

North Western Synod Newsletter



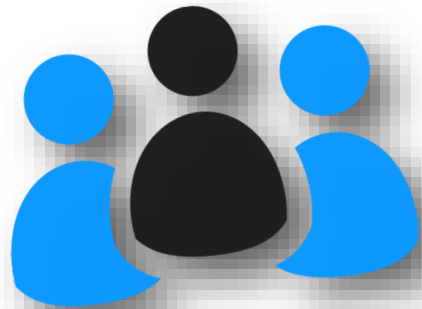
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Announcing!!

New Synod Help Desk

Number

 **08000 903 903**

We're pleased to announce we now
have a new **FREE PHONE** number

We have also launched a new help desk
email address:

 **helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk**



Anti-Poverty Research Community Summit

On 28th November representatives from the Dandelion Community in Wythenshawe, Church action on Poverty and Northwester Synod joined a gathering of community organisations at Manchester University. This event was co-delivered by Inspire Women from Oldham and Manchester University Social Sciences department. It is part of a project aimed at finding ways to research issues around poverty, working with local communities.

The purposes of this event were:

1. To revisit our Anti-Poverty Framework through making 'creative connections'.
2. To nurture connections with people who feel passionately about building and maintaining an anti-poverty research community in Manchester.
3. To think about the future of our Anti-Poverty Research Community.
4. To have fun and create together!

This was a great opportunity to make connections and to reflect together.

This is a copy of the framework that has been devised:



If you are in Greater Manchester and would like to be involved in this project, please contact Liz Delafield at liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk who will pass on your details to the organisers.

yourchurch news!

There has been lots happening at **yourchurch** during the past weeks. On 3 October, we received three people into joint membership, bringing our total of members (ie those whose sole membership is with **yourchurch**) to 14 and our joint membership (ie those whose primary membership is held with their local church) to 14.

Then on Sunday 2 December, Clare Downing, our Moderator, ordained and inducted our first ever elected elders. When **yourchurch** became a member church of the Synod and United Reformed Church at General Assembly 2023, it was agreed that the existing Leadership Team would be recognised as a de facto Elders' Meeting and charged with electing a team of elders.

Clare ordained and inducted Revd Fran Kissack, Revd Kristin Ofstad (living in Spain), Revd Jane Campbell, Revd Ruth Watson and Diana Paulding. She also inducted Lawrence Heath-Moore and Angela Storer, who were already ordained elders. Addie Redmond was unable to be present and will be inducted to serve early in the New Year.

Last night, we journeyed (virtually!) to Bethlehem, where our joint Advent Carol Service was led by Revd Dr Munther Isaac, Dean of Bethlehem Bible College and Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. As he did last year, Munther conducted the service from what has become the internationally renowned installation in the church, Christ Among the Rubble.

It was an extraordinary privilege to be led in a powerful, prophetic and deeply moving reflection of what it meant for Palestinian Christians to be spending a second Christmas with the genocidal slaughter of Gaza ongoing.

If you want to get a flavour of Munther's address, [watch this reflection](#) set to music, which formed part of the service (in place of a carol). You can also watch the video of the version of [O Little Town of Bethlehem](#), put together by the students of Bethlehem Bible College.

Lawrence Heath-Moore, Church Secretary



News from Edgeley Community Church

This week, Edgeley Community Church were able to give their Brownies, Rainbows and Guides an Advent Pack.

Here are a few of the Brownies looking very happy!

Barbara Aspinall



St George's URC Carlisle—Annual Toy Service

St. George's URC in Carlisle held its annual Toy Service on 8th December where members generously bring along a huge collection of new soft toys, dolls, books and games. The toys are then collected by the Salvation Army where they are collated and packed along with other donations. Each bag is packed for families which have been referred by social services, church groups and other community groups. Last year over 200 families were helped and probably more will be helped this year. Each child or young person receives one or two main presents, at least one book and stocking fillers. The bags were packed up by volunteers from the Salvation Army, the URC and Carlisle Cathedral and they will now be distributed to families who would be unable to buy presents themselves. The appeal organised by the Salvation Army each year reflects a call from Christ to be generous and kind.

Revd Lisa Moore Wilson – Minister of The Cumbria Missional Partnership



Christmas at Altrincham URC

To publicise our Christmas Services and to hopefully put a smile on the faces of passing pedestrians, Altrincham URC has created 'three wise people' out of recycled plant pots.

