

21st March 2025



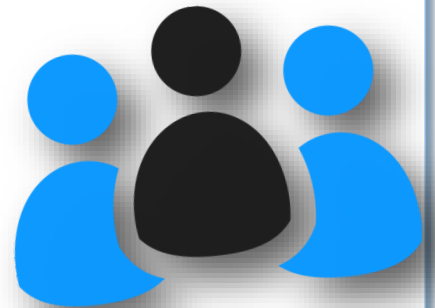
North Western Synod Newsletter

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Wonderful Choir at Forton URC

Just as Spring was awakening in March, the small URC church at Forton, near Preston was treated to songs by a magnificent choir from Morecambe. The choir is the "Bay Singers", who say they love to sing in the Grade 2 listed FORTON URC. It was such a joy to have all these singers filling the Church and Hall. The weather was fine and the sun was shining through the wonderful stained glass window, depicting Sir Galahad and the Holy Grail. The grounds of this Church are equally lovely in Spring with primroses, crocus, flowering currant and daffodils.

Sent in by Joyce Holden—Elder at Forton URC

Barrow URC School - flourishing once again

Following on from the opening of Oak Lodge last year, there was more work to be done around the classroom. Drainage problems were discovered and the playground looked more like a mud bath than a safe area for pupils to play. Our Synod Clerk, Tim Hopley, attended the opening day and took the request for financial support to Synod Exec. In a couple of days NW Synod donated a generous amount of money to support the school to sort out the drainage, level the play area and to surface it with artificial surface. In the meantime, working parties were arranged, old and young mucked in and finally the outdoor gym officially opened on 14th March 2025.

A big thank you was given to FOBS, Barratt Homes, Decron and the NW Synod URC for their generous donations which made it possible. Every child has received training on how to use the gym safely and they are looking forward to using it at playtimes.

Daleen ten Cate - Missional Discipleship Mentor



CTE Forum 2025 – The Hayes Conference Centre 17–19th March 2025

I'm writing this whilst still trying to process the many things that I heard and experienced at the Churches Together in England Forum 2025 whose theme this year was 'Called to be One – but not the same'.

With nearly 300 delegates in attendance it was a profoundly diverse conference in every sense of the word and above all a huge encouragement to those who value the potential for a deeper church unity between the numerous denominations that make up the church in this country.

What was also hugely encouraging was that, despite being one of the smaller denominations, the URC has an integral role to play in helping the realization of the ecumenical vision against what, in her closing speech, the Rev Canon Helen Cameron described as the 'scandal of our disunity'.

The Forum took place at The Hayes conference centre in Derbyshire with an incredibly varied and intense 48 hour programme spread over 3 days.

A variety of keynote speakers from across the denominational and non-denominational spectrum addressed topics like The Call to Peace in a world resourcing war; Artificial Intelligence – considering when to embrace and when to exercise caution; Racial Justice and the call for Reparations; Navigating Change from church decline to flourishing and so much more.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, gave the address on Racial Justice and Reparations. Tessa's talk was wise, passionate and refreshingly uncompromising as she reminded us of the unrepaired breach caused by historic trafficking and slavery, '...without repair/reparation there is no holistic or whole 'Alleluia' for the church.'



Rev Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson

Surprisingly, perhaps, responses to the address were and continue to be quite mixed. Along with all the talks you can watch and listen for yourself on Youtube – search for Churches Together in England and you should find the page.

A very different talk from another URC voice and well worth listening to is Rev Dr Susan Durber's address on the First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea 1700 years ago. Like me, when I first saw it, your response to the title might be 'Meh. No thanks' but please let me encourage you. This is the second time I have heard Susan speak on this topic and I can only say what an engaging, creative and entertaining speaker she is and as another delegate put it – she makes you feel like you're there 'in the room where it happened' as well as seeing where there are still lessons for us to learn in the present. Again this is available on the Youtube channel.

There were also workshops exploring many important issues like accessible church, intercultural church, Israel/Palestine conflict, creating healthy culture and living with diverse views on human sexuality and gender. Everything was set in a framework of prayer and worship with the opportunity to share in a rich and wide array of different styles, approaches and theology.

