



7th March 2025

North Western Synod Newsletter

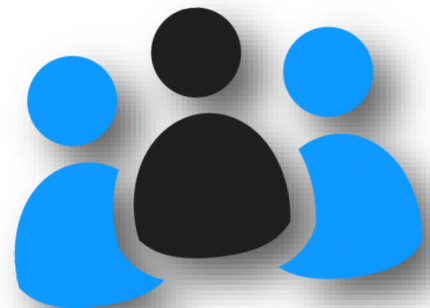


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Growing Church Together Day at Wilbraham St Ninians

Wilbraham St Ninians in Chorlton is a growing, changing church. It is a church with two congregations. There is a well-established congregation that meets in the morning. In the afternoon the Metropolitan Congregation gathers. The latter is focused around people who are seeking asylum, many on the grounds of persecution because of their LGBTQI status. In recent months they have had several new members, and the Church wanted to explore ways that they could be church together and how the new members might feel encouraged to take an active role in church life.



The session began by sharing food together. Thank you to Cat for the delicious Pasta bolognese.



After everyone was fed, there was a conversation about why we come to church- with people reflecting on the ways that the fellowship of church helped them to grow in faith. The next part of the day explored what gifts different people bring to the Church. People were invited to find a name to write in each box: someone who spoke three or more languages, someone who enjoyed drawing or painting, or someone who prayed every day for example. This led to an exploration of the gifts that each of us bring to church life. Also, we reflected on the fact that every new person brings something new to the church, and how the church might change because of the new people who are part of it.



After this time was spent reflecting on how we build a church service together and developing confidence to take on different roles, ending with a joyful act of worship together.



As Mission and Discipleship Mentor it was a delight to be invited to walk alongside this fabulous group of people on their discipleship journey.

Liz Delafield

Revidge Fold United Reformed Church, Blackburn

100th Anniversary and Final Service

Well over twelve months ago Revidge Fold United Reformed Church and Trinity United Reformed Churches voted to unite to become one congregation. As a United Church our names needed to change and we became North Blackburn United Reformed Church. At a meeting in November 2024 members voted which building we would worship in, the majority vote was to use Trinity Church building.

Members of Revidge Fold felt a final service should be held. As so often happens one comment led to another and it was decided we should have a full weekend to celebrate 100 years of Worship in the Revidge Fold building with an exhibition on the Saturday and a Service on the Sunday in February 2025.



During the three months preparation research was done. Four Lane Ends Congregational Church was opened in 1925 – although people had been worshipping in houses and the Sunday School for almost 100 years before this.

The foundation stones were laid a couple of years earlier, late 1923. All the Congregational Churches in Blackburn, probably nine or ten of them, held fundraising events to raising enough money to build Four Lane Ends Church. The whole town worked together – a forerunner of our working together as a Missional Partnership.

In 1974 Four Lane Ends united with St Georges Presbyterian Church, Blackburn to become Revidge Fold United Reformed Church.

St Georges was built by members of Mount Street Presbyterian Church who worked extremely hard to fund it.

Displays for people to look at included the history of Mount Street, St Georges, Four Lane Ends and Revidge Fold. A large number of people visited on the Saturday and again on the Sunday. They marvelled at the Faith of those people from yesteryear who gave so much to the Church and Community to bring Gods word to all.



On the Sunday afternoon we held our final service, marking 100 years of worship and service at Revidge Fold, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn with Darwen. It was a very memorable act of worship. The music group, formed from musicians who are past members, together with present day members, led the worship. Many people took part in the service, including our mission mentor, ministers past and present, six of whom went into ministerial training from Revidge Fold. Candles were used in prayers of thanksgiving, each highlighting different aspects of church life, with people who were involved in any way being invited to stand.

One church member reflected on 80 years of worship and service at Revidge, and another reflected on 55 years as an elder. Our community minister gave a short sermon. The service was attended by over 160 people, some of whom had travelled a long distance. Every member of the congregation was given a tealight and bookmark as a memento of a very special day. The service was followed by a buffet, over which many memories were shared, with laughter and some tears, and above all with gratitude to God for his love, provision and care. We now move on with hope as North Blackburn URC, seeking God's guidance for the future.

Maurice and Elizabeth Bradley

Anne Dolphin

Citizens UK Fringe – Citizens of the North @ the Convention of The North

On the evening of 26th February, in a moment of Northern solidarity, many groups that are part of the North Western Synod such as DARE (Darwen Asylum seeker and Refugee Enterprise), Barrow URC Primary School and Fiona Hodson, representing Meeting Places at Chorley URC, and other citizens who live, study and work in the North, agreed our Citizens Statement. This statement seeks to ensure that the people in our communities are involved in shaping the services they receive. An example of community organisation at its best. Thank you to our moderator, Rev Clare Downing for supporting us on the evening.



PART OF
citizensUK

Statement to the Convention of the North:

The Northern Alliances of Citizens UK represent civil society across faith, education, health and community institutions. We are rooted in the communities of the North and represent hundreds and thousands of people who live, work and study here. We have held thousands of conversations to share the stories and experiences of citizens across the region.

As a Northern Alliance, we met on the evening of Wednesday 26th February 6-8pm at the University of Central Lancashire, where this statement was agreed to be taken to the Convention of the North.

1. Public Transport: When public transport is done well it can be a huge enabler, and is central to achieving the ambitions that we all have for the North. As the control of public transport moves closer to leaders in the North, we seek for diverse members of communities to be involved in shaping the services they receive. Citizens UK want to work with politicians and policy makers across the North to improve the reliability, affordability, accessibility, connectedness, and safety of public transport. Will you work with us to involve communities in designing credible ways for involvement?

Will you convene or join a meeting of political leaders and policy makers to meet with us?

