



21st February 2025

North Western Synod Newsletter

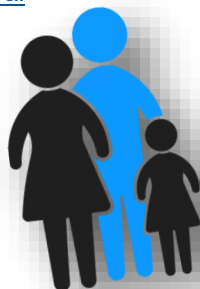
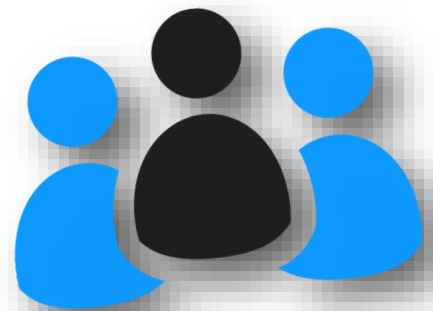


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80th Birthday Celebrations at Marple URC



Anita (Centre) presents Rev Jenny Austen (Left) and Pauline Harrison (Right) with flowers on the happy occasion of their joint 80th birthday celebration.

This was held in the church with many family and friends present.

In lieu of presents, £290 was collected and donated to Ripple Effect to purchase an allotment, a school farmyard and a beehive.

Jill Kenna
Marple URC

A Request for Prayers

A message from Anne-Marie Nye, Communications Officer at Church House:

Hello there

Premier Christian Radio has got in touch asking for some prayers from the URC family.

Prayers will be broadcast on Premier's [Prayers of Hope with Ian Britton](#) on Sundays at 7pm.

To submit a prayer, all you need to do is:

1. introduce yourself: name/role in church/department and geographical area
2. Pray whatever is in your heart
3. No more than 90 seconds

How to record your prayer

1. Find a quiet place and use the voice recorder function on your mobile phone
2. Keep your phone still e.g. flat on a table, but near to you
3. Record your prayer and then send the file to me by email

Please follow this format, and feel free to submit a prayer yourself or share across your networks. Prayers received anytime between now and 28 February would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

A-M

Ann-Marie Nye - Communications Officer

Email: ann-marie.nye@urc.org.uk

TALKING NW SYNOD - PODCAST RELEASE!

For nearly two years now, Lawrence Heath-Moore has been producing occasional podcasts to bring news, views and inspiration from the North Western Synod. Until now, these have been available solely from the Synod website.

No longer! As of today, they're available via most popular podcast apps or via the Synod's Podbean website!

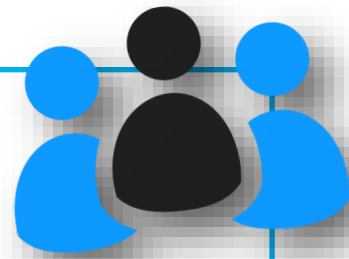
Click this [link](#) to listen in your usual podcast app, click [here](#) to reach the Podbean site, or point your phone camera at the the QR code below to listen on your phone.

There are three episodes for starters: an interview with singer/songwriter Leo Roberts, an interview with Clitheroe URC about their journey to their Gold Eco-award, and a chance to hear Professor Anthony Reddie on the subject of the Legacies of Slavery.

Take a listen and subscribe to make sure of not missing future episodes!



Save the Dates



- Revidge Fold Centenary Weekend—22nd and 23rd Feb 2025
- Living with the Sermon—Book Launch—25th Feb 2025—7.00pm—Luther King House
- Youthscape Essentials - starts 25th Feb 2025 for 10 months at 7pm to 9pm—Online
- Ministers Away Day—1st March 2025—The Storey, 2 Meeting House Lane, Town Centre, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
- Sacrament Training - Communion—5th Mar 2025 - 7pm-9pm - Online
- Youth Assembly 2025 — 7th-9th March 2025—Kings Park Conf Centre, Northants
- URC Youth Leaders Gathering—7th to 9th March 2025—Highgate House, Northants
- Sacrament Training—Baptism—1st Apr 2025— 7pm to 9pm—Online
- 1T4 at Whitemoor Lakes in Staffordshire—2nd-4th May 2025
- Conversations at the Crossroads—Lancs + Cumbria Area—10th May 2025—10am to 3pm—The Storey, 2 Meeting House Lane, Town Centre, Lancaster, LA1 1TH

Revidge Fold URC Centenary Weekend and Final Service

100 years of Christian witness draws to an end

Please RSVP to Maurice & Elizabeth Bradley as soon as possible on Tel: 01254 665 541 for catering purposes.



Centenary Celebration Exhibition

Saturday 22nd February 2025

10am – 2pm with light refreshments

Centenary Celebration and Final Service

Sunday 23rd February 2025

2.30pm followed by a buffet

Revidge Fold United Reformed Church, formerly Four Lane Ends, will be celebrating their Centenary (1925-2025) of Christian Witness to the community of Shear Brow and surrounding area. However, the occasion will be tinged with sadness as they will be holding a final service as they have merged with Trinity United Reformed Church, Brownhill - to be known as North Blackburn United Reformed Church, Brownhill. Their building will be closing but they will continue to worship and be a 'Christian Witness for many more years to come in the Brownhill area'. As part of the celebration weekend there will be an exhibition of the history of the church on Saturday 22nd February 10.00am – 2.00pm with the final service being held on Sunday 23rd February at 2.30pm, followed by a buffet.

