



16th August 2024

North Western Synod Newsletter

Good News stories

- [Baptism at Blackford Bridge URC](#)
- [Rose Cottage Retreat at Bewcastle](#)

Events

- [Quiz Night at Ashton on Mersey URC](#)
- [Funday Monday Community Group](#)
- [Faith Talk second webinar](#)
- [Jesus seen in the light of other cultures and faiths](#)
- [Celebrating The Season of Creation](#)
- [Discover Acorn - Invitational Church](#)
- [Ordination and Induction of Stephanie Atkins](#)
- [Leading Your Church into Growth Conference](#)
- [Season of Creation Book Club](#)
- [Planning for Autumn and harvest](#)
- [Party in the Park](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)



Children & Youth



- [URC Children's Workers' Conference](#)
- [Advent Packs - Step into the Story](#)



News & Opportunities

- [Can you spare 6 hours a year?](#)
- [Mission and Discipleship Officer \(MDO\)](#)
- [Training and Development Officer \(TDO\)](#)
- [GMFCL After Southport](#)

[For your Prayers](#)

Baptism at Blackford Bridge URC



It was a wonderful morning at Blackford Bridge on Sunday 21st July, for the Baptism of little Lilah-Mae Robyn. Her family and friends, numbering about 90 people, joined the members at the church. The service was conducted by Rev Anne Stokes who regularly preaches there. There was also a very proud grandmother in the congregation who attends the church. What a delightful morning it was for everyone concerned. A certificate and gifts were presented to the family. A big thank you goes to all who helped in any way to make it a real celebration day!

Rose Cottage Retreat at Bewcastle

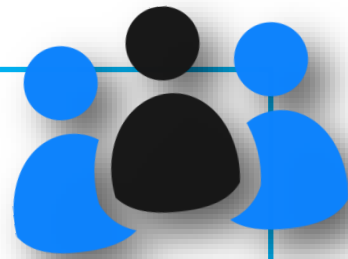


Barbara Smith, a member of the Knowe URC in Bewcastle, along with others in the community have been working hard to provide a place of quiet and beauty for those exploring their faith. She is offering a cottage which has been in her family for generations solely for the purpose of religious retreat and is hoping to attract visitors from around the UK if not further afield!

Set in the wild and beautiful Forgotten Lands on the Scottish/Cumbrian border, in a place that has been a centre of Christian Worship for over 1300 years, Rose Cottage is the perfect place to read, study, pray and be still. There are also breathtaking walks and a vast history to explore from Romans, to Border Reivers to Celtic Christianity. The Knowe Church offers a place of quiet as does the nearby Bewcastle Church, home to the famous Anglo-Saxon Bewcastle Cross.

Despite its rich and turbulent history, The Forgotten Lands, are now just that – peace is everywhere. It's a vast area of scattered dwellings but a warm community, with no shops but an honesty box at the local farm, no street lights but lots of stars, little mobile signal but plenty of birdsong. So its perfect for anyone needing some quiet time with God.

Barbara has been working with local clergy including Revd Lisa Moore Wilson, the URC Minister in Bewcastle to ensure guests have everything they need and to offer some suggestions for their time on retreat. Barbara would be delighted to welcome and meet any NW Synod members or clergy who would like to come and stay. For more details on renting the traditional one bedroom cottage she can be contacted at reiverarts138@btinternet.com



Save the dates

- Quiz Night –14th September (7:30pm), Ashton on Mersey URC (Advertised in events section)
- NW Synod Family Fun Day -14th September
- Discover Acorn, Invitational Church with Michael Harvey -14th September (Advertised in events section)
- North West Pilots Camp -13th -15th September
- South Area Elder Enrichment Day - 21st September
- Jesus Seen in the Light of Other Faiths 25th September, 2nd, 9th & 16th October, Cornerstone URC, Burnage Lane (Advertised in events section)
- Ordination & Induction of Stephanie Atkins - 28th September (Advertised in events section)
- Sacraments Training -1st October (10am to 3pm), North Western Synod (Lunch provided, if attending full session)
- Faith Talks- 3 Oct (Advertised in events section)
- Church Life Review Consultation (related to the provision of shared support services for local churches) - 20-21st November (Venue TBC)
- Communion training - 8 January 2025 (7pm by Zoom)
- Sacrament training at Lancashire & Cumbria - 4th March 2025 (Venue TBC)
- Envisioning God Conference 8- 9th March 2025

Quiz Night at Ashton on Mersey URC



W₄ H₄ E₁ R₁ E₁

Ashton on Mersey URC

Whitefield Road

Sale, M33 6NZ

W₄ H₄ E₁ N₁

Saturday 14th September at 7.30pm

Raffle tickets for sale.