The overriding feeling I came away with was that the most important gift the Forum offered us was the challenge to pursue meaningful ecumenical relationships and dialogue that can grow and develop even when we are different in our approaches, our opinions and our theology. The final speaker reminded us that 'Ecumenism must not become a technical conversation but our quest for finding hope in the unity Christ gives us.' Our country and the world needs a united church. One that acknowledges our differences but is ready to confront them together. A church prepared to live faithfully and creatively in the face of our diversity.

Rev Darren Holland - Synod Ecumenical Officer, North Western Synod



Rev Dr Susan Durber

New Eco Church Survey

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

From A Rocha UK, the charity behind Eco Church
It's here! We're thrilled to introduce our brand-new Eco Church Survey!



Now in its ninth year, Eco Church continues to support churches across England and Wales in taking meaningful action for climate and nature. At its core, Eco Church is about people and a practical survey that guides churches, step by step, on their journey towards change. Our newly launched survey offers greater flexibility, ensuring that every church, regardless of size, setting, or resources, can take action and make a real impact.

What's new in the survey?

New Pathways

A key highlight of the new survey is its inclusive pathways, designed to support a wider range of church settings. Whether you're part of a cathedral, a church with little or no land, or one without a building, the updated survey ensures everyone can get involved.

Refined Categories

We've expanded our survey categories, strengthening Worship and Teaching. This category now includes vital topics such as eco-anxiety, lament, and pastoral care, equipping churches with resources to navigate these pressing issues within their communities.

Built for Today's Climate Challenges

This updated survey reflects the urgency and complexity of the climate and biodiversity crises, and is designed to match the scale of action needed. It stretches churches further than the old survey, yet still provides a framework that's both ambitious and achievable.

Click [here](#) to find out more

Support available across the North Western Synod

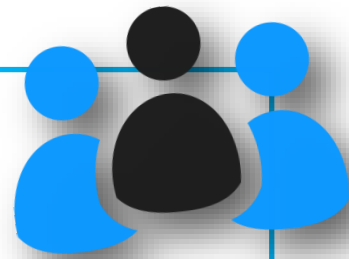
For guidance and support with the Eco Church Survey, please contact one of the Eco network:

Liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk - South or Central area

daleentencate@nwsynod.org.uk - Lancashire area

kate.hunt@nwsynod.org.uk - Cumbria area

Save the Dates



- Re-Energise your Youth Ministry—24th March 2025—7pm to 9pm—Online
- Talking About Toddlers—25th March 2025—7pm to 8pm—Online
- Sacrament Training—1st Apr 2025—7pm to 9pm—Online
- Opportunities for Partnership—3rd April 2025—7pm-8.30pm—Online
- Theology Reading Group—8th April 2025—12pm—Online
- Stepwise Faith Filled Worship Course—starting 14th April—7pm—Online
- IOPT In Focus 'Exploring Apartheid'—30th April 2025—2pm—Online
- 1T4 Youth Weekend—2nd to 4th May 2025—Whitemoor Lakes, Staffs
- Conversations at the Crossroads—Lancs + Cumbria Area—10th May 2025—10am-3pm— Carver Uniting Church
- IOPT In Focus 'Antisemitism'—18th June 2025—2pm—Online
- Greenbelt Festival—21st to 24th August 2025—Boughton House nr Kettering
- Refreshing Your Ministry—7th to 9th October 2025—Hayes Centre, Swanwick

Safeguarding Training

Foundation Safeguarding e-Learning

Any person with a role in a URC church who 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 you 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

Mon 7th April 2025 - 6.00pm - 8.00pm - Online

In Person Intermediate Training

Sat 12th April 2025 - 10.00am - 12.00pm - Church at the Centre, Tonge Moor, Bolton

Wed 30th April 2025 - 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Radcliffe + Stand URC, Radcliffe

To book please contact Joanne Hever at helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk

If any churches would be interested in hosting face to face training, please get in touch.

Online Advanced Safeguarding Training

Mon 28th April 2025 - 6pm - 8pm - Part 1

Tues 13th May 2025 - 6pm - 8pm - Part 2

You need to be able to attend both sessions

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 **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.

