



28th March 2025

North Western Synod Newsletter

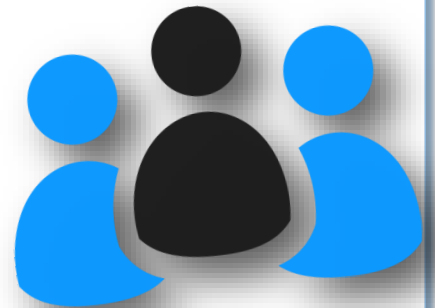
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For Your Prayers

News from Hurst Nook URC

During worship on 23rd March 2025 which included our Annual General Meeting, the congregation at Hurst Nook URC, Ashton under Lyne, celebrated Marilyn Piper and Pam Davenhall's loyal and devoted service of 30 and over 20 years respectively, as they stood down from their roles as Secretary and Treasurer.

The certificates they were handed from the URC, would have been handed out personally by the North Western Synod Moderator the Revd. Clare Downing, had Marilyn and Pam been able to attend the recent Synod meeting. Unfortunately, Marilyn had an accident the day before and Pam had a prior engagement.

Marilyn was presented with a bee plant pot containing hellebores and a peony scented candle, plus more flower related gifts from others.

As you may gather, Marilyn loves flowers, plants and her garden and we hope she will get more time to enjoy them all. Pam was presented with a Boots voucher and is looking forward to deciding what she might spend it on.



News from Worsley Road URC

The children and young people from Worsley Road URC on a litter pick for Keep Britain Tidy—The Great British Spring Clean (taking place from 21st March to 6th April)

For more information about the campaign, please click [here](#)



Also this week, Worsley Road's Easter Message has been put on display in the grounds—looking very colourful in the spring sunshine! All at Worsley Road wish their friends in the URC a blessed and peaceful Easter.



'With Easter Comes Hope'

Thanks and Farewell to Revd Bob Day

In March Revd Bob Day stepped down as Convener of the Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership after three and a half years of leading our steering group through busy times and many changes.

Bob took on the role in August 2021 and has guided steering group representatives through discussions, events and decisions as we have discerned our mission and ways of working together. We've benefited greatly from Bob's experience and encouragement including the process of calling and inducting our current ministry team of Revd Kurauone Mutimwii in 2022 and Revd Steph Atkins in 2024.

As a token of our appreciation, the steering group presented Bob with gifts on behalf of our eight churches – an Amazon voucher, an olive tree in a pot and a sponsored olive tree from Embrace which supports farmers in Palestine. Thank you Bob, and we're delighted that Alison Haigh, one of our steering group reps (pictured with Bob), has agreed to become our new Convener.

Megan Gilks



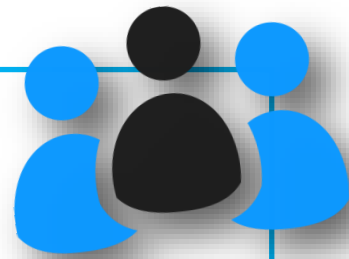
New Members at Clitheroe URC

On 16th March, all at Clitheroe URC were delighted to welcome into Church Membership CRCW Alison Dalton, transferred from Sunderland, and Nicola McCardle, Headteacher at Barrow Primary School, reaffirming her faith from a different denomination, together with her daughter, Neve.

The ceremony was conducted by Revd Gilbert Esambe.



Save the Dates



- Sacrament Training—1st Apr 2025—7pm to 9pm—Online—Please book with Kerry at office@nwsynod.org.uk
- 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
- Wedding + Funeral Training for Lay Leaders— 6th May 2025—7pm—Online
- Conversations at the Crossroads—Lancs + Cumbria Area—10th May 2025—10am-3pm— Carver Uniting Church
- Ministers May School - 19th to 22nd May 2025 – Fully booked
- 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](#)

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility



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—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/3Txldm4

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



The
United
Reformed
Church
Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



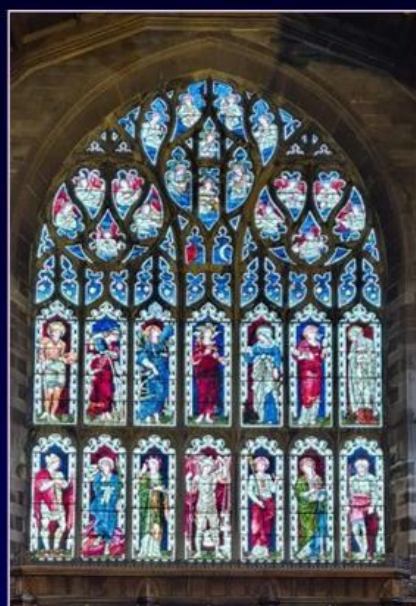
Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us for a special