As one two-year-old was heard to remark, there should be wise women there too.

As we know, Christmas and indeed churches just wouldn't happen without wise women!



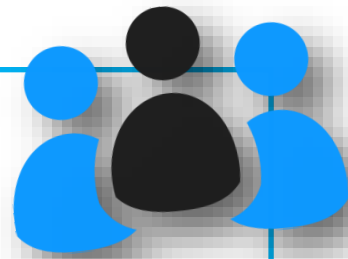
Choir collaboration at Worsley Road URC

The choir from Worsley Road URC in Swinton was invited to join the choir of Prescot Parish Church at Evensong on 1st December. The two choirs, comprising over 40 singers, filled the beautiful old city-centre church with considerable and very pleasing sounds! The Evensong Service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. Kimberley Mannings, and although different to the services those from Worsley Road are used to, was a very uplifting and moving experience.

All our choir members and their supporters enjoyed and appreciated the evening. A reciprocal collaboration at Worsley Road is planned in the coming year. The invitation for the two choirs to share worship arose as two very musically gifted members of our Choir (Zac & Abigail Birch Price) had moved to the Liverpool area, where Abigail has been appointed Director of Music at Prescot Parish Church. Hence the lovely invitation. AND two of the hymns and music performed at the Evensong Service were composed by Abigail.

Alison Broadbent





Save the Dates

- Communion Training — 8th Jan 2025 at 7pm—by Zoom
- Sacrament Training Lancs Area — 5th Mar 2025 at 2pm—Garstang URC
- Sacrament Training Cumbria Area—1st Apr 2025 at 10am—Windermere Carver
- Acorn Roadshows in your area:
 - 18th Jan 2025— 10am to 1pm — Central/South Area—Oasis Hub, Media City
 - 25th Jan 2025 — Lancs Area — details to be confirmed
- Stepwise 2025 — 20th Jan 2025 at 7pm—by Zoom—'Beginning Stepwise'
— 3rd Feb 2025—by Zoom—'Continuing Your Stepwise Journey'
- Planning for Lent and Easter—27th Jan 2025 at 7pm—by Zoom
- Sabbatical Reflection—28th Jan 2025 at 12-2pm—NW Synod Office
- Conversations at the Crossroads—8th Feb 2025 at 10am—Luther King House M14 5JP
- Youthscape Essentials - starts 25th Feb 2025 for 10 months at 7pm to 9pm—Online
- Spring Ministers Away Day—1st March 2025—The Storey, 2 Meeting House Lane, Town Centre, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
- Youth Assembly 2025 — 7th-9th March 2025—Kings Park Conf Centre, Northants
- URC Youth Leaders Gathering—7th to 9th March 2025—Highgate House, Northants
- 1T4 at Whitemoor Lakes in Staffordshire—2nd-4th May 2025

Worsley Road URC — Christmas Events



Come and join us this festive season at
Worsley Road United Reformed Church!



Service dates

Sunday 1st December

Advent Service



Sunday 8th December

Toy Service



Donations to St Paul's Church, Salford gratefully received!



Sunday 15th December

Food Bank Sunday



Festive donations to Salford Food Bank appreciated!



Sunday 22nd December

Nativity at 10:45am



Evening Carol Service 6:30pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Please come and join the festive celebrations throughout December!
Why not bring a friend along to share the festive fun?



Altrincham URC — Knitted Bible Exhibition

For more information or to book larger parties please contact Sue Jesson at jessonsusan@gmail.com or the Church Office at office@altrinchamurc.org.uk

Joseph and his brothers



The Knitted Bible Exhibition

**at Altrincham United Reformed Church
(corner of Cecil Road and Ashley Road),
Hale. WA15 9NT**

Sponsored by Churches Together in Hale

**36 Bible scenes complete with an explanation
of each story. Every day 1pm to 3pm from
Saturday 4th January to Friday 10th January 2025**



Healing the paralysed man



Palm Sunday

**Free of charge. Refreshments provided.
(Small donation for refreshments appreciated)
All ages welcome including parties from
churches**

For further information or to book larger parties please contact:

Sue Jesson jessonsusan@gmail.com 07973 391154 or
the Church Office office@altrinchamurc.org.uk 0161 929 9747

