



26th July 2024

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'Quilt of Dreams' at Greenbelt



Edgeley Community Church was able to send a large parcel of squares for the 'quilt of dreams' at Greenbelt.

This began in our Time to Discover where we made weaving mats from left over strips of material thinking about creation, this followed by friends making knitted, crocheted, embroidered and a fidget square; and we were able to send over 50 for inclusion.

Splendid effort from young people and ladies

Barbara Aspinall

Baptism in the River Ribble - Worship in God's beautiful creation



What a joyful celebration we had when Rev Adam Woodhouse baptised Margaret Molloy, member of Kingsway URC. A few of the Lancashire East Missional Partnership join Margaret on this very special milestone in her discipleship journey. Rev Adam led the service with the follow words.

Welcome and Introduction

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Jesus Christ came that we might have life
and have it in all its fullness.

Whether we are children or adults, baptism marks the beginning of our lives as Christians and as members of the Church. In baptism we are called to take up the Cross and follow Christ in the company of all God's people from all times and places. Because we cannot do this without help, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, to enable us to live as God's people and to serve God's purposes in the world.

We acknowledge one baptism, in obedience to Christ. After his rising from the dead, Jesus said to his disciples: **Matthew 28:18-20**

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

May Margaret experience the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance on the steps step of her faith journey.

Rev Daleen ten Cate

St. George's URC Creation Prayer Walk

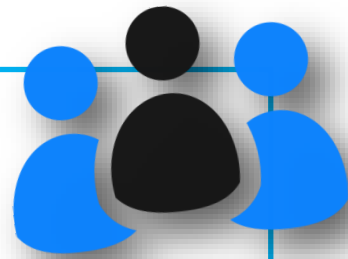
On July 20th, members of St. George's URC in Carlisle enjoyed a Creation Prayer Walk around some of the green spaces in the city centre.



After gaining its Bronze EcoChurch Award earlier this year, a small 'green group' was formed to take some of the ideas that came from these discussions forward. The Prayer Walk was a way of adding more nature-based worship to the church year. At various stop points, walkers paused for prayers, poems and scripture readings led by Revd Lisa Moore Wilson and Mrs Rosalind Fearon and Dr. John McDowell, both members of the green group. Participants were also encouraged to use all their senses to notice the nature around them including smelling flowers, listening to the birds and feeling the breeze.

The walk began at St. George's before heading to the churchyard of St. Cuthbert's, thought to be a site of worship from even before St. Cuthbert's visit to Carlisle in 685. The walk then moved to the grounds of Carlisle Cathedral itself on the Ecochurch scheme. The next stop was the 'Secret Garden' at Tullie House Museum which very kindly arranged access for us; the garden includes a pond, mini labyrinth and various bug hotels! Some walkers ended the morning sharing coffee and companionship at the Cakes & Ale café which also has a beautiful garden.

Participants commented how taking time to stop and slow down had made them notice the natural world in the city and visit places they didn't know existed. It was also a chance to witness to others as they walked past or slowed and listened to prayers being said to thank God for his wonderful creation.



Save the dates

- Commitment for Life Gaza Appeal - 3rd August (Advertised in events section)
- 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 at South & Central Area - 1st October (Venue TBC)
- Communion training - 8 January 2025 (7pm by Zoom)
- Sacraments at Lancashire & Cumbria - 4th March 2025 (Venue TBC)
- Envisioning God Conference 8-9th March 2025

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.



Commitment For Life Gaza Appeal

This is shaping up to be a great event so come and support the Commitment for Life Gaza Appeal and meet our team. Tombola, Tea, Cakes, and Bacon. What more could you ask for? Come and make a Commitment to Life!

Saturday 3rd August 2024

11.00am – 2.00pm

Commitment for **Life** Gaza Appeal

In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Commitment for Life, the global justice programme of the United Reformed Church, is launching an urgent appeal.

The aim is to raise £5,000 to provide vital support and aid through partner agencies Christian Aid, the Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA), and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC).