If people are planning to come to the service it would be appreciated if they could let Maurice and Elizabeth Bradley know on Tel: 01254 665 541 for catering purposes as soon as possible.

Here is the Zoom link if you wish to join us via Zoom. The Zoom waiting room will open at 2.00pm and close when the service starts.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3827781186?>

[pwd=7PIMEducng3_OjdLG4rSbWjDKFzKwDnA&omn=87578171544](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3827781186?pwd=7PIMEducng3_OjdLG4rSbWjDKFzKwDnA&omn=87578171544)

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility

Safeguarding Annual Return:

A reminder that the deadline for the Annual Safeguarding Return is 11.59pm on Friday 28th February. If you need any assistance with completion, please contact Joanne Hever. Thank you in advance for your help.

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 need to have completed **Foundation Training** before completing **Intermediate Training**.

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

Online Intermediate Training

Wednesday 19th March 2025 - 12.30pm - 2.30pm

To book please contact Joanne Hever at helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk. If any churches would be interested in hosting a face to face training session please get in touch.

Advanced Safeguarding Training

New dates for online training 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 very welcome to attend.

Church House Additional Training

Please click on the following link - [National-safeguarding-2025-002.pdf](#) for Church House ADDITIONAL training for anyone who is interested.

Also please click on the following link for the latest quarterly Newsletter from the URC Safeguarding Team which contains useful information - <https://urc.org.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-newsletter/>

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



Sacrament Training Dates

Note: These training sessions will now be held online.

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



SACRAMENT TRAINING DATES

Communion Training 5th March
7pm - 9pm ONLINE MEETING

Baptism 1st April 7pm - 9pm
ONLINE MEETING

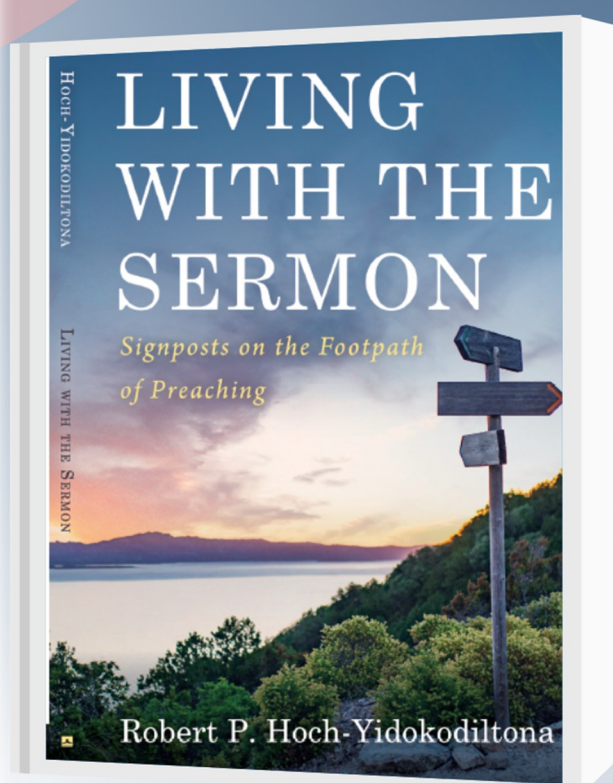
TRAINING WITH
REVD ROB HOCH-YIDOKODILTONA

PLEASE CONTACT KERRY TO BOOK OFFICE@NWSYNOD.ORG.UK

Living with the Sermon—Book Launch

BOOK LAUNCH

Please join Rob Hoch-Yidokodiltona and the LKC community on Tuesday the 25th February as we explore together the footpath of preaching. We will gather in the chapel at 7pm and the programme will start at 7:30pm



In Rob's newly published Living with the Sermon, we will find a friendly companion to the preaching life.

There is, according to Rob a "wink and peek" to the preaching life, some playful mischief, some mystery--and yet, in a practical spirit, down-to-earth signposts to help along the way.

"A book with real heart, bringing the reader on an intellectual and spiritual journey towards becoming a more skillful and thoughtful preacher"

Adam J. Scott, Principal,
Northern College, Manchester

Rob is associate tutor for Northern College's lay preacher programme and training and learning mentor for North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom.



Churches Together in Lancashire - Some Dates to Save

Some dates to save:

- **The AGM of Churches Together in Lancashire with guest speaker Dr Marwan Darweish**

This will take place by Zoom on **Thursday 27th February at 7.30pm**. During a short act of prayer and reflection the new Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire will be commissioned. The Revd Dr Peter Colwell is the Deputy General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, born, raised and lives in Lancashire! After a short business meeting there will be guest speaker - Dr Marwan Darweish Associate Professor in Peace Studies at Coventry University.

Dr. Marwan joined the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University in 2009. He is former Course Director of the MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and Director of Post Graduate Certificate Course in Conflict Resolution Skill from 2010-2016.

His current research focuses on cultural heritage peace processes, conflict transformation and nonviolence resistance. Dr. Darweish carries extensive experience across the Middle East region and has a special interest in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. He worked for over 30 years for social political change in Palestine and Israel. He recently led a team of researchers to implement a research project on the nonviolent movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the role of Israeli and international peace and solidarity movement, funded by the EU. He has considerable international experience in leading training courses in conflict transformation and peacebuilding, and in undertaking consultancies for several international and local organisations in the Middle East and Africa. His is the co-author of (2015) *Popular Protest in Palestine: The History and Uncertain Future of Unarmed Resistance*, London, Pluto Press.

The presentation will take the form of a conversation with the Chair of Churches Together in Lancashire whose Doctoral thesis is also on the Palestinian situation.

The Zoom link and papers will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Please email antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk for more information.

- **1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea event 12th -14th September Blackburn Cathedral.**

This will take place over three days beginning on the evening of Friday 12th September with inter-denominational theological discussion on the background and emergence of the Nicene Creed. This Council of Nicaea in 325 is hailed as the first “ecumenical council” which was an attempt to bring an end to the disunity and disagreements that were harming the early church. Although not in the form that came about in 325 the Nicene Creed remains fundamental to the basis of the Christian Faith. There remain differences over versions of the Creed, specifically over the “Filioque Clause”.

https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Filioque_clause

In this recreation of the debate Church Historians will come together from across the denominations to discuss these tenets of the Christian Faith. We are delighted especially to have Professor Rachel Muers from the University of Edinburgh and the first woman to hold the historic Chair of Divinity.

<https://www.research.ed.ac.uk/en/persons/rachel-muers>

The Friday evening “Theology Slam” will be a ticket event (£15) with wine and refreshments. Places will be limited.

On Saturday 13th September there will be a series of workshops through the morning culminating in an ecumenical gathering for worship together using one of the World Council of Churches inclusive services.

On Sunday 14th September we are planning a themed Eucharist with an ecumenical sermon given by a church leader from a non-Anglican denomination.

Please email antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk for more information.

Church and Community Resources

Forthcoming Church Urban Fund Webinars

Growing Your Church – Connecting Social Action, Discipleship, and Growth

Thurs, 27th Feb 2025 - 10 - 11 am

Find out how you can grow your church and community by connecting the dots between social action, discipleship, and growth, using our free **Growing Good** toolkit.

Why should you attend?

- *Practical advice* on growing your church and tackling volunteering challenges
- *Inspiring content* for reflection and prayer

Expert speakers and interactive Q&A sessions

Don't miss out - **register now** for this or any CUF webinars: <https://cuf.org.uk/events>

Transforming Lives for Good

Transforming Lives for Good have an event in Manchester creating a space for churches across the Northwest to learn about the opportunities to partner with TLG to bring hope and a future to those in their community. This is a brilliant opportunity to be equipped and resourced. More information on how to book is available through the link below. The event is free of charge and includes lunch.

[\[TLG North West Partnership Forum Tickets, Wed 19 Mar 2025 at 10:00 | Eventbrite\]](#)

Churchworks

Last week, Churchworks in conjunction with Theos published a research report entitled *Creating a Neighbourhood Healthcare Service*. The report explores the benefits to both Churches (and others in the Faith Sector) and Health colleagues in a closer partnership at a local level.

The report, and perhaps more helpfully, a short guide for faith leaders can be downloaded from the Churchworks website [Wellbeing | ChurchWorks](#)

Mike Hart

Transformation Director

The Refreshers Conference 2025

Join us for a Free Conference of Mission and Teaching in Blackpool with leading speakers and worship leaders from across the UK.

For more information and to register please click [here](#)

the refreshers conference 2025

Thursday 27th February to
Sunday 2nd March 2025
BLACKPOOL CHURCH & THE WINTER GARDENS



Simon Cooper
Refreshment UK



Gavin Colver
The Evangelical Alliance



Roger Jones
Christian Music Ministries



Rt Revd Jill Duff
Bishop of Lancaster



Simon Guillebaud
Great Lakes Outreach



www.refreshment.org.uk
for tickets and more information

Churches Together in Lancashire is supporting Church Action on Poverty

Churches Together in Lancashire is supporting Church Action on Poverty Sunday which is on March 2nd.

If your church or group would like to take part, you can register [here](#).

Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK, CAoP works in partnership with churches, and with people in poverty themselves, to tackle the root causes of poverty.



Churches Together in Lancashire is encouraging churches and groups to engage with the 'Your Local Pantry Scheme'. Even if your church or group already runs a food bank do take a look at how you can work ecumenically to develop it into a 'Your Local Pantry Scheme'.

You can find more information here: <https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/>

Theology Reading Group

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

Zoom Meeting: Theology Reading Group

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

- Mar 11, 2025 12:00 PM
- Apr 8, 2025 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87627415144?
pwd=fqqjZa8wg7urkRYSgPFiIXrAZhbRxJ.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87627415144?pwd=fqqjZa8wg7urkRYSgPFiIXrAZhbRxJ.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.

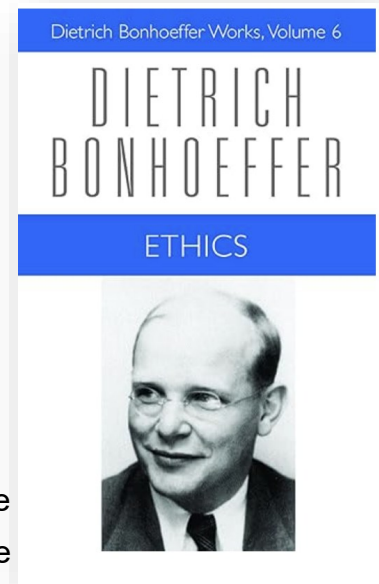
We will read aloud as a group and then, share our reactions (as we are willing) to the reading in about 3 minutes or so each, before opening to more general conversation.