Reflecting on Epiphany - Online 6th to 10th Jan 2025

7.35pm to 8.45pm



Reflecting on Epiphany

Monday 6th January to Friday 10th January 2025

7.30pm to 8.45pm

Venue: Online – free of charge

Book via the URC Spirituality website - https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/reflecting-on-epiphany/



A series of personal reflections on Epiphany, each evening from 7.30pm until 8.45pm. from across the URC and beyond:

Revd Geoffrey Clarke – East Midlands Moderator – 6 January

Revd Dr Susan Durber – European President of the World Council of Churches - 7 January

Revd Andrew Brown – Unitarian Minister from Central Cambridge – 8 January

Revd Sheila Maxey – retired minister and regular *Reform* contributor – 9 January

Revd Timothy Meadows – GA Moderator 2024-25 - 10 January

There will be an opportunity for those who have booked to interact with the above speakers.

Please book before 9.00pm on 5 January. A Zoom link will be sent to those who have booked shortly after that.

Sacrament Training Dates

To book a place please contact Kerry office@nwsynod.org.uk



SACRAMENT TRAINING DATES

Communion training 8th January
@7pm (online)

Sacrament training (Baptism &
Communion) 5th March 2025 10am - 2pm
Garstang URC

Sacrament training (Baptism &
Communion) 1st April 10am - 2pm
Carver Uniting Church

TRAINING WITH
REVD ROB HOCH-YIDOKODILTONA

PLEASE CONTACT KERRY TO BOOK OFFICE@NWSYNOD.ORG.UK
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Theology Reading Group

If you're thirsty for some deep reading in small portions with a supportive community, consider joining the new Theology Reading Group which will be meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, beginning on **Tuesday, 8th October, from 12pm to 1:30pm** by Zoom.

Zoom Meeting: Theology Reading Group

Every month on the Second Tues, until 8th April 2025

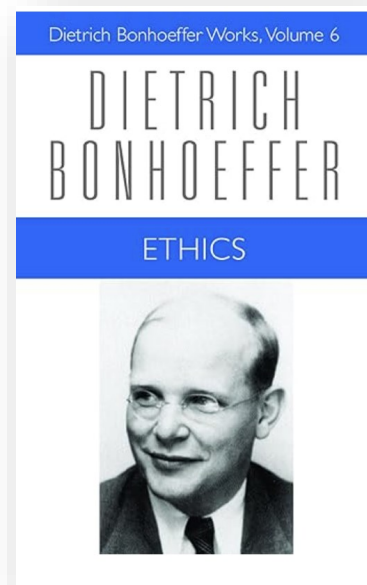
- Jan 14, 2025 12:00 PM
- Feb 11, 2025 12:00 PM
- Mar 11, 2025 12:00 PM
- Apr 8, 2025 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87627415144?
pwd=fqqIZa8wq7urkRYSgPFIIxRzAZhbRxB.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87627415144?pwd=fqqIZa8wq7urkRYSgPFIIxRzAZhbRxB.1)

Meeting ID: 876 2741 5144

Passcode: 476014



To start we will be reading, during the session itself (no advance reading required) from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Ethics* which can be purchased from Amazon [here](#) for around £27 in paperback or £24 as Kindle. *Please do get this translation, as we will engage in group reading before sharing our responses, questions, and take-aways from each session.*

This is for anyone who wants to take seriously the reality of Christ and Christ's reconciling work in our world.

We will read aloud as a group and then, share our reactions (as we are willing) to the reading in about 3 minutes or so each, before opening to more general conversation.

Interested?

Please confirm your planned attendance by emailing me, Rob Hoch-Yidokodilona at learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk

"Christ did not, like an ethicist, love a theory about the good; he loved real people. Christ was not interested, like a philosopher, in what is "generally valid," but in that which serves real concrete human beings. Christ was not concerned about whether "the maxim of an action" could become "a principle of universal law," but whether my action now helps my neighbor to be a human being before God. God did not become an idea, a principle, a program, a universally valid belief, or a law;[102.] God became human."