The quarterly Newsletters from the URC Safeguarding Team contain useful information - please click the following link - <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

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility



Safeguarding—Spiritual Abuse Training

To book please email emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

Spiritual Abuse Training

Thursday 1st May 1.30pm-3.30pm

This training will focus on

Defining Spiritual Abuse

Developing healthy cultures in Churches

Developing healthy relationships

Responding to inappropriate and unhelpful behaviours

To book please email Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk



The
United
Reformed
Church
Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



URC UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

To book a place please email Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk



Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub bit.ly/3TxIdm4

UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

Make your booking by emailing: Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event
3 June, 2025 1:30pm	Domestic abuse
12 June 10:30pm	Supporting survivors
2 July 1:00pm	Modern slavery
10 July 10:30pm	Elders as Trustees
21 July 1:00pm	Substance abuse
9 September 7:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers
22 September 1:00pm	Adult safeguarding
9 October 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse
17 November 1:00pm	Online safety



www.urc.org.uk



Rivington & Adlington Brass Band at Chorley URC

Tickets are £8 and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/chorley-urc

Or you can call Tel: 01257 273 222



Rivington & Adlington Brass Band

IN CONCERT

**7.30pm on Saturday 29th March
at**

**Chorley United Reformed Church
Hollinshead St, Chorley, PR7 1EP**

**Tickets £8 available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/chorley-urc**

or

**reserve your ticket by calling
01257 273222**



**Chorley
United
Reformed
Church**



Quiz Night at Hope Church



Hope Church

Stockport Rd, Denton



Saturday 29th March

7.00pm

£6

including
potato pie supper

Please contact John Brown to book your team
07485 294468
Johnbd.brown@btinternet.com



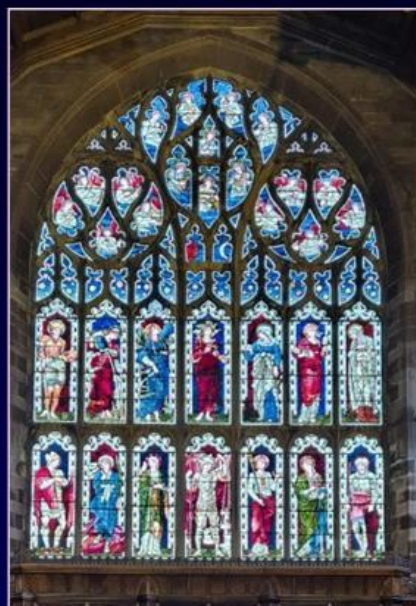
Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us for a special

ORGAN CONCERT

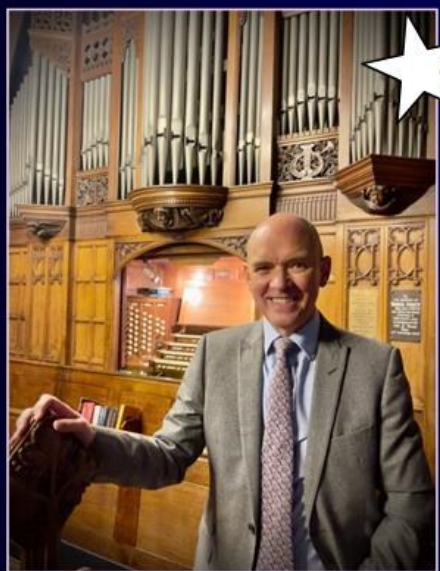
with displays of the Church's History



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



Easter Crafty Afternoon at Chorlton Central Church

Saturday 12 April, 2:30-4pm

Celebrate Easter and Spring at Chorlton Central Church with seasonal crafts and an Easter egg hunt! This event is aimed at children 4-12 years old, and their families.

Tickets are £5 or pay what you can afford. Book now to avoid disappointment - we have limited spaces.

For more information, please email Emma at children@chorlton-central.org.uk

[Click here to book](#)

Easter Crafty Afternoon

£5

For children 4-12 yrs and their families

Easter and spring crafts with Easter egg hunt to finish.

Per ticket or pay what you can afford

Saturday 12th April 2.30 - 4pm



Booking Essential - Limited Spaces

To buy tickets Scan QR Code
or our visit facebook page.