Marple United Reformed Church.

Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7NN.

**Tea
Coffee
Cake**

**Collection of
children's books for
a donation of your
choice and much
more.**

**Bacon Muffin's
Veggie Option**

**Please come, support our appeal, and make a Commitment
to Preserve Life.**



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

Cornerstone United Reformed Church

111 Burnage Lane, M19 2WH

(Corner of Burnage Lane & Crossley Road)

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)**



NORTHERN
COLLEGE

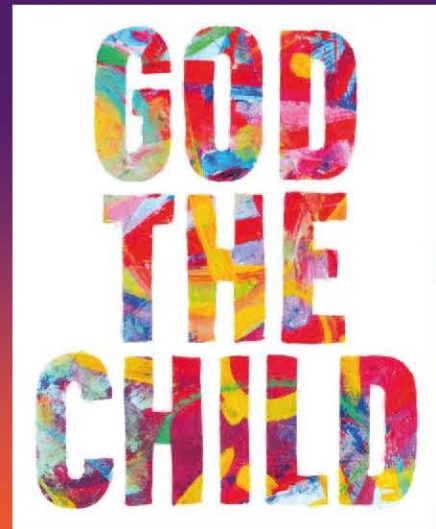


Envisioning Worship

Conference

What if God is Child?

Sat 8— Sun 9 March 2025



— Luther King Centre —

Residential—£200

Non-residential—£120

We will explore topics *such as*:

- The Child in the Bible
- The power of metaphors
- Curiosity, Play and Imagination
- A Learning God
- Child as trailblazer: questioning, raging, dancing
- Suffering and God the Child

It is a space for ...

Anyone intrigued by the idea of the childlikeness of God – and what this might mean for worship and mission.

Anyone drawn to Bible explorations, creative workshops and more – and who wants to imagine things differently.

For more information and to register -

<https://northerncollege.co.uk/ewc-march-2025/>

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







Northwestern Synod South area preacher's circle invites you to....

Planning for Autumn and harvest

Monday 19th August 7pm

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

2nd Aug 2024 12:00 -14:00

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.

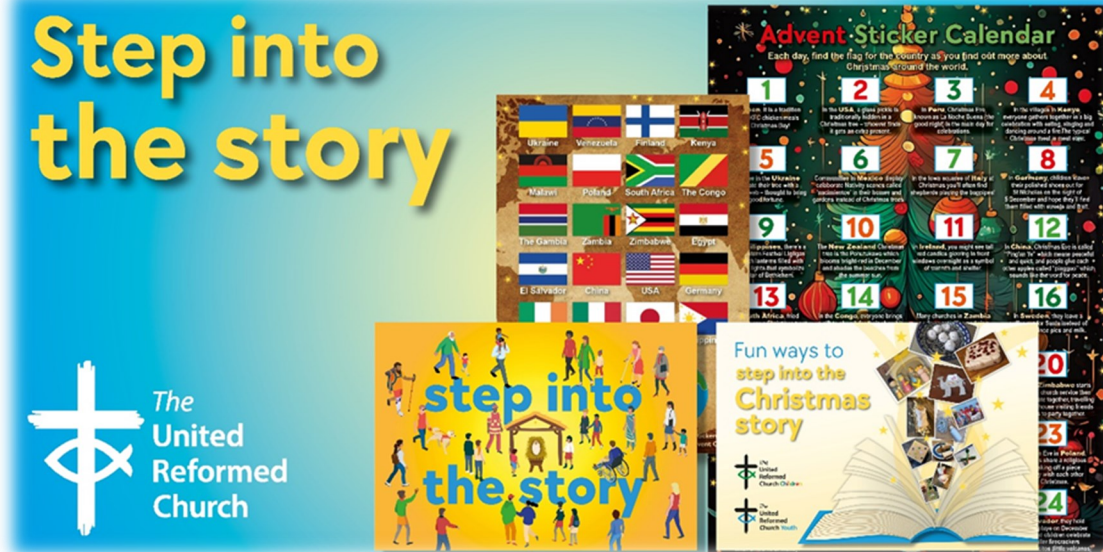
If you are actively engaged in children's ministry within the URC, whether as an employed worker or on a voluntary basis, this weekend is for you. It's a chance to share together, to be inspired and informed, to worship together, and to consider how we might increase opportunities for child participation,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