Hot Pot, tea, coffee and biscuits available. Bring your own alcohol.

Entry fee £10 per person.
Maximum 4 per team.

Please email Caroline on carolineh1016@gmail.com to book your place before Friday 6th September.

Funday Monday Community Group

If anyone has any free time on a Monday please consider becoming a member of our volunteer team for the FMCG. Your help will be needed in all aspects of the group.

If you feel you can't volunteer please just come and join in. We are aiming the FMCG to be for absolutely everyone. If you want to come along or you know someone who might benefit from this new group, you will be most welcome.

We have a great selection of games already. However, if anyone has new or nearly new games (adults' or children's') lying around please donate them to the FMCG. This way we can have a big a variety to swap and change the games we use weekly. Also, if anyone has any Lego or Duplo building bricks /sets cluttering up their home that they could donate, we would be most grateful.

Please contact Peter & Kereena Crawford on Peter.Craig.Crawford@Gmail.com Tel: 0788 623 0984

Marple United Reformed Church.

Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 7NN.

Funday Monday Community Group

Starting:

Monday 2nd September 2024 11.30 – 1.30

Community Driven
Tea & Coffee Available | Card Games
FREE! | **For YOU!**
Sudoku | Sit & Chat | Wide Variety of Board Games
Arts & Crafts | No Age Limits | **Weekly Group!**
Crosswords | Music | Bring your own Knitting / Crochet!
Help us to fill in the Gaps | Strategy Games
Something Fun for Everyone | **Light Lunch Provided**
A Safe Space | Make Friends | Learn to Knitt / Crochet
Everyone Is Welcome | **The Place You Belong**
Solo and Team / Group Activities Available | Quizzes
Friendly, Lively D.B.S. Checked Staff | Wordsearches
You are the building blocks of The United Reformed Church Community Group, so come along to this unique group. By the community for the community.

Faith Talk second webinar



To: Synod Moderators, Clerks and PAs, Mission Enablers Network, TDO+ network, CYDO+ network, CRCWs and all Church House staff

Do you ever wonder how you can be comfortable sharing your faith with others? Are you worried you might be laughed at or dismissed or considered strange? Are you concerned you wouldn't know what to say if someone did want to know more? Join us for the second FaithTalk, a light-hearted conversation exploring how we talk about our faith.

Thursday 3 October at 7.30pm

To register or to find out more, email mission@urc.org.uk.



CORNERSTONE

United Reformed Church

– @ BURNAGE LANE –

In 1910 there was a major mission conference in Edinburgh in preparation for which a questionnaire was sent to participants asking them where they worked, what were the religions of the people of that country and what were the critiques of Christianity made by other faiths?

Those questions are as relevant today as they were then.

Jesus seen in the light of other cultures and faiths



The Rev'd Dr John Parry will be giving four talks reflecting on this.

The first will consider how Jesus has been portrayed by Christians from various cultures.

The following three talks will explore how people of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths have responded to the figure of Jesus Christ in the light of their theological critiques.

The talks will take place on the following Wednesday evenings in September and October 2024 at Cornerstone United Reformed Church, Burnage Lane.

September 25th, October 2nd, 9th and 16th from 7.30-9.00p.m.

To reserve your ticket for any/all of these talks, please scan the QR code on the left to secure your place through Eventbrite for each talk



Link to Eventbrite

Cornerstone United Reformed Church

111 Burnage Lane, M19 2WH

(Corner of Burnage Lane & Crossley Road)

Celebrating The Season of Creation

“To hope and act with Creation”

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. It is a time of ecumenical celebration when we reflect on God's generosity in giving us our beautiful world and we are inspired to protect it.

Modern media have given us an unrivalled opportunity to see the huge diversity of landscapes, flora and fauna on the planet but, equally, they have shown us the devastation that has occurred when we have taken it for granted.