For further information please email
Emma at children@chorlton-central.org.uk



Scan for tickets



Opportunities for Partnership

Online Gathering - 3rd April 2025, 19:00-20:30

The URC has a long-standing Covenant of Pulpit and Table Fellowship with the Protestant Churches in the Palatinate region of Germany, the 'Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz' and around twenty local URCs are twinned with partner German churches from the region. We also have close links with the Waldensian Church in Italy and the United Protestant Church of France, among others.

Celebrating and nurturing unity is especially important now in the changing political landscapes.

It is hoped that this meeting will:

- Proclaim a narrative of unity and partnership
- Give an opportunity for churches with existing partnerships to share their stories

Inspire other churches to get involved and develop their own partnerships

You are very welcome to join this meeting using the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1>

Meeting ID: 842 2245 1396

Passcode: 726105

For further information please email ecumenical@urc.org.uk

Carole Sired

Administrator to Mission and Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations | United Reformed Church



Group Photo from a recent exchange in Speyer, Germany

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 online every month from 12pm to 1:30pm by Zoom.

The next meeting will be:- **Apr 8, 2025 12:00 PM**

After 8th April, we will move our meeting time to the Third Thursday of every month – call it the 'Third Theological Thursday' if that helps you remember! Plan to meet the following Thursdays by Zoom, except for August when we'll take that month off for holidays:

- **15 May / 19 June / 17 July / No meeting in August / 18 September / 16 October / 20 November / 18 December**

Zoom Meeting: Theology Reading Group

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87627415144?pwd=fqqlZa8wg7urkRYSGPFIIXrAZhbRxJ.1>

Meeting ID: 876 2741 5144

Passcode: 476014

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?

For more information or to confirm your planned attendance please email:

Rob Hoch-Yidokodiltona 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**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Volume 6

DIETRICH
BONHOEFFER

ETHICS



Induction of Tessa Henry-Robinson as Free Churches' Group Moderator

On Palm Sunday (April 13th) at 6.30pm, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson will be inducted as Moderator of the Free Churches' Group at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London.

Tickets are free (but required because of the venue), and can be reserved here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1277875783869?aff=oddtcreator>



Stepwise Faith Filled Worship Course

- A chance to reflect on and develop your skills as a worship leader
- To take place on the second Monday of each month at 7pm on zoom starting on 14th April
- A year long course, finishing with an in-person day together
- All course fees will be paid by the Synod
- One of the steps in becoming a locally accredited worship leader
- For those who have already completed the Faith Filled Life course. (Also contact us if you would like to go on the list for the next Faith Filled Life course)

More details on the URC website:

<https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/developing-your-faith/stepwise/>

To register or for more information, please contact Liz Delafield at liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk

Registrations will be sent off on 14th March

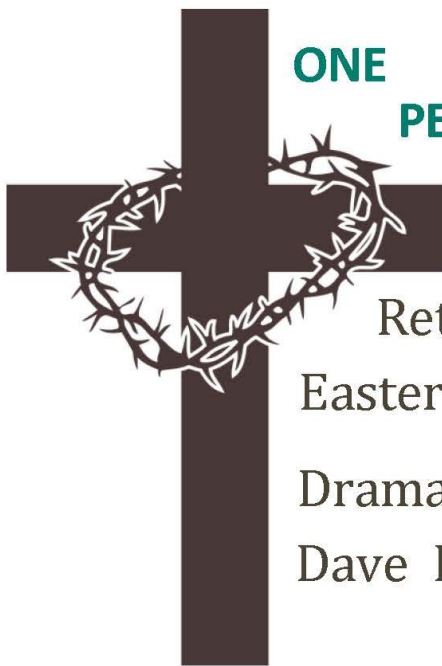


Remembering Holy Week at Altrincham URC

REMEMBERING HOLY WEEK

ALTRINHAM URC, TRINITY HALE
81 CECIL RD, HALE
WA15 9NT

TUESDAY THE 15TH APRIL AT 2,00PM



ONE
PERSON
PLAY

Retelling Marks Gospels
Easter week story
Dramatized reading by
Dave Fraser

A Quiet Space at Altrincham URC

At Altrincham United Reformed Church, 81 Cecil Rd (corner of Ashley Rd), Hale, WA15 9NT

For more information, please email outreach@altrinchamurc.org.uk

Find out more at www.altrinchamurc.org.uk



A quiet space...