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**



Providence Talks

Mellor Road, New Mills, SK22 4DP

Wednesday March 12

LEV EAKINS

**The Gospel of Mark:
Earlier than we thought**

**Lev Eakins argues that
the gospel of Mark should be
dated closer to the 40s than the 70s AD.
If true, this has some exciting
implications!**

*Talks start at 7.30 and are followed by a chance
to meet the speaker over light refreshments*

FREE ADMISSION

www.providencechurch.co.uk

Message from Christian Charity TLG

Hello!

My name is Tom and I work for the Christian charity [TLG](#)

We have an event coming up in Manchester where we are creating a space for churches across the Northwest to learn about the opportunities to partner with TLG to bring hope and a future to those in their community. This is a brilliant opportunity to be equipped and resourced. More information on how to book is available through the link below. The event is free of charge and includes lunch.

To book click the link:

[TLG North West Partnership Forum Tickets, Wed 19 Mar 2025 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

We would love to see as many churches represented as possible! Places are limited but **please could you share with others you feel would be interested?** This could be church leaders, youth and children's workers or anyone else in church with a passion for supporting their community! Let me know if you have any questions at all. Thanks!

God bless

Tom Kirkby

Church Relationships Manager

Tel: 07706 344 718

Odd Arts: Here and Now Radicalisation

To book a place please contact Kerry at Office@nwsynod.org.uk by 13th March, also letting us know of any dietary requirements. Please click the [link](#) here for more information.



A W A Y D A Y W I T H

Odd Arts: Here and Now Radicalisation

Invitation open to Ministers and Lay Leaders



**Venue: The Village Hotel, Captain Clarke Road Hyde
Cheshire SK14 4QG**

When: Thursday, 20 March 2025.

Start time: 10 a.m with Odd Arts programme to begin at 10:30am.
Lunch will be served and this will be followed with a debriefing session
(led by Revd Dr Rob Hoch-Yidokodiltona)
finish time: 2 pm.

Limited places (26) first come, first served.

To book a place please contact Kerry Office@nwsynod.org.uk by 13h March also letting us know of any dietary requirements.

Odd Arts: Here and Now Radicalisation

Chorley URC - Ladies Pop-up Shop + Fun Fashion Show

For tickets and more information please contact Pat - 07989 876 623 - www.chorleyurc.com



Ladies Pop-up Shop & Fun Fashion Show!

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS
AT UP TO 70% OFF!**

Colours.
[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS



Friday 21st March 2025
Chorley United Reformed Church
In aid of The Hollinshead Centre

Chorley United Reformed Church, Hollinshead Street, Chorley, PR7 1EP

Doors open 6.30pm, show starts 7pm

Tickets: £5

Tickets to be purchased in advance

Refreshments available

Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

For tickets and more information please contact:

Pat - 07989876623 - www.chorleyurc.com



The Peake Lecture 2025 - "SACRIFICE AND SALVATION: READING HEBREWS TODAY"

Our speakers will show how the Letter to the Hebrews remains relevant and address some burning questions about it today.

LOVEDAY AND PHILIP ALEXANDER "SACRIFICE AND SALVATION: READING HEBREWS TODAY"

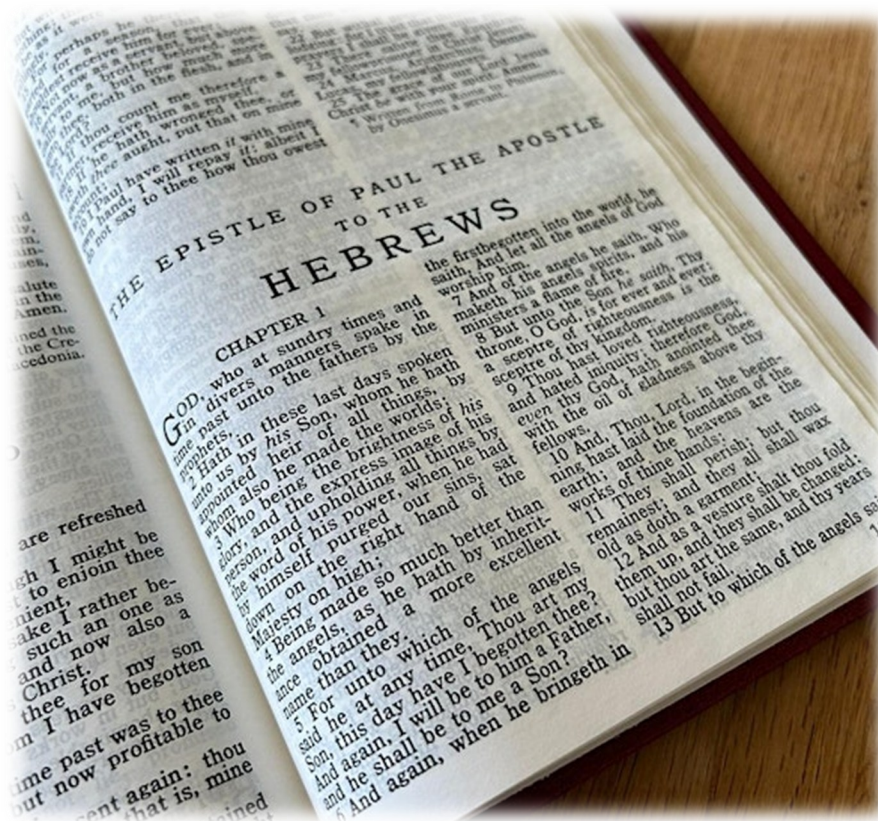
The Letter to the Hebrews is one of the most important books in the New Testament, one which has had a profound influence on Christian thought and worship. Yet it is largely ignored in the Church today. People find it hard to understand in our modern world. Its worldview seems utterly alien. Our speakers will show how its message remains relevant, and addresses some of the burning questions of our day.