2. Work & Wages: Poverty and inequality across the North must be tackled if the region is to flourish. Low pay and insecure work is driving much of this poverty. Citizens UK want to work with Mayors and Council leaders to increase the number of Real Living Wage cities and places.

Will you work with us to bring equity in offer of pay and work for the people of the North?

3. Democracy & Devolution: Our civil society institutions represent hundreds and thousands of people who live, work and study in the North. These with lived experiences of the issues you are addressing want to be part of the decision making process. We believe that this will strengthen faith and engagement in democracy across the North.

Will you commit to developing a working relationship with us around this?

Signed:

citizens citizens citizens citizens citizens

And within 24 hours, on day 1 of the Convention of the North, a team of community leaders has secured commitments from Northern Mayors, MP's, Council Leaders and decision makers.



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!

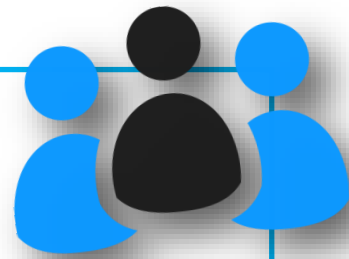
Click this [link](#) to listen in your usual podcast app, click [here](#) to reach the Podbean site, or point your phone camera at the the QR code below to listen on your phone.

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



- New Beginnings—Lenten On-Line One Day Retreat—22nd March 2025—10am—Online
- Youthscape Essentials—24th March 2025—7pm to 9pm—Online
- Talking About Toddlers—25th March 2025—7pm to 8pm—Online
- Deadline for applying to the DDFLG—31st March 2025
- Sacrament Training—1st Apr 2025—7pm to 9pm—Online
- Opportunities for Partnership—3rd April 2025—7pm-8.30pm—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
- Rejoice and Sing Live—3rd May 2025—12noon— Coventry Central Hall
- Conversations at the Crossroads—Lancs + Cumbria Area—10th May 2025—**Venue TBC**
- Greenbelt Festival—21st to 24th August 2025—Boughton House nr Kettering

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility

Foundation Safeguarding e-Learning

Any person with a role in a URC church that has not completed URC Safeguarding Training in the last 3 years is required to complete the **Foundation** e-learning module as a minimum, ideally individually. However it can be facilitated in small groups if people do not have access to the internet, a computer / device or both. You 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

Wed 19th March 2025 - 12.30pm - 2.30pm—Online

Mon 7th April 2025 - 6.00pm - 8.00pm - Online—DATE CORRECTED

In Person Intermediate Training

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

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.

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 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.

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

URC UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

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



UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

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

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

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



New Beginnings - Lenten On-Line One-Day Retreat

New Beginnings



URC Spirituality is offering a FREE online one-day retreat via Zoom, based over three short sessions during the day – on Saturday 22 March 2025.

We will be thinking about Lent using a variety of approaches.

The sessions are:

10.00am for around 45mins - led by Jane Weedon

12.30am for around 45mins - led by Kathryn Price

3.30pm for around an hour - led by Ann Barton and concluded by Jane Weedon

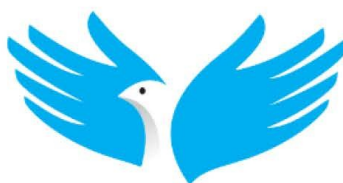
There will be takeaways that you may like to do during the day and there will be the opportunity to share with each other in the final session.

Following our sharing of thoughts and experiences, Ann will then lead us in a short meditation based on two verses from the well-known hymn 'Now the green blade riseth', written by John Macleod Campbell Crum. It is sometimes known as 'Love is come again'.

We will then conclude with prayer.

Please book via the URC Spirituality website at:

<https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/events-and-retreats/>



United Reformed Church
SPIRITUALITY

Deadline for Applying to the DDFLG

The deadline of 31st March is approaching for applications for **Discipleship Development Fund Large Grants**.

For the Large Grant, around £5,000 per award per year is available to recognised groups within the URC. Grants can be put towards any purpose that will contribute to the Discipleship Development of lay people in or connected with the URC. Multi-year projects can be supported for up to three years and a tapered approach to funding is encouraged. Applications for grants that only partially fund a project are acceptable, but the application will need to identify the source of the other funds. Any recognised group can apply, but if the group applying is not an Assembly Committee or a Synod, it will need to gain approval for its application from their Assembly Committee or Synod. Applicants need to clearly demonstrate how the grant will be used to develop discipleship and lifelong learning within the URC.

Over the past few years, the DDFLGAG (Discipleship Development Fund Large Grants Award Group) has awarded grants to a variety of projects encouraging people's discipleship across the URC. These include:

- Funding for a Children's and Family Worker in Birmingham
- Funding for a Discipleship Development Worker at Cheltenham URC
- 2 'Leading Your Church into Growth' conferences run by the five northerly Synods
- 2 retreat days run by Leeds URC Partnership Retreat for churches across the Partnership
- Funding to take a youth group from Thamesmead to a Christian festival
- A Worship and Bible Hub in North Wales
- 'Faithful Flourishing Day' in Northern Synod
- A 3-year initiative supporting the discipleship of Trans + Gender non-conforming people in Oxford
- Funding for marginalised and minoritised families and individuals to attend the URC Holiday Forum
- A World Poetry Day in Hull, to encourage the discipleship of local church people

And many more! Please spread the word as we are always open to receiving more applications. All the information about how to apply can be found on the following link – it is important that anyone applying follows all the criteria, including if requested the submission of church accounts:

<https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/developing-your-faith/discipleship-development-fund/>

Application forms should be emailed to: secretaryeandl@urc.org.uk

Philippa Linton

Administrator, Education & Learning |The United Reformed Church

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

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



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.

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



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 - Venue TBC

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

Venue TBC

Lunch provided.

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

deputyