



2nd August 2024

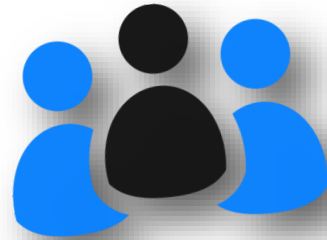
North Western Synod Newsletter

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Knowe Church Holy Island Trip



Last week, 27 members and friends of The Knowe Church in Bewcastle organised a coach trip to Holy Island using St. Cuthbert's URC Centre on the island as a base. The visit was the idea of some of the church members and the invitation was then extended to the whole community many of whom were visiting the island for the first time. The trip began with Morning Worship on the theme of rest led by Revd Lisa Moore Wilson, lead minister at Bewcastle whose forbears come from Holy Island. After morning coffee and hearing about the different things the island has to offer, people were free to spend the day as they chose before gathering for a closing prayer. After a stop in Seahouses on the way home for fish and chips, the coach then headed back to Cumbria. The day was greatly enjoyed with many commenting on the beautiful nature and views, the fascinating history, the sense of peace, the time to stop and relax and the wonderful sense of friendship and community within the group.

Woodlands & Kingsway Blackburn



We had a joyous service at Woodlands, Blackburn last Sunday when in the monthly united service with the congregation from Kingsway we marked some special events.

First, we prayed for the Scouts who the previous day left for their weeks camp in Norway, that they may have a memorable and safe week.

Then, Alan Barnes who was leading the service, presented two couples (Jill and Bernard Croft & June and Eric Parkington) flowers on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Margaret Molloy (elder at Kingsway) who's baptism was reported in last week's newsletter then delivered a moving testimony which received applause as she concluded.

The two congregations work closely together, uniting for worship once a month at each venue and share other activities together.

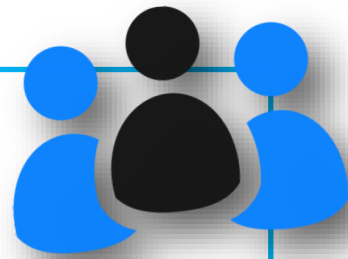
Ordination & Induction Services

(Reverends Barnabas Shin & Maria Lee)



Service of the Ordination of Revd Maria Lee and the induction of Revds Barnabas Shin & Maria Lee, held at St Andrew & St George URC, Bolton, on Saturday 20 July 2024, into the Bolton & Salford Missional Partnership of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Click [here](#) to watch the full service.



Save the dates

- NW Synod Family Fun Day -14th September (Advertised in events section)
- Discover Acorn, Invitational Church with Michael Harvey—14th September (Advertised in events section)
- North West Pilots Camp—13th—15th September (Advertised in events section)
- South Area Elder Enrichment Day—21st September
- Jesus Seen in the Light of Other Faiths 25th September, Cornerstone URC
- Ordination & Induction of Stephanie Atkins— 28th September
- Sacraments Training—1st October (10am to 3pm), North Western Synod (Lunch provided, if attending full session)
- 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

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 Parris Wood), Gatley, Heald Green, Trinity Cheadle (Meth/URC).

Synod Family Fun Day and NW Pilots Camp

Following on from the success of last year's Children Together Event at Blackpool Zoo, the North West Pilots, in conjunction with the Synod Children & Youthwork Committee and The Quinta Centre, are organising this year's Synod Family Fun Day.

If you have any children, youth groups/organisations, or families at your Church they are all invited to join us at Quinta on the Saturday for the Synod Family Fun Day.

The Synod Family Fun Day on Saturday is running as part of the NW Pilots Camp that is taking place at Quinta the same weekend (Friday 13th – Sunday 15th). You are more than welcome to join the NW Pilots for the entire weekend at their camp.

For more information and booking details, posters are advertised on the next pages.



NW Synod Family Fun Day @ The Quinta Centre, nr Oswestry



Tag Archery

Inflatable Obstacle Course



Swimming



Frisbee
Golf



Arts &
Crafts

Board Games



Saturday 14 September 2024 - 10am to 4pm

Cost: £5 per person (Non-Refundable)

Revised closing date for bookings is 31st July 2024.

For further details and booking form please contact

David Normington (davidnorm@talktalk.net) or Anne Hatch (annehatch48@virginmedia.com)





North West Pilots Camp

*(Incorporating the NW
Synod Family Fun Day)*



**@ The Quinta Centre, nr
Oswestry**

Open to any child aged 5 to 18
(and their families/leaders) that
are connected to the URC in anyway.



The camp is taking
place in Severn
Lodge, part of the
Quinta site, on



Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September 2024



Cost (subsidised by
NW Pilots):
£40.00 per Pilot
£60.00 per Non-Pilot



**Revised closing date
for bookings is 31st July 2024.**

For further details and booking form please contact
Anne Hatch (annehatch48@virginmedia.com) or
David Normington (davidnorm@talktalk.net)

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

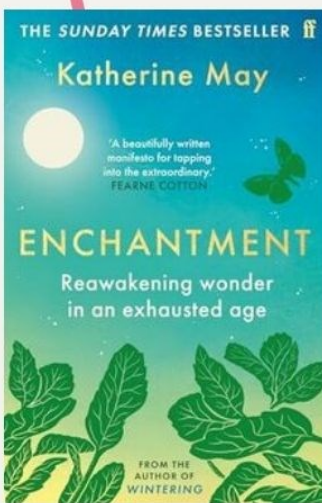
Reformed Church
Five Northerly
Synods



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.

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

Online Intermediate Safeguarding Training

6th Aug 2024 6.30-8.30

9th Sept 2024 14.00-16.00



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

Advanced 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.

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 \(urc.org.uk\)](https://www.urc.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)

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.

Children and Youth Development Officer vacancy

The West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church is seeking to appoint a **Children and Youth Development Officer** (Ref CYDO)

This is a full-time post for 35 hours per week including evening and weekends on an open-ended contract.

This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

Salary: £40,000 depending on experience and qualifications

This post offers a challenging opportunity for an experienced and professionally qualified Children's and Youth Worker with training (or development) skills. We are looking for an enterprising Christian to serve the churches of the Synod in offering advice and support to those working with children and young people and to build up a Synod Youth Executive.

The Officer appointed will be a member of a professional Assembly team and a large lay Synod team; good team working skills are essential.

If you share our passion for children and young people playing their part in the mission of God, please download the job description, person specification and application form.

[Click to download the Job Description](#)

[Click to download the Person Specification](#)

[Click to download the Application Form](#)

Closing date for applications: noon on Thursday 15 August 2024

Shortlisting: Monday 19 August 2024

Interview date: Monday 2 September 2024

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practicing Christian.

We are committed to diversity and equality of opportunity. We especially welcome applications from women and Black and Minority Ethnic Groups who are currently under-represented in this area of work in the Church.

Chairs wanted

Beulah Community Church in Oldham are in need for some hard wearing chairs that are suitable for pre-school children to sit on - they need to be full size but not with any large holes at the back.

If your Church have any they don't need please Alison Cheetham
(Cheethams5658@gmail.com)

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.
- Wilmslow URC as they share a service on Sunday 11th August to transfer to Mersey Synod.