ORGAN CONCERT

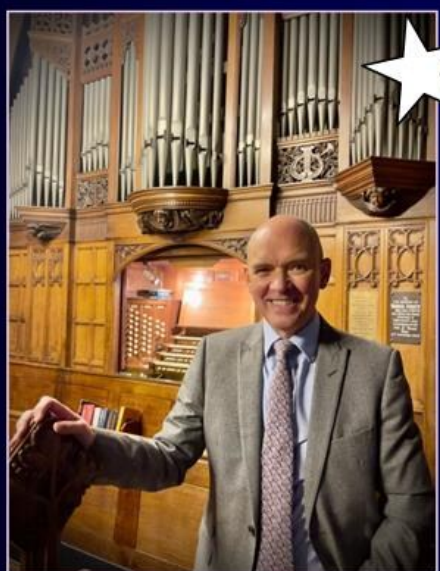
with displays of the Church's History



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



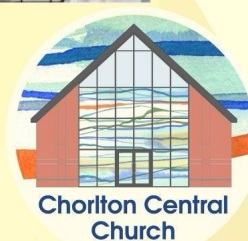
Booking Essential - Limited Spaces

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=fqglZa8wg7urkRYS GPFIIXrAZhbRxJ.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

Altrincham URC, Trinity Hale
81 Cecil Rd, Hale
WA15 9NT

TUESDAY 15th APRIL AT 2.00pm



ONE

PERSON

PLAY

**Dave Fraser retells
Mark's Gospel
Easter Week Story**

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

St George's Day at Altrincham URC

For more information, or to let him know you are coming, please send an email to:

Dave Fraser at outreach@altrinchamurc.org.uk

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



St George's Day

• MONDAY •
28th APRIL 2025

• 2.00 PM •

AFTERNOON TEA WITH
ENTERTAINMENT

COME AND ENJOY AN ENGLISH
COUNTRY GARDEN
CELEBRATION

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



The United Reformed Church
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

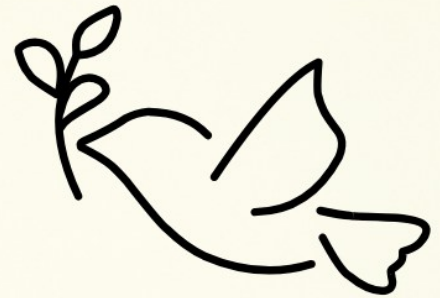
WITH
REV DR NATHAN EDDY
THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS & JEWS

FOR ZOOM LINK

COMMITMENTFORLIFE@URC.ORG.UK

Wedding and Funeral Training for Lay Leaders

Please contact Kerry to book a place at office@nwsynod.org.uk



Wedding & Funeral Training for Lay Leaders

6 May at 7 p.m - Zoom

Training with

Rev'd Rob Hoch -Yidokodiltona

Please contact Kerry to book office@nwsynod.org.uk

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**

Taize Pilgrimage 2025

For more information please contact trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

or click [here](#) for the Taize website



TAIZÉ PILGRIMAGE 2025

NEW DATES SUN 10TH TO SUN 17TH AUGUST

- Have you ever wanted to just shout 'stop the world, I want to get off!'?
- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to step out of the normal rhythm of life and put prayer and community at the heart of life?
- Will you be aged between 18-25 years in August?
- Would you like to spend a week at Taizé, a monastic ecumenical Christian community in central France? If you answer 'yes' to any of these can keep reading...

Every year thousands of young people from all over the world travel to Taizé and stay for a week, entering into the rhythm of community life—gathering together for Taizé's unique worship and joining with people of other countries for meetings, Bible study, discussions, prayer, meals, workshops, practical tasks and relaxation.

Taizé is a place where you can belong before you believe, where belief is not prescribed but there is space and openness to explore your own faith journey.

WHY COME TO TAIZÉ?