An OASIS just for you

What to expect at the OASIS

We'll provide semi structured sessions for you to choose what works for you, and find space for the thoughts and feelings you wish to explore.

There will be a free light lunch for everyone who wishes to stay

On the first session of the month there will be an invited workshop leader who is expert in mindfulness.

Sessions will include opportunities to experience

- ♥ Mindful movement
- ♥ Restorative relaxation
- ♥ Guided meditations

On the other Thursdays there will be art and craft for you to explore and express your mood and thoughts through different craft mediums.

These sessions will conclude with a short act of reflective Christian worship

OASIS is open on Thursdays, 12 – 1pm, on the following dates:

17 April, 1st, 15th and 29th May, 19th June, 3rd and 17th July

At **Altrincham United Reformed Church**, 81 Cecil Rd (corner of Ashley Rd) Hale WA15 9NT

For more information, please email outreach@altrinchamurc.org.uk

Find out more about us at www.altrinchamurc.org.uk

Join in with the 'Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory 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
- **18th June - ANTISEMITISM** with Nathan Eddy, Co-Director, Council of Christians and Jews

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



www.urc.org.uk

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



'Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory IN FOCUS' Series

For more information and a link to the webinars please contact:

commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

IOPT IN FOCUS THE URC ONLINE SERIES



SAVE THE DATE!

18TH JUNE '25
2PM GMT



SESSION 3 OF 4

ANTISEMITISM

A PRESENT-DAY PREJUDICE

+ A WORKSHOP & DISCUSSION

WITH
REV DR NATHAN EDDY
THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS & JEWS

FOR ZOOM LINK

COMMITMENTFORLIFE@URC.ORG.UK

Rejoice and Sing Live

A hymn-filled, songful celebration of the URC's hymn book, *Rejoice and Sing*, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary.

Join the URC and Reform magazine at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on **Saturday 3rd May**. As well as lots of hymn singing from 2pm, there will be talks, a panel discussion with those involved with the creation of *Rejoice and Sing*, an exhibition, the URC Bookshop, talks from David Thompson and Stephen Orchard, contributions from Dominic Grant, Anne Sardeson, Steve Tomkins, David Williams, Roo Stewart and many more. A scratch choir is also being created for the event.

What's your favourite hymn?

Reform magazine wants to know what your favourite hymn is and why.

Email reform@urc.org.uk with the title of your favourite hymn (and tune if needed), the reason why you like it, along with your name and the name of the church you attend, if you're happy to share it. These will be used to help select the hymns for the event and will be featured in *Reform* magazine too.

Tickets are free and are available from www.bit.ly/reform-live. The café at the hall will be open for lunch, which can be pre-ordered.



Conversations at the Crossroads - Elders Enrichment Day

10th May 2025—Carver Uniting Church

Please book your place with Claire MacIntyre at deputyclerk@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?**

**10th May 2025 10am-3pm
Carver Uniting Church
Lake Road, Windermere, LA23 2DB
Lunch provided.**

**Book your place with Claire MacIntyre as soon as
possible.**

at deputyclerk@nwsynod.org.uk

Refreshing Your Ministry

For more information and to book please click on [GEAR](#)

A gathering for serving URC ministers, ministers of other denominations serving in Local Ecumenical Partnerships, CRCWs, Synod recognised Local Leaders considered active by their synods and retired ministers considered in active ministry by their Synod.

Refreshing your Ministry

Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th October 2025

Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Total cost: £270. This includes a £50 deposit,
with the balance of
£220 due by the 1st September.

Booking available via our website: www.gear.org.uk
click on "Refreshing your Ministry"



The United Reformed Church Waldensian Fellowship



Would you like to visit Sicily in October 2025?

The United Reformed Church Waldensian Fellowship has been organising visits to the Waldensian (Protestant) Church in Italy since 1980. This year we shall visit Sicily, an island of extraordinary history and beauty. We shall:

Explore Palermo, the crowded and exotic capital of the island, and the Norman cathedral of Monreale

Hear about the social and teaching work in a visit to La Noce, the Waldensian church's centre in the city

Spend some time in Servizio Cristiano, a Waldensian Church centre of education and agriculture, at Riesi in the deprived centre of the island

Visit Scicli, where the church is a centre for the support of migrants (and featured in the Montalbano television series)

And finish in Siracusa, once the most important city in the Western world with a beautiful island centre

On our journey we would visit historic sites such as the Greek temples at Agrigento

The visit is expected to last ten nights, or thirteen for a longer stay in Siracusa. We will stay at Servizio Cristiano and in hotels.