The theme for The Season of Creation this year is “To hope and act with Creation”. It is inspired by Romans 8:19-25. This biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth.

Saint Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our Sister and our Mother in his Canticle. Today, we no longer see the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. “Creation is groaning” (Rom 8:22) because of our selfishness and our unsustainable actions that harm her. Along with our sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions causing a climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering.

It is important that we celebrate Creation. It is joyful and inspiring and brings home to us the simple idea that **we protect what we value and we value what we experience**. If we never celebrate the natural world, what hope do we have of protecting it?

We need to prepare NOW if we are to celebrate the season properly and not to suddenly realise that we have been overtaken by the summer holidays! Let us think about how we might celebrate both in our own churches and with the other Christians in our neighbourhood. In our own churches, we can have a Creation week that illustrate our commitment for caring for Our Common Home. When thinking of decoration, the fruits of the harvest have their place, but it is much more than a simple harvest celebration. Let's not forget the mosses and the ferns. Let us display pictures of fish, and invertebrates such as bugs, beetles, bees, butterflies and spiders - all part of God's wonderful web of life. A friend said “We have a Christmas Crib, an Easter Garden, so why not have a Bug Hotel to celebrate Creation?”

The Season provides a great opportunity to grow our community by engaging with our church members, schools and perhaps with those who use our parish facilities. We might have a picnic, a soup lunch or other simple meal; an art or photographic exhibition celebrating all that is wonderful in our local area. Maybe a family fun night celebrating the individual actions that we already take. Such an evening might include a meat-free meal, an environmental quiz and some folk songs with sing-along choruses to remind us of a way of life that was more at one

with nature. Or what about an Eco film night!

It should not be a one-off celebration, but a turning point in our relationship with our planet and all the species, including ourselves, who depend on it. We could invite individuals or groups to make pledges, for instance, an individual or a family might pledge to reduce the amount of meat they eat, walk to church or take a bus instead of the car.

May we come together as an Eco Synod during, to Hope and Act with Creation

The Eco Team

Please find resources at <https://jpit.uk/creation/season-of-creation-2024>

Discover Acorn - Invitational Church

Attention churches in the Central & Southern Areas!

Your chance to discover Acorn on Saturday 14 September for yourself! Michael Harvey, international speaker and founder of Back to Church Sunday, is working with the Synod 2024-26 to create a culture of invitation in our churches. After a pilot study over the past 3 months, we're ready to start rolling it out more widely.

It's "quiet evangelism" in the form of a 15-word prayer ... and already, there are people in our churches because a few members have committed to praying that prayer daily.

Come along to **Bamford Chapel & Norden URC (Norden Rd, Bamford OL11 5PQ) on Saturday 14 September, 10 am - 1 pm**. The session will finish by 12.30 pm. You're invited to **bring a packed lunch** and chat further while you eat it, if you wish.

Although it's aimed at the Central and South Areas (there'll be later sessions in other Areas), everyone is welcome. Please register with Kerry (office@nwsynod.org.uk).

We look forward to seeing you there.



DISCOVER *Acorn*
INVITATIONAL CHURCH
WITH MICHAEL HARVEY

CENTRAL & SOUTH AREAS
BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN
14 SEPTEMBER 10 AM - 1 PM
BRING A PACKED LUNCH!

ALL WELCOME

REGISTER: OFFICE@NWSYNOD.ORG.UK



Ordination and Induction of Stephanie Atkins



Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership
North Western Synod of the URC
invites you to the service for the
Ordination & Induction of Stephanie Atkins

at Gatley United Reformed Church

Saturday 28th September 2024 at 2.00 pm

Presiding Minister: Revd. Clare Downing - NW Synod Moderator

Preacher: Revd. Dr. Robert Pope – Westminster College

Please reply asap and by 8th September at the latest to: Hilary Grierson at
hilarygrierson@yahoo.co.uk

The service will be live streamed (youtube @gatleyurc) and followed by refreshments.

Gatley URC, Elm Road, Gatley, Cheshire, SK8 4LY

Parking also available at Gatley Primary School, Hawthorn Road, SK8 4NB

Our Missional Partnership churches are

Altrincham, Ashton-on-Mersey, Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme, Cornerstone (Burnage and Parrs Wood), Gatley, Heald Green, Trinity Cheadle (Meth/URC).