— **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

CENTRAL / SOUTH AREA ACORN ROADSHOW: UPDATE 18th JANUARY 2025



The image shows a promotional poster for the Acorn Roadshow on the left and a photograph of Michael Harvey on the right. The poster is white with blue text and features the Acorn logo (a blue square with three acorns) in the top left. Below the logo, it says 'INVITATIONAL CHURCH WITH MICHAEL HARVEY'. The word 'Acorn' is written in a large, blue, cursive font. Below that, 'ACORN ROADSHOW' is in bold blue capital letters, followed by '18 JANUARY 2025'. The location is 'OASIS HUB, MEDIACITY, KING WILLIAM STREET, SALFORD QUAYS, M50 3UQ' and the time is '10 AM - 1 PM'. A note says 'BRING YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH. REFRESHMENT WILL BE PROVIDED ON ARRIVAL'. At the bottom left of the poster is the logo for 'The North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church'. The photograph shows Michael Harvey, a middle-aged man with glasses on his head, wearing a blue and white striped polo shirt and a yellow lanyard, sitting at a wooden podium with a microphone.

Michael Harvey will be running an Acorn Roadshow on **18th January, 2025, 10am - 3pm at the Oasis Hub, MediaCity, King William Street, Salford Quays, M50 2UQ.**

The theme will be: **Creating a culture of invitation.** It builds on the sessions offered already (An Introduction to Acorn and Acorn as a Spiritual Practice for Pastoral Care), but you don't need to have done these to attend.

We will be engaging with our URC culture, asking how we can move from being a welcoming church only to being welcoming and invitational. We'll look at the barriers to being invitational and simple-but-profound steps to overcoming hesitation and reluctance, among other things.

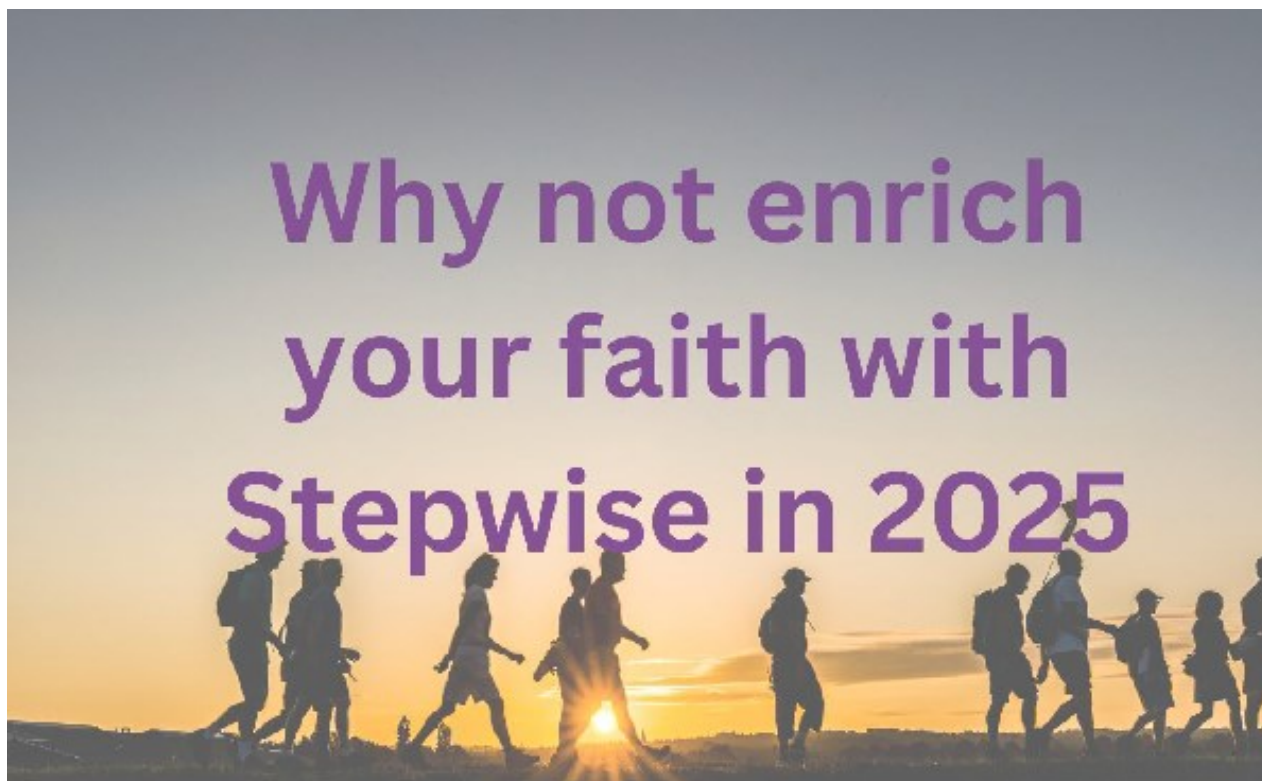
How about putting together a group from your church to do a "pilot study"? You can support and encourage one another and Michael will work personally with the group.

