolton and Salford Missional Partnership**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

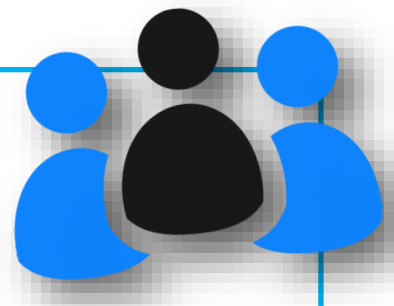
**2.30pm**

**St Andrew & St George's URC**

**Please RSVP by 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
to Kerry Later, [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk)**

## Save the dates

- **Extraordinary Synod Meeting—Tuesday 18th July 2023**
- **Minister's Away Day at Brockholes—16 September 2023**
- **Legacies of Slavery: A Guided Walk through Manchester—21 October 2023**







You are **ALL** invited  
to a **FUN Day Out** at  
**BLACKPOOL ZOO**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Cost: £8.50 for children aged 3 - 15 (under 3's **FREE**)  
£12.50 for 16 and over

The closing date for replies is 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
for further details and a booking form, please contact

David: [davidnorm@talktalk.net](mailto:davidnorm@talktalk.net) Leo: [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

**EVERYONE** who is connected to the United Reformed Church  
with any children's or family activities and organisations  
are welcome to come along





# 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:

- 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](mailto:safeguardingadminnwandm@urcmerseysynod.org.uk)

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

# 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](mailto: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](https://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](https://www.bit.ly/gatheredyouthgroup)





**EXCITING OPPORTUNITY!**

## **Youth & Family worker**

The thriving community of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC near Rochdale is looking for a dynamic individual to develop a programme of Christian-based activities for children and families within the church while also reaching out to the wider community, encouraging new families to get involved in church activities.

This is a full-time role with the option of part-time for the right candidate.

Salary £24 -27 k pa pro rata for part time

The post is expected to last for 2 years initially.

For further information, full job description and person specification, please email: [bcnchurchurc@gmail.com](mailto:bcnchurchurc@gmail.com)

To apply please send your CV with a covering letter to the above email by 31 July 2023



## Free to a good home

A lockable filing cabinet free to a good home. To be collected from the Synod office, please contact Kerry at [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk) or call 0161 769 1122.



## For your prayers

In each newsletter we would like to share peoples situations and Churches who you might remember in your prayers. If you have any prayer requests to include in this section please send them to [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk).

This week we invite you to pray for:

- For the congregations of churches which have decided to close, and for all those who are facing difficult decisions about the future of their fellowships and buildings