Saturday, March 22 · 9:30am - 4pm

Nazarene Theological College

Dene Road Didsbury M20 2GU

To register a free place - click [here](#)



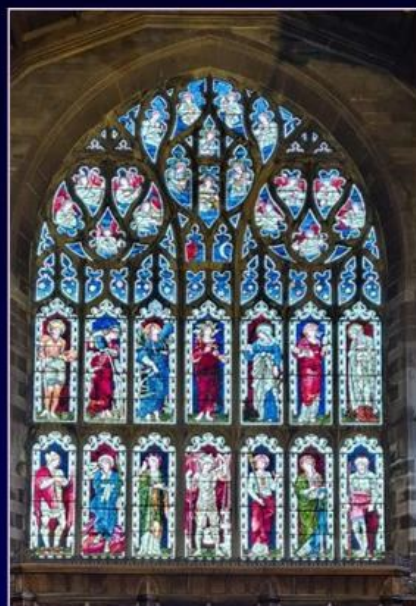
Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us for a special

ORGAN CONCERT

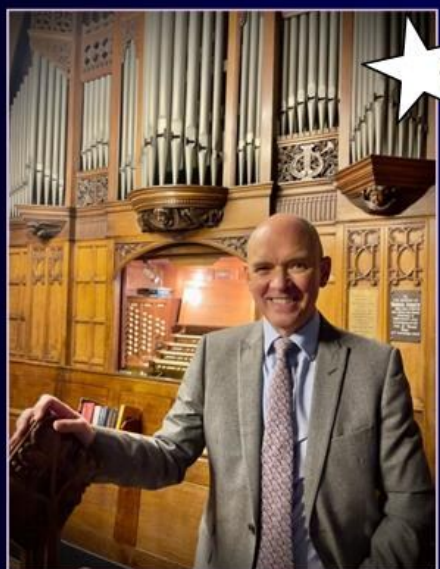
with displays of the Church's History



Sunday 6th April 2025 at 3-00pm

FREE admission - Retiring collection

Doors open from 2.00pm; refreshments available



With International
Concert Organist

GORDON STEWART

Gordon will be playing a
programme of uplifting music
by Bach, Phillips, Carter, Bossi,
Hollins and Renaud.

Albion United Reformed Church,
Stamford Street East,
Ashton-u-Lyne. OL6 6QQ
www.albionurc.org.uk - www.gordonstewart.org



Conversations at the Crossroads - Elders Enrichment Day Lancaster - 10th May 2025

Please book your place with Kerry at office@nwsynod.org.uk as soon as possible.



10th May 2025 10am-3pm
The Storey, Lancaster LA1 1TH
Lancashire and Cumbria area.

Lunch provided.

Book your place with Kerry as soon as possible.
office@nwsynod.org.uk

Join in with the IOPT IN FOCUS Series

The General Assembly has recommended that URC members and groups widen/deepen their understanding of some of the fundamental issues as to why the conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory seems so intractable.

The Interfaith Enabling Group together with Commitment for Life are hosting a series of online events, continuing with:

30th April - **EXPLORING APARTHEID & THE OCCUPATION** with Charlotte Marshall, Director, Sabeel Kairos UK.

For more information and a link to the webinars please contact commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

IOPT IN FOCUS

THE URC ONLINE SERIES



UNPACKING THE ISSUES

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



SAVE THE DATE!