Leading Your Church into Growth Conference

The North Western Synod, along with the other four northerly Synods, has 12 places for people in the Synod to attend.

If anyone would like to attend this annual conference of the five northerly Synods please contact Rachel, her email address is below

Any questions please contact Rachel or Revd Richard Bradley (Richard.Bradley@nwsynod.org.uk)
the Convenor of the North Western Synod Mission and Discipleship Committee and Network



Leading your Church
into Growth
Conference

25-27 November
at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Talk to your Synod Rep for more information.

TO BOOK: Use the QR code or email
rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk

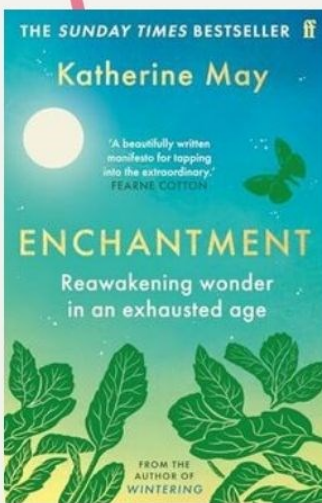
Reformed Church
Five Northerly
Synods



SEASON OF CREATION BOOK CLUB



Join the Northwestern Synod Eco network to reflect together on “Enchantment” by Katherine May Subtitled, “Reawakening wonder in an exhausted age” May asks the question, “Could there be another way to live? One that would allow us to feel less fraught and more connected, more rested and at ease, even as seismic changes unfold on the planet?”



Mondays 7pm on zoom.
September 16th, 23rd.
October 7th, 14th
Zoom details to follow.

Contact

liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk for details



SEASON OF CREATION



Northwestern Synod South area preachers' circle invites you to....

Planning for Autumn and harvest
Monday 19th August 7pm-8:30pm
Zoom: Meeting ID: 872 8710 4532

Passcode: 811104

- For all those preaching, planning or leading worship
- Ideas for harvest.
- Season of creation.
- lectionary themes for September and October.
- Bring resources and ideas to share.

Please contact Liz Delafield on
liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk for more information or
to say you are coming.

A date for your diary: Monday 21st October 7pm.: Planning for advent
and Christmas



- Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership invites you to begin the Season of creation with Prayers in the Park.
- The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The Celebration begins 1 September, the Feast of Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. This year's theme is "To hope and act with creation"
- Please meet outside Cornerstone URC Church (Parrs Wood site) M20 6EE at 2:20pm, to walk across, or the playing fields on Fog Lane Park at 2:30pm M20 4UP.
- We will be walking to different spots within the park, reflecting on what we see and hear. If you can't find us on the day call Liz on [07740 112 628](tel:07740112628). It should take about 90 minutes in total.
- There is seating in the sensory garden. If walking and standing are difficult for you, you may wish to meet us there for a short reflection. (At about 3:10pm)
- In the event of normal bad weather (Light rain etc) we will go ahead. Please dress appropriately for the weather conditions. If the weather is atrocious (gale force winds, storms) we will have a short reflection at Cornerstone URC Church to mark the beginning of Creation time instead.
- The café in Fog Lane Park is open until 4pm for refreshments and toilets.
- Please leave no litter.
- For all ages. Bring all the family!
- Looking forward to seeing you on 1st September to begin our celebrations of the Season of Creation and to hope and act with creation in this beautiful Park.

Safeguarding Training

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

Face to face Intermediate Safeguarding training

More venues, dates and times will be arranged in the autumn to fit in with the holiday season. Churches will be sent updated reminders of outstanding training.

1st Oct 2024 12:00 - 15:00 at Chorley URC

19th Oct 2024 10:00 - 13:00 at Short Street

For more information about training records for your church please contact Katherine Adewumi at admin@nwsynod.org.uk



Online Intermediate Safeguarding Training

9th Sept 2024 14.00-16.00

4th Dec 2024 18:00-20:00

Foundation Safeguarding e-Learning

Any person with a role in a URC church that has not completed URC safeguarding training in the last 3 years is required to complete the Foundation e-learning as a minimum, ideally individually, but it can be facilitated in small groups if people do not have access to the internet, a computer/ device or both.