Please register attendance with Kerry at office@nwsynod.org.uk by **13th January 2025**

Lawrence Heath-Moore — Central Area Mission Mentor

What is on Offer with Stepwise in 2025

Contact liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk for more information and the Zoom link



Come to an introductory session on zoom to find out more.

- **Monday 20th January 7pm. Beginning Stepwise:** An introduction to Stepwise and to Faith filled life. For those new to Stepwise.
- **Monday 3rd February: Continuing your stepwise journey:** For those who have already done a stepwise course. A chance to catch up with other participants, find out about the different Stepwise streams and explore your next steps.

Contact liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk for more information and the zoom link.

Stepwise

 **The North Western Synod**
of the **United Reformed Church**

Blackford Bridge - Service of Thanksgiving

If you would like to attend please contact Richard Bradley at richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk

BLACKFORD BRIDGE SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Refreshments will be served after the service.

As leaves turn golden and fall from a tree,
So a church's time in the sun comes to a close,
Its faithful congregation's mission completed.

1.30pm Saturday 25/01/25
Preacher Rev'd Clare Downing

Please email richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk to attend.

NW Synod Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Circle

Please contact Liz Delafield at liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk for more information or to book a place



**Northwestern Synod Preachers'
and worship leaders' circle**

Planning for Lent and Easter

Monday 27th January 2025

7-8:30pm

Zoom: Meeting ID: 872 8710 4532

Passcode: 811104



Contact liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk
for more information.

Sabbatical Reflection

To book a place please contact Kerry at office@nwsynod.org.uk

Sabbatical Reflection

**"Where words fail,
music speaks"**

Hans Christian Anderson

Join us in the Synod Office

on 28th January at 12pm -

2pm to reflect on using

music and the Lament

Psalms to "tell it how it is"

in worship.

To book a place please contact Kerry
office@nwsynod.org.uk

**Following 10 years in ministry,
Ruth Watson took her Sabbatical
and spent April-June 2024
exploring the Lament Psalms and
the use of music in worship**

**Come along and find
out more as we reflect
on what that means for
us today**



Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility

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 module as a minimum, ideally individually. However 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 complete **Intermediate** Training.

Follow this link for the **Foundation** e-learning module: [Foundation Safeguarding Training](#)

Intermediate and Advanced Safeguarding Training

New dates for online and face to face sessions to be confirmed for 2025.

Advanced Safeguarding 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. In addition, anyone who has completed the **Intermediate** Safeguarding Training is also very welcome to attend.

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 —Synod Safeguarding Officer— safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk

General Safeguarding Queries — relating to safeguarding training and/or DBS, please email the Safeguarding Team on helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk

A Guide to Coping with Christmas

We hope that you, your family and contacts might find this guide useful at Christmas—please click [here](#) to view

It is a time of year that can sometimes be very difficult for many people.

From Yvette Hansbury – Robinson (Safeguarding Officer)

Email: safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk

Conversations at the Crossroads

To book your place please contact Kerry at office@nwsynod.org.uk



Conversations at the crossroads

**An enrichment day for elders, worship
leaders and other church leaders.**

What now for lay leadership in the URC?

8th February 2025 10am-3pm

Luther King House, M14 5JP.

South and Central Area

Lunch provided.

Book your place with Kerry as soon as possible.

office@nwsynod.org.uk

100th Anniversary Celebration at Revidge Fold URC

Please RSVP to Maurice + Elizabeth Bradley by 1st February.