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)

Vacancies - Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment

The recent news of the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment grant to the Diocese of Blackburn will mean the creation of around 60 new parish-based posts across the Diocese over the next few years along with a whole programme of support for parishes (see [here](#) for further detail of the SMMI grant). To enable the new programme, a small number of central posts are essential and we would very much appreciate your help in considering if you know anybody who may be interested in applying. The posts currently live are as follows:

Ignite Project Manager (FT) – this post will support parishes in applying / oversee and administer the application process for the 30 parish-based posts related to children’s, young people’s and families ministry. They will subsequently support parishes and new recruits in terms of training/coaching pathways and networking.

Urban Ministry Enabler (FT) - this post will support parishes in applying / oversee and administer the application process for the 18 part-time parish-based lay pioneers. They will subsequently support parishes and new recruits in terms of training/coaching pathways and networking.

Data and Statistics Officer (3 days per week) – this post is essential to ensure there is capacity to administer and process Statistics for Mission, Finance Returns and all SMMI-related data and statistical analysis.

Full details of the above including how to apply can be found at;

[General vacancies | The Diocese of Blackburn \(anglican.org\)](#)

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.

Member of Pensions Committee vacancy

We are seeking immediate nominations and applications for a member of Pensions Committee.

Have you a financial background? If so, the URC needs you!

The URC Pensions Committee is looking for volunteers to help the URC continue supporting its pension arrangements. Previous experience in some aspect of pension provision or regulation would be of assistance to the current group of volunteers.

If you have an interest in helping the Church manage the retirement arrangements for our ministerial team and our staff members, we'd love to hear from you.

Interested?

The role description is available here but if you want more information about the role please contact [John Samson](#), Chief Finance Officer.

To find out more, download:

[Member of Pensions Committee – Role Description](#) (Word | 53kb)

To apply please send a CV by email to jacqueline.watson@urc.org.uk

Nominations can also be sent to jacqueline.watson@urc.org.uk

Closing date for applications/nominations:

there is no deadline for applications, the advert will close as soon as a suitable candidate has been found.

Applications will be screened by the Committee Convenor in conjunction with another member of the Pensions Committee. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend a short meeting with them. References for all volunteers will be sought prior to positions being confirmed.

Repairs and Maintenance Coordinator London

Fixed term contract for 12 months, 35 hours per week

Salary: £36,102

Are you eager to support a team to deliver an efficient customer focused service?

The Retired Ministers Housing Society (RMHS) exists to assist retired and retiring ministers to meet their housing needs during retirement, aiming to provide appropriate housing suitable for long-term occupation. We maintain around 300 properties tenanted by retired ministers, arranging inspections and repairs.

In this role you will be responsible for the daily coordination of repairs and maintenance activities. You will be the central point of contact for our elderly residents, liaising with surveyors to ensure our programme of works and cyclical compliance checks are followed through and carried out promptly.

You are educated to A level standard, or equivalent experience, have excellent administration and ITC skills and are highly organised. You also possess good communication skills and can problem solve, dealing with issues in a calm and sensitive manner. Experience of repairs and maintenance in a housing environment would be a distinct advantage.

We can offer you a flexible and friendly work environment in a small team; hybrid working from Church House in London and from home is possible.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

020 7691 9871 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 2 August 2024

Interview dates: Friday 16 August 2024

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)

Request for Hymnals from Closed Churches

Penwortham URC are in need of hymnals, if your Church have any they don't need please contact Daleen Ten Cate (Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk)

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.