You must have completed Foundation training before you can do Intermediate training. Follow this link: [Foundation Safeguarding Training](#)

Online Advanced Safeguarding Training

This training is:

Mandatory for people who are leading groups involving adults and/or children in churches.

Recommended for Church Safeguarding Coordinators and all other people in leadership roles.

Although, if you have completed the Intermediate Safeguarding training, you are also welcome to attend.

4th Sept 2024 Module 1&2 18.00-21.00

8th Oct 2024 Module 1&2 12.00-15.00

To register and book a place please contact: Katherine Adewumi at admin@nwsynod.org.uk

Online Church Co-Ordinator's Safeguarding Training

This is a 2-hour online training course for URC Church Safeguarding Coordinators, to help them in their role and to understand their responsibilities. Also, an opportunity to network with others, discuss issues and concerns and ask question to clarify policy and procedure.

10th Sept 2024 18:30-20:30

URC Denominational (Church House lead) Safeguarding Training for 2024 (*please click on the link for further information*)

[URC Denominational Safeguarding Training 2024 \(unc.org.uk\)](https://www.unc.org.uk)

Safeguarding Contacts:

Yvette Hansbury-Robinson is the Synod Safeguarding Officer.

For General safeguarding queries, relating to safeguarding training and DBS please email the safeguarding team on admin@nwsynod.org.uk

For queries relating to safeguarding policy & procedure and safeguarding allegations/ concerns, please contact Yvette on:

Email: safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk

Mobile number: 07827-390299

URC Children's Workers' Conference

URC Children's Workers Together THE CONFERENCE

Exploring how we work with children together

Inspirational speakers

Variety of workshops

Wide range of resources

Networking

opportunities

Worship together

Friday 1 to Sunday 3

November 2024

Save the date



Ripon College,

Cuddeston OX44 9EX

Cost £150 per person

Bookings open from

1 May 2024

URC Children's Workers Together – THE CONFERENCE: exploring how we work with children together

In response to popular demand, URC Children's and Youth Work are holding our first ever Children's Worker Conference from 1-3 November 2024 at Ripon College, Cuddeston, Oxford OX44 9EX.

If you are actively engaged in children's ministry within the URC, whether as an employed worker or on a voluntary basis, this weekend is for you. It's a chance to share together, to be inspired and informed, to worship together, and to consider how we might increase opportunities for child participation, mutual storytelling, and creativity.

Bookings opened on 1 May 2024 and places will be allocated to allow a fair distribution of synods represented, with a waiting list in operation until June 1, when any remaining spaces will be allocated. From 1 June we will also be taking bookings for day visitors.

Costs will be £150 for residential and £35 per day for day visitors. Funding is available from North Western Synod.

The synod has 2 places available - if you are interested in attending, please email Leo on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk

Advent Packs

Step into the story



The URC family Advent packs invite people to 'Step into the Story'

There is an original story book, a book full of inspiring activities and an A3 sticker Advent calendar to engage children and their families with the Christmas story.

This year the focus is on Christmas as everyone's story – with traditions, crafts and recipes from around the world to enrich the celebration.

The packs are designed for local URC churches to give away to families they have connection with. They come in lovely A5 sized envelopes, which are left unsealed so that churches can add their own material and invitations.

There will be an A2 sized poster for churches to display and ideas for linking church activities to the packs.

They are available to pre-order from the URC Bookshop – order before 30 August to ensure you are not disappointed! Orders will be dispatched to arrive by the start of November to give churches time to share them before the start of December.

Prices:

£3 per pack for single pack – plus P&P

£28 for 10 packs plus P&P (£2.80 each)

£65 for 25 packs plus P&P (£2.60 each)

Grants are available from Children's and Youth Work for free packs for those churches unable to purchase them. Please contact children.youth@urc.org.uk for a grant form.

[The URC 2024 Advent Packs - Step into the Story - URC Bookshop \(urcshop.co.uk\)](http://urcshop.co.uk)

Can you spare 6 hours a year?

The 'Woodward Trust' is a trust fund which offers small grants to qualifying ministers of the United Reformed Church or Congregational Church within the North Western and Mersey Synods.