Tel: 01254 665 541 or Email: mjembradley@gmail.com



**On Saturday
22nd February
there will be an
exhibition from
10:00-3:00pm
with
refreshments
about the history
and witness of
the church**

100TH

Anniversary Celebration

for the final service at

Revidge Fold United Reformed Church

Sunday 23rd February 2025

at 2:30pm - Refreshments after the service

Shear Brow,
Blackburn, BB1 8DS

RSVP: - MAURICE & ELIZABETH BRADLEY

tel 01254 665541 or email:
mjembradley@gmail.com

BY 1/2/2025

Community Development Pioneers Conference March 2025

Discovering what's strong to address what's wrong

Friday 7 – Sunday 9 March 2025,

Newbiggin House & Lodge Road Community Church, Birmingham, UK

We believe that every local community can flourish, but few neighbourhoods realise their unique potential. Many local churches, charities, schools and enterprises find it difficult to move beyond “needs-based”, service provision approaches, and as a result, don't get to see the joy of their local communities thriving as they are intended to.



If you are passionate about making a positive difference in your community, if you believe in the power of local community leadership and the transformative potential of Shalom, then we invite you to join us on this adventure.

Together, we can help create a world where every local community can be a seedbed of hope, growth, and possibility.

This special weekend conference includes:

- Experienced practitioners sharing their hard won insights and approaches
- Exploring frameworks for local transformation: ‘Empowered Faith Communities’, ‘Asset Based Community Development’ and ‘Liberative Learning’
- Immersed in place-making community building in Winson Green with live local stories of hope

- Exercises, questions and practices to discovery and release your local community's unique potential
- Can be done as a taster or for credit with the broader Newbiggin Pioneering Hub programme in partnership with CMS, URC, CF and Seedbeds

Facilitators include: Mark Matthews, Noel Irwin, Anji Barker and Tim Evans.

Cost: £80 + booking fee (including meals)

To find out more and to book your place please click [here](#)

Youthscape Essentials

Running 10 monthly online sessions from Tues 25th Feb to Mon 24th Nov 2025, 7pm to 9pm

For further information please contact cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk or click [here](#).

To book your place click [here](#) and enter the course code **1245085**



You are invited to Youthscape Essentials, all round training for every volunteer youth leader.

We are going to learn and pray in a community with a shared heart and hope for young people and for God.

Each of the 10 sessions includes:

- 1 insight into youth culture to explore
- 1 practical skill to try out together
- 1 area of Christian character to reflect on

We always start with the voice of a young person through a special recorded video, and we close by being sent out in hopeful prayer.

Whether you have been involved in youth ministry for years or you are thinking of getting involved, Youthscape Essentials is the place for you.

Running online, monthly, from Tuesday 25th February to Monday 24th November 7pm to 9pm.
For a list of dates please contact cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk.
To book go to <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register> or use the QR code and enter course code **1245085**.



Youthscape Essentials is an innovative course for volunteers and paid youth leaders that increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today. Whether you're running a community project, a church youth group, or occasionally helping out on a Sunday morning, the course is designed with you in mind! It's not about the numbers of young people attending, it's about putting God at the centre of your youth ministry.

It's 10 sessions covering 30 topics. The topics are divided into Insights into Young People, Skills for Youth Work and Developing Character. You'll listen to young people, learn from professionals, participate in practical exercises and take time to deepen your own faith. It makes no assumptions about your experience, age or background. It's accessible to those starting out as volunteers, but deep enough to stretch those who have been working alongside young people for longer.

Join with participants from the 5 northerly synods as we reflect and learn together through 2025. Each session is standalone, but we would like you to join in with as many sessions as you can. For more information on the course, click [here](#) and to book your place click [here](#) and enter the course code **1245085**.

Youth Assembly 2025

Book your place at www.linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly



URC
YOUTH ASSEMBLY
2025

All are
welcome

Arrive as strangers, leave as friends

7-9 March 2025
New venue with twin rooms and menu choices
Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton, NN3 6LL

**A fun weekend to have your say, make friends
and find fellowship**

Worship - Bible study, music, prayer spaces,
late night communion

Youth Decides - discussion on issues that matter to us -
leading to action and engaging the wider church

Workshops - grow your skills and thinking
while exploring the theme

Entertainment - campfire, karaoke, sports, games and more

£120 early bird until 1 December / **£150** from 2 December
until 2 February 2025

Please talk to your church and synod about help with funding.
Open to Year 10 / S3 students up to 25 years inclusive.