At this stage we can only estimate a cost but ten nights should cost of the order of £1,000 and thirteen nights £1,200. Single rooms would cost more.

We will give more information as the details are worked out. Travel to and from Italy will not be included. Participants will have to arrange travel to Palermo and return from Siracusa or Catania.

Please let us know if you would like information about the visit.

George Morton
g.morton50@ntlworld.com
Tel: 0161 881 8195

Kate Grand
kategrand@tiscali.co.uk
Tel: 0161 881 0958

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



(Re)Energise your Youth Ministry

Please email Leo at cydo@nwsynod.org.uk for details / zoom link

(Re)Energise your youth ministry

Monday, 24th March, 7-9pm

Exploring:
Adolescent Development
Engaging young people with the Bible
The role of humility in youth work



Email cydo@nwsynod.org.uk for the zoom link

Talking About... Toddlers

Book your place at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout



National Literacy Trust
Change your story

Talking about toddlers

Find out more about the National Literacy Trust and how their resources can support you, to support local families.
Tuesday 25 March
7:00 - 8:00pm, online

The United Reformed Church Children | The United Reformed Church Youth

Book your place at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout

The National Literacy Trust produce a variety of physical and online resources which can help parents to become more confident with sharing books and developing communication skills, which have been translated into a variety of home languages. They offer support in the planning and development of new projects as well as existing sessions and one-off events for families.

The National Literacy Trust are keen to partner with faith groups who are working with families, and would like to share how they can help support your work in this one hour session on Zoom, on **Tuesday 25th March at 7-8pm.**

Book your place at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout

You can use the following link to explore resources they offer to support families and young people:

[Resources for early years, primary and secondary schools. | National Literacy Trust](#)

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>

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

The Synod Children's and Youth Work Committee want to know...

Let us know: Please email Leo at cydo@nwsynod.org.uk



We want to help and support you in your work with children and young people – but what do you need?

The most recent children's event in the synod was cancelled as numbers were too low to make it a good experience for the children who booked – what would you, and the children and young people with whom you work, like the synod to be offering? Is it synod-level events? Something a bit more local? Do you want us to come to you? Something online? What training and support would help you feel more confident in what you do?

Let us know: email Leo at cydo@nwsynod.org.uk

Volunteer Position - Business Committee Convenor

We are seeking immediate nominations and applications for the convenor of the Business Committee, as the current convenor will complete their term in the role at the July 2025 General Assembly.

As the Church Life Review gathers pace, the United Reformed Church is at a watershed moment, with an interesting and exciting journey of change ahead. Given its strategic and operational oversight of the work of General Assembly and Assembly Executive, including at times working under its delegated authority, Business Committee will play a vital part in shaping and equipping the church for a fresh chapter in the life of URC. Being convenor of Business Committee at this seminal time is therefore an opportunity to make a significant contribution.

Please click on the link below for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email samantha.bircham@urc.org.uk for an application form.

Applications and nominations close on 31 March 2025.

Please click [here](#) for role description.

Leading in Church Change - Online Professional Development Course

The closing date of Friday 4th April is approaching for applications on the Master's level short course, *Leading in Church Change*. This course is open to all Christian denominations and assists recognised pastoral leaders/clergy to evaluate their critical change challenges, engage with recent organisational change practice and equip with tools and perspectives for faithful and strategic responses. This is particularly useful during a time of large change in churches across the UK.

Full details regarding the course can be found [here](#)

This is a Master's level course, accredited through the University of Glasgow and therefore requires participants to be educated to a degree level or the equivalent. The closing date for applications is **Friday 4th April 2025**.

If you need any more information please contact:

Kirsty Pattison

Office Administrator

Trinity College Glasgow

77 Southpark Avenue

Glasgow

G12 8LE

Email: TrinityCollegeGlasgow@gmail.com

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