The trustees meet twice a year, by Zoom, to look at how and to whom payments should be made.

There are two Trustees from Mersey Synod, and one Trustee from the Congregational Federation. Could you be one of the two Trustees from North Western Synod to ensure that this Trust is able to continue its valuable and much appreciated work?

If you feel that you could offer this time, please contact Tim Hopley, Synod Clerk on 07880 921410 or clerk@nwsynod.org.uk

Thank you

Mission and Discipleship Officer (MDO)



£42,000 per annum for a lay person or a Minister of Word and Sacrament under the plan for partnership

Full Time 37.5 hours per week - 25 days annual leave

Working from home, with visits to churches and the Synod Office

Southern Synod are looking for a Mission and Discipleship Officer to equip the churches and support Synod Committees in their mission, discipleship, and growth.

The MDO will work with within and through the Councils of the church to promote, encourage and undertake the training of the whole people of God to facilitate the development of the life of the Church at all levels. This will involve:

- Working with local churches to promote a mission and discipleship-based church.
- Working with the Synod Areas to identify development needs and opportunities and help address them.
- Researching and presenting to the churches in Southern Synod, and appropriate committees, effective mission and evangelism strategies and practices as found in the UK and internationally.
- Having oversight of Strategic Ministries including CRCW and posts holding strategic portfolio
- Being member of the field staff Team which currently includes Training and Development Officer, Childrens and Youth Development Officer and the Ecumenical Officer
- Being in attendance of the Synod Ministries Committee
- Representing Southern Synod on appropriate bodies both within and outside Southern Synod, networking with those undertaking similar work within the United Reformed Church and in other denominations as the opportunity arises.
- Working collaboratively with the wider United Reformed Church, contributing, and disseminating information and training packages

There is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 Schedule 9, Part 1.

Please email the Moderator's PA at modpa@urcsouthern.org.uk for the job description and application form.

Closing date is midday 23rd August 2024. Interviews will be held on 11th September 2024 .

Training and Development Officer (TDO)



£42,000 per annum for a lay person or Minister of Word and Sacrament under the plan for partnership

Full Time 37.5 hours per week - 25 days annual leave

Working from home, with visits to churches and the Synod Office

Southern Synod are looking for a Training and Development Officer to provide training for members and office holders, in facing current and new challenges presented to the Church.

The TDO will work with, within, and through the Councils of the church to promote, encourage, and undertake the training of the people of God within the United Reformed Church, to facilitate the development of the life of the Church at all levels.

This will involve:

- Identifying the training needs of ministers and lay people in the local churches
- Working with the Synod Areas to identify development needs and opportunities and help to address them
- Being a member of the field staff team which currently includes Mission and Discipleship Officer, Childrens and Youth Development Officer and the Ecumenical Officer
- Being in attendance of the Synod Ministries Committee
- Working collaboratively with the wider United Reformed Church, contributing and disseminating information and training packages primarily through the URC TDO Network.

There is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 Schedule 9, Part 1.

Please email the Moderator's PA at modpa@urcsouthern.org.uk for the job description and application form.

Closing date is midday 23rd August 2024. Interviews will be held on 23rd September 2024.

Greater Manchester Faith Community Leaders

After Southport

As Faith Leaders in Greater Manchester, we deplore the violence on our streets perpetrated since, and supposedly in response to, the stabbings in Southport last Monday. As this statement below, from our colleagues in Merseyside, indicates, those who planned and carried out the street-protests had neither the support nor the sympathy of the people whose lives were so brutally attacked last Monday. We add our voices to those from Merseyside for a time of reflection, remembrance, recovery and rebuilding.

With them, we affirm that the streets of this nation are for the safe enjoyment of every member of our richly diverse society. In the shadow of this mob violence, we are now seeing an increase in general racist abuse and aggression against visible minorities. Such words and deeds are also abhorrent. We call on all members of the public to support anyone they see being victimised in this way.

We are stewards of this country, accountable beyond ourselves to the values that define each of our communities of faith. We find no excuse or justification for the hatred, violence and opportunism on display in these events. We deplore all violence, criminal behaviour and racism, in any form.

We endorse wholeheartedly the statement that follows from Merseyside Faith Leaders, issued on Sunday 4th August.