Thousands of young people come from around the world come to Taizé – there is something that draws them. The simple beauty of the prayers with silence and singing. The fun of meeting people from around the world and living and working together. The chance to share in open ended discussions about the bible, prayer, making the world a better place! Taizé is a place that touches people, that changes people, there is an openness that enables people to belong whatever their background.

PRACTICAL STUFF!

Getting there & cost

You will be travelling by Eurostar and TGV leaving early on Sunday morning and returning the following Sunday. The cost for the train should be no more than around £250-300 but it will depend on booking the train 4 months ahead. The Taizé community simply asks for a donation for food and accommodation, minimum £70, for those who are under 25 years old.

The total will therefore be **NO MORE THAN £350 to £400** for the week.

THERE ARE BURSARIES AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH THE COST.

Check out the Taizé website for more information: www.taize.fr

For more information contact:
trainingpa@urc5.org.uk



MORE ABOUT TAIZÉ.....

Taizé is an ecumenical monastic community in France. From its beginning the community has been inspired by two aims: to live in communion with God through prayer and to be a leaven of peace and trust in the midst of the human family. A stay at Taizé is an opportunity to seek communion with God in prayer, singing, silence and reflection. It can be possible to rediscover an inner peace, a meaning to life and a new impetus.

The youth meetings in Taizé take place around the community of brothers who live there. The meetings are an international experience – young people come not only from the West but also from Eastern Europe and from other continents. Everyone is invited to enter into the rhythm of community life for the week – gathering with the brothers at prayer times, joining with people from other countries for meetings, meals, small group discussions and practical tasks (serving meals, washing up, etc.).

A TYPICAL DAY AT TAIZÉ

From Monday to Friday

8.00 am Morning prayer, then breakfast

10.00 am Introduction to the day with a brother of the community followed by quiet reflection or small group discussion

12.20 pm Midday prayer, then lunch

3.30 pm Practical work / international small groups

5.15 pm Tea

5.45 pm Theme workshops

7.00 pm Supper

8.30 pm Evening prayer, then vigil with songs in the church.



For more information contact:
trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

Grants for Children's and Youth Work



Did you know that the Synod Children's and Youth Work (CYW) Committee offer grants towards your work?

Small grants (up to £150) can be applied for at any time whilst larger grants (up to £1,500) will be allocated in March and September.

The application process (and form) is available on the NW Synod website.

Grants for Summer Holiday Clubs

You can apply for a grant of £50 / £100 from the URC's Children and Youth Work Office towards the cost of running your holiday club. The money could be used for advertising/craft resources, guest speakers, snacks... whatever you need to make your holiday club successful. Contact Leo (cydo@nwsynod.org.uk) for details of how to apply.

Tell Us What You Think



The Synod CYW Committee wants to find out what your young people are concerned/excited about.

We *could* ask you to ask them to fill in a survey – but we know how that will go!

So why not invite Leo (cydo@nwsynod.org.uk) to one of your regular sessions?

He will chat with you, as leaders, and with your young people – he'll even run an activity if you want!

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

To book your place, please click [here](https://bit.ly/youth-mhfa)



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>



The United Reformed Church South

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>

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

Peer Support Worker—The Hollinshead Centre



We are recruiting for a

PEER SUPPORT WORKER - 10 HOURS PER WEEK

(Fixed term contract for 12 months)

Could you provide personal and practical support for refugees and asylum seekers in and around Chorley?

Do you have lived experience of being a refugee or asylum seeker in the UK?

Do you want to help others find their way through the refugee and asylum seeker process?

You will need to:

- Work as part of the team to deliver practical peer support and assistance to our clients
- Be responsible for providing professional person-centred support to our clients through direct engagement, working not only to resolve their issues but also to build their confidence and capacity over time
- Be authorised to work in the UK and available to commence work in the next 4 weeks

If the answer is yes to the above we would love to hear from you.

Please send an email to chorleyurc@gmail.com to request a job summary and information on how to apply.

If you are interested in this role, please email your CV and a letter setting out the reasons for your interest to chorleyurc@gmail.com

Closing date for applications is 8th April 2025

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

Free to a Good Home!

North Blackburn URC have some items available for free to anyone who wants them.

There are about 160 Rejoice and Sing Hymn Books Melody Edition and 2 pianos.

Please contact Maurice Bradley at mjembradley@gmail.com for further information.

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