Book you place today:
<https://linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly> or contact children.youth@urc.org.uk



Here's a taste of Youth Assembly 2024
Just scan the QR code, or visit:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1npXCWKf00



For all young people with a connection to the United Reformed Church including:



URC Youth Leaders' Gathering: 7-9th March 2025

THE CONFERENCE

URC YOUTH LEADERS

£150PP
ALL
MEALS
INC.

Gathering for a time of learning together, supporting one another and sharing ideas.

07 - 09 MARCH 2025

HIGHGATE HOUSE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ARRIVALS FOR SUPPER AT 7PM



KEYNOTE:
**ALI
CAMPBELL**



to book follow the link: linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering

URC YOUTH LEADERS' GATHERING 2025: Gathering for a time of learning together, supporting one another and sharing ideas. Taking place from **7th to 9th March 2025** at Highgate House, Northamptonshire, this is an opportunity for Youth Leaders to gather together during the Youth Assembly weekend at an all-inclusive cost of £150.

The Synod Children's and Youth Work Committee will pay the conference cost for any youth leader from NW who wishes to attend.

For more information and to book a place, visit www.linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering

Holiday Club Material 2025: The Clubhouse

The next Holiday Club from the URC Children's and Youth Work team will be released by the end of January 2025 on www.bit.ly/URC-holidayclub

Based on the 'All Are Welcome' theme, it will explore five New Testament stories through song and story, craft and discussion, eating, praying and playing together.

As always, it will include appendices to help you adapt the materials for under fives, 11 to 14s, vintage holiday clubs or for an intergenerational event.

Grants for holiday clubs available: www.urchurch.org.uk/grants-funding-opportunities

Warm Welcome Spaces

We are pleased to say that since October 2024 the Synod has granted 24 Warm Spaces Grants to Churches which include;

- Chorley URC
- Lancaster Trinity URC
- Audenshaw Trinity URC
- Blackburn Westbury Gardens URC
- Dalton In Furness URC
- Marple URC
- Chorlton Central URC
- Hatherlow URC
- Charlestown URC
- New Mills URC
- St Annes on Sea URC
- Elswick URC
- Hollinwood UB Church
- Barrow in Furness - Ramsden Street URC
- Denton Hope URC
- Hyde Union St Church
- Whitehaven URC
- Hambleton URC
- Leyland URC
- Darwen Central URC
- Ashton under Lyne Albion URC
- Stockport Edgeley URC
- Blackburn Ragged School URC
- Blackburn Woodlands URC



Come in and explore your local Warm Welcome Space

We want everyone to find a place of belonging and reconnection at a Warm Welcome Space near their home. Guests say that what they love about their Warm Welcome Space is the opportunity to make new friends and connect with their community. It all starts by sharing a cuppa. Why not explore your local Warm Welcome Space today?

Click here - [Find a space](#)

Free to a Good Home!

Cheadle Hulme have a surfeit of Woods Beryl ware cups and saucers which are rarely used and they would like them to go to a good home.

Please email swannlanesecretary@gmail.com



Renewal of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme is up for renewal in March 2025.

If not renewed, it will not be possible to reclaim the VAT on works to listed church buildings, which will have a massive negative financial impact on our listed buildings. The Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales have set up an e-campaign so that people can easily send a letter to their local MPs and/or the Minister Lisa Nandy from the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The link <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/listed-places-of-worship-grant-scheme/> asks you to fill in your details, and this then takes you to the pre-written text of a letter, which you are free to use or edit before sending.

For some ecumenical partners the difference this grant scheme makes is immense. Whilst we may not have a large number of listed buildings within the Synod, the ability to reclaim VAT on building works is really valuable, so please consider supporting this campaign.

Albion Community Church Project Worker and Hub Manager

Job Title:	Albion Community Church Project Worker and Hub Manager
Hours:	24 hours per week including some evenings & some weekends
Location:	Albion United Reformed Church, Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6QQ
Salary:	£17,300 (based on FTE £27,000)
Reporting to:	The Line Manager, Albion United Reformed Church Management Committee
Responsible for:	Reception, community engagement, volunteer team, building management

For more information about the above position, including a detailed Job Description and Person Specification, please email David Hey — davidhey@live.co.uk

For Your Prayers

In each newsletter we would like to share people's 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