Greater Manchester Faith Community Leaders, including

Christian

From the Church of England: Rt Revd David Walker (Bishop of Manchester); Rt Revd Mark Davies (Bishop of Middleton);

Rt Revd Matthew Porter (Bishop of Bolton);

Very Revd Rogers Govender (Dean of Manchester)

From the Catholic Church of England and Wales: Rt Revd John Arnold (Bishop of Salford)

From the Methodist Church: Rev Catherine Bird (Deputy Chair of Manchester & Stockport Methodist District)

From the Salvation Army: Major David Taylor (Divisional Leader, North West & Isle of Man Division)

From the United Reformed Church: Revd Clare Downing (Moderator, North Western Synod)

From the Baptist Church: Revd Tim Presswood (Regional Minister for Church Life, North West Baptist Association)

From the Apostolic Pastoral Congress: Archbishop Doyé Teido Agama (Senior Pastor, Christian Way of Life Churches, and Former Presiding Prelate and Executive Director, Apostolic Pastoral Congress);

Rt. Rev. Edmund Akyea-Mensah (APC Regional Bishop of the North of UK)

From the Christhouse Bible Church: Bishop Dr Theophilus Akano (Presiding Bishop, and Principal Rhema Theological College UK)

Muslim

Rabnawaz Akbar (Makki Masjid, Longsight)

Imam Rashid Musa (Faith Adviser, Chaplain, Lecturer, University of Salford) Nilofar Siddiqi (Sufi representative)

Aftab Ahmad (Shi'a representative)

Amer Salam (al-Khizra Mosque, Cheetham Hill, UK Islamic Mission)

Hindu

Dr Kaushik Chakraborty (Hindu Faith & representative from The World Council of Hindus) Nidhi Sinha (she/her), Founder, Sangha (Connecting People, Building Community)

Dr Saraswati Sinha, Community Representative

Sikh

Jagtar Singh Ajimal

Jain

Suresh Mehta (Trustee, Jain Samaj Manchester)

Buddhist

Jill Brennan, Soka Gakkai International

Faith Network 4 Manchester

Rev Canon Charles Kwaku-Odoi DL (Trustee, Faith Network for Manchester)

Rabbi Warren Elf MBE (Faith Network for Manchester and Manchester Reform Synagogue)

GM Networks Connect

Revd Ian Rutherford, City Centre Minister, Methodist Central Hall, Manchester

The below is issued on behalf of faith leaders across Merseyside:

The terrible murders of Alice Dasilva Aguiar, Bebe King and Elsie Dot Stancombe shocked and appalled people of every faith – and those of no faith – across Merseyside, and indeed the country.

As we approach one week since that terrible day, they and their families should remain very much at the forefront of all our thoughts.

While this should be a time for quiet reflection and remembrance, since Monday, too many people have sought to use the tragedy to create division and hate.

Division can destroy the very relationships and environment that we depend upon every day of our lives and there is no place for hate in our communities.

It can – and has – left communities in fear and has put people in danger.

At this difficult time, let us remember that there is far more that unites than divides us.

The people of all faiths and none who came out to sweep the streets, to rebuild walls and have so generously donated money in memory of those three girls: that is the spirit that will help us through this incredibly challenging time.

While the events of this week may continue to shake our belief in humanity, it remains intact.

We need to remain calm and peaceful at this time and as faith leaders, we are united in our desire for peace and justice.

Now is the time to take pride in our community spirit again.

Within our different communities we pray for all those affected. And for all those injured to make a good recovery.

The Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool

The Rt Revd Thomas Neylon, Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool Dr Badr Abdullah, Chair of Liverpool Muslim Society

Ibrahim Syed, Liverpool Region Mosque Network

Barry Levene, President of the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council Hardev Singh Sohal, Liverpool Sikh Community

Dr Shiv Pande, Liverpool Hindu Community.

[\[It can be found here:](#) [Faith leaders issue statement on events in Mersyeside](#) | [Merseyside Police](#)

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:

- The continued growth of church mission
- For the Churches who are facing difficult decisions about the future of their fellowships and buildings.
- For the tragic events that unfolded in Southport on 29 July. Click [here](#) to read the following statement from CTMR.