WED
30 APR '25
2PM UK TIME



SESSION 2 OF 4

**EXPLORING APARTHEID
& THE OCCUPATION**
FROM NAKBA TO THE PRESENT

CHARLOTTE MARSHALL
SABEEL-KAIROS UK



FOR THE ZOOM LINK
COMMITMENTFORLIFE@URC.ORG.UK

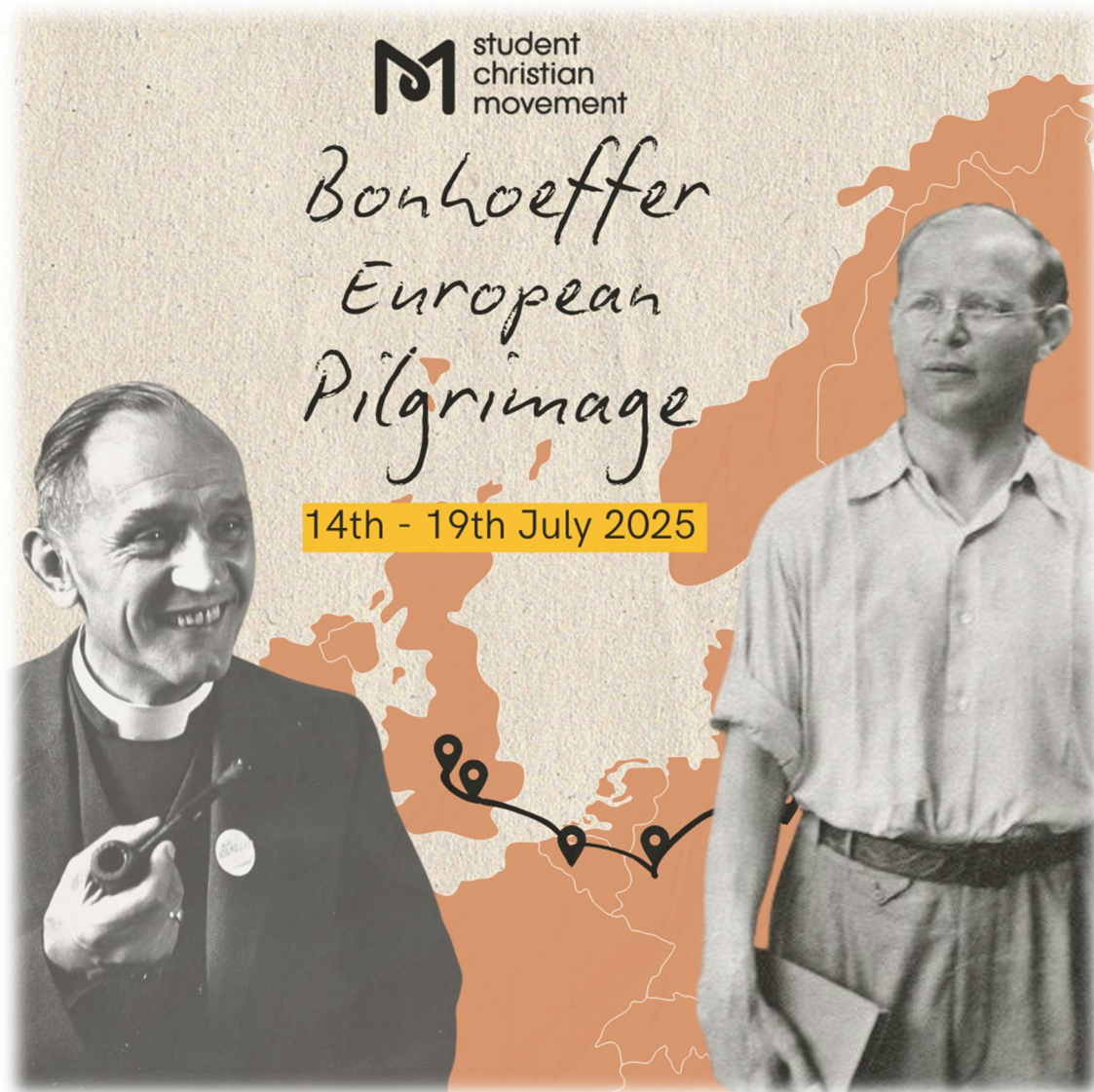


Bonhoeffer European Pilgrimage 2025

The Student Christian Movement has had a long association with the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and this trip will enable members to immerse themselves in his theology by seeing the places and people who influenced him and who went on to live out his kind of courageous discipleship in the city where he lived.

In the 20th century, Berlin saw the rise of Nazism, the devastation of war, and the segregation of their country and city by competing world powers, manifested in a wall which divided communities and families by force. In Berlin we find a story which resonates with every place experiencing conflict and we will also hear of Christians past and present who inspire with their approach to faith.

For more information and to register click [Bonhoeffer European Pilgrimage 2025 | Student Christian Movement](#)



Greenbelt Festival - 21-24 Aug 2025 - Boughton House nr Kettering

The Greenbelt Festival takes place on Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 August 2025, at Boughton House, near Kettering. If you would like more information about the festival itself, head over to <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt>

To find out more about Greenbelt's theme for this year click [Hope in the Making - Greenbelt](#)

If you would be interested in volunteering to join the team at Greenbelt, please see below and visit urc.org.uk/greenbelt/volunteer-registration for more information.

The closing date for volunteer applications is 24 April 2025.

Join the United Reformed Church at Greenbelt Festival 21-24 August 2025, Boughton House, Kettering



Greenbelt Festival's theme for 2025 is Hope in the Making. The world really needs a little more hope and humanity right now, so Hope in the Making will thread its way through everything we do in our new venue at this year's festival.

Volunteer with us

Could you join our team at Greenbelt? We primarily need volunteers to work in our café – yoURCafé – now in its fourth year offering meals made from food saved from landfill. It's a popular venue so prepare to be kept busy!

As well as delicious food, our venue offers talks, crafts, music and more.

As a thank you for being with us, you will receive:

- a weekend pass • meal vouchers • a t-shirt • a car or caravan pass (if you need one)
- and all the fun and support of being part of a great team.

You will also get to enjoy the huge programme of arts, talks, worship and activities the festival has to offer, with plenty of free time to explore.



For more information on how to become a volunteer, what is involved and how to apply, visit urc.org.uk/greenbelt/volunteer-registration

Closing date for applications: **24 April 2025**

Greenbelt Festival - 21-24 Aug 2025 - Boughton House nr Kettering

If you would be interested in joining the Youth venue team at Greenbelt, please see below or contact the Children and Youth Work Team at children.youth@urc.org for more information.

