

North Western Synod Newsletter



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Kendal URC gains Silver Eco Church Award

Kendal URC were delighted that the Revd Dr John Bradbury was able to present them with their Silver Eco Church award at a recent Sunday service he was conducting for the Cumbrian churches at Carver in Windermere.

Kendal's Eco church journey really began when our vast Victorian church building was sold and we were able to renovate much smaller premises that we owned, which looked onto the high street in Kendal. Out of the five

sections to be completed for an Eco Church Award (Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Global Engagement and Lifestyle) the land section was the most challenging. Our church gardens had been sold along with the old church building and we were only left with a very small yard/car park and a small entrance into our refurbished building. However, we filled planters at the front entrance with herbs and bee & insect friendly plants. We have installed bug hotels and bird boxes round the back of the premises as well as a bug hotel at the front entrance. We are hoping to use recycled pallets and build more herb planters for general public use. We have been able to join in with our Mission Community partners and have done a RSPB bird count in one of our neighbouring church gardens as well as taking part in the Big Green Hike to raise money for the Bumble Bee Trust. We have even twinned our small planters at the front entrance with a garden in Migori Kenya via The Ripple Effect Garden Twinning Scheme.

Our old church building was bought by a businessman who wanted to use it for community use. We are really pleased that a Waste into Wellbeing scheme is just about to start up there, providing a community café and food share scheme with surplus waste food from supermarkets etc. This may well be something we can get involved in to start our gold eco church journey!



The Final Service of Besses o' th' Barn URC



On June 30, 2024, after 169 years of dedicated service to the Kingdom of God and their community, Besses o' th' Barn URC closed its doors for the final time, marking the end of an era in our historic building.

Throughout that weekend, members of the congregation, friends from Missional Partnership sister churches and Synod, and friends from the wider community gathered to bid farewell to this grand old building.

During these final days of thanksgiving, fellowship, and shared memories, it was fitting to recall the words of former members, written during their Centennial celebration in 1965: "The real achievement of a church cannot be recorded. It is to be found in the lives of countless men and women whose daily lives were transformed by the living presence of God. It is a story of fears overcome, of suffering borne steadfastly, of adventure and endeavour in the name of Christ, of adversity, of joy, of peace."

Our Moderator, Rev'd Clare Downing, delivered a sermon on Saturday, reminding us that the Christian pilgrimage is a journey of picking things up and putting things down. This simple act is mirrored in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. While it is with sadness that we declare Besses o' th' Barn's mission complete, we are grateful that the Chinese Church will soon take up occupancy and continue with worship and ministry to the local community.

Members of Besses o' th' Barn URC extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for one last "hurrah," and we wish you God's peace wherever your Christian pilgrimage may lead you.

With warm regards,

Rev'd Daniel Harris - Minister with Rochdale, Bury, and North Manchester Missional Partnership