The closing date for volunteer applications is 24 April 2025.



Contact
children.youth@urc.org.uk
for more information

Artistry • Activism • Belief **Thu 21 – Sun 24 August 2025** **Boughton House, nr Kettering**

Are you aged 18+?
Do you enjoy supporting 12-17 year olds?
Have you experience, gifts and skills to share?
Then volunteer on the URC run Youth Engagement Team



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**.

Grandparenting Toolkit

This is the last call for 'Grandfaith'... the closing date for applications is FRIDAY 21st February



GrandFaith

Being a grandparent can be a wonderful and joyful part of life. Sharing your faith with your grandchildren can be a part of this but it can be challenging.

Come and join us on this four week course, where we offer you tools and skills to equip you to share your faith with your grandchildren.

This **free** course runs for four weeks -

- Wednesday, 26th February 7pm - 9pm
- Wednesday, 5th March 7pm - 9pm
- Wednesday, 12th March 7pm - 9pm
- Wednesday, 19th March 7pm - 9pm

No need to book. Use the meeting link below or use the QR code.

<https://bit.ly/GrandparentsToolkit>



Sometimes it can seem as though our churches are full of Grandparents – but not so many grandchildren!

These 4 sessions are for all grandparents, nanas and grandads (or those who hope to be in the future!) who would like to explore how they can be involved in their grandchildren's faith journey.


No need to book - please use the meeting link - [www.bit.ly/GrandparentsToolkit](https://bit.ly/GrandparentsToolkit)

Talking About ... Holiday Clubs

Register now at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout to secure a place and receive the Zoom link.

Talking About... Holiday Clubs


Thursday, February 27th 7-8pm





The United Reformed Church Children
The United Reformed Church Youth

Are you looking to make your holiday club for children more engaging and impactful? Join us for an informative session where you'll learn how to effectively use the latest holiday club material from the United Reformed Church exploring the 2025 theme:

All Are Welcome

 Date: February 27th

 Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

 Platform: Zoom

Book your place at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout

Are you looking to make your holiday club for children more engaging and impactful? Join us for an informative session where you'll learn how to effectively use the latest URC holiday club material to explore this year's theme: **All Are Welcome!**

Date: February 27th **Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Platform:** Zoom

Special Guest Speaker: [Lorraine Webb](#)

Lorraine is the Programme Officer of the URC's Children and Youth Work Team and is an expert in children's educational programs. She will share valuable insights and practical tips to elevate your holiday club experience. **She will also explain how your church can apply for a grant towards the costs of running your holiday club!**

Topics to be Covered:

- Creative ways to utilise the URC's holiday club material for 2025
- Engaging activities for children
- Tips for maximizing participation and enjoyment

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your holiday club!

The material can be viewed/downloaded at [Holiday Club Materials - United Reformed Church](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

1T4 Youth Weekend

Are you just too young for URC Youth Assembly (or do you know someone who is)?

Well, there's great news! We are organising a special event for 11-14 year olds. There are still a few places available – leaders / parents are welcome to accompany their young people.

Please go to www.linktr.ee/1T4event to book your place.



1T4 YOUTH EVENT
WHITEMOOR LAKES, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 8QT
2 - 4 MAY 2025

A weekend for 11-14s including outdoor activities, discussion, games & worship. Exploring how we can live out our faith at school, church and in our communities.

COST
£120

 1 Timothy 4:12 - Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

BOOK NOW www.linktr.ee/1T4event 

1T4 at Whitemoor Lakes in Staffordshire, 2nd- 4th May 2025.

It will be a weekend full of outdoor challenges, Bible study, conversation and fun.

Places are limited so book early. We hope that churches will support their young people attending and, remember, they can also apply for a grant from the NW Synod Children and Youth Work Committee to help with the cost.

You can book your place at www.linktr.ee/1T4event

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

Mental Health First Aid Training (for those who work with young people)

To book your place, please click [here](#)



Youth Mental Health First Aid

By booking onto the new Youth MHFA course by @MHFAEngland, you will gain:

- ✓ The knowledge, awareness, and skills to spot the signs of a young person experiencing emotional distress or poor mental health
- ✓ The confidence to start a conversation
- ✓ The tools to safeguard and signpost to appropriate support

April 22nd/ 24th/ 29th/ May 1st 6pm to 9.30pm
Sep 22nd/ 24th/ 29th/ Oct 1st 9.30am to 1pm

<https://bit.ly/youth-mhfa>



United Reformed Church

Being aware of, and responding effectively to, mental ill health issues affecting young people is one of the most important ways in which we can support those young people with whom we come into contact on a regular basis.

We all know that “Pull yourself together” or “Get over it” are not effective responses – but what SHOULD we say? What are the signs and triggers we should be aware of? When should we intervene and who can we turn to for more help?

This course, run over 4 evenings (in May) or 4 mornings (in September), will answer all those questions and more.

Book your place at: <https://bit.ly/youth-mhfa>

Synod Children's Day

You **MUST** book a place for your child / children (aged 5-11) by the closing date (March 7th). We will not be able to accept participants on the day. Please email cydo@nwsynod.org.uk to book a place.

Bring A Child To Synod Day!

Saturday, March 15th - 10am - 3:30pm



You're coming anyway, right? So why not bring one, or two, or ALL, the children you have contact with at your church for a day of craft, games and worship?

They will be looked after, and entertained, by a team from the Synod's Children and Youth Committee.

To ensure we get the right catering and resources, please book places by emailing cydo@nwsynod.org.uk by Friday, March 7th.

Online Courses for Free!

Please see links below for details of three online courses which are being offered **FOR FREE** by 'wefindanylearner.com'. They may be of interest to a variety of people in your church.

You need to meet a few criteria - be at least 19 years old (by August 31st 2024), residing in England and not currently enrolled in an apprenticeship program.

To sign up please visit www.wefindanylearner.com/book-online/ or by contacting the team on

Tel: 01226 958 888.

- [Counselling Skills Level 2 | We Find Any Learner](#)
- [Mental Health First Aid Level 2 | We Find Any Learner](#)
- [Understanding Autism Level 2 | We Find Any Learner](#)

Albion Community Church Project Worker + Hub Manager

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

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 URC Management Committee
Responsible for:	Reception, community engagement, volunteer team, building management

Ministries Support Officer

Please send your application form to:

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

Tel: 020 7691 9871

Email: recruitment@urc.org.uk

Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 3rd March 2025

Interviews: Wednesday 19th March 2025



Ministries Support Officer London

**Permanent, Full time
35 hours per week
Circa £43,000 per annum**

Are you ready to help support the Ministries of the Church as it seeks to facilitate the whole people of God?

The work of the Ministries team provides support to all Ministries within the United Reformed Church through the work of the Ministries and Accreditation Committees. In this role you will work closely with the Secretary for Ministries as part of a small team and within the wider Discipleship team.

You will be educated to degree level, or equivalent experience. You are already working or volunteering in a ministries or mission orientated environment and have experience of leading projects as part of a team. You have excellent communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to advocate and inspire people. Evidence of participation in discipleship development or other lifelong learning would be a distinct advantage.

We can offer you a flexible and friendly working environment; working from Church House and from home.

If you are interested in working with us and can meet the job requirements, please send your application form to:

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

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

Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 3 March 2025 Interviews: Wednesday 19 March 2025

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

United Reformed Church – Mersey Synod

Advertisement: Property Officer

The Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church (URC) which is a charitable organisation, wishes to recruit a Property Officer, who will work alongside the 72 United Reformed Churches in the Merseyside Region, and have oversight of the properties owned by the Mersey Synod Trust. These are currently served by 16 Ministers; 16 Manses are occupied, and 4 Manses are let (plus two vacant).

A small team of full-time and part-time employees and volunteers, led by the Synod Moderator, manages and administers the Property, Finances, Training, Youth Work, Communications and other activities of the Synod from an office adjacent to the United Reformed Church in Wavertree, Liverpool.

The overall purpose of the Property Manager is to work with the various Synod Officers and Committees and with local churches to ensure that all church buildings and manses are maintained to a standard appropriate to their purpose within the limitations of time and cost.

Good interpersonal and organisational skills will be required. Discretion and confidentiality is important, as is an awareness of and willingness to work with the aims, objectives, culture, challenges and Christian ethos of the United Reformed Church.

The requirement is for someone to work 20 hours a week, to work flexibly Monday - Friday, with occasional weekend and evening working. You will be required to attend the bi-annual meetings of the Synod, which are on Saturdays in March and October. You will also occasionally represent Synod at national meetings in London, and elsewhere when required.

The annual salary will be in the region of £31,500 to £38,500 (FTE) dependent upon experience and qualifications.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 26th March at Synod Office at 1 Fingall Road, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 9JE.

Please visit the Synod Website for the Application pack: <https://www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/>

Applicants should email their Application form to Denise Harman at adminofficer@urcmerseysynod.org.uk by no later than midnight Thursday 13th March.

CV's will not be accepted.

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) are recruiting

The EAPPI are recruiting human rights monitors for 2026. They call their human rights monitors Ecumenical Accompaniers, or EAs for short. EAs spend three months in the occupied West Bank witnessing and monitoring human rights violations and standing in solidarity with local peace activists. When they come home, they give talks in their local communities and advocate for an end to the military occupation of Palestine.

To find out more about the work of the EAPPI, please click [here](#).

To apply, please see www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi. The closing date is **Sunday 23rd March, 5pm**.

If you have any questions about the recruitment, please contact eappi@quaker.org.uk.

Spend three months in Palestine Monitoring human rights



- Stand in solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Monitor human rights abuses for the UN and others.
- Advocate for justice, equality and an end to the military occupation of Palestine.

FULL TRAINING GIVEN | EXPENSES COVERED | LIVING ALLOWANCE

Closing date: 23 March 2025, 5pm

More info: www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi



We welcome applications from those usually under-represented in this role, particularly people from Black communities, People of Colour, and those from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds. Applicants from these groups who meet the minimum requirements for the role are guaranteed an interview.

 **EAPPI|UK & Ireland**

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:

- Revidge Fold as they celebrate their Centenary Weekend of Events this weekend (Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd February)
- All members and friends at North Blackburn URC as Revidge Fold URC marks it's final service on Sunday 23rd February, having merged with Trinity Brownhill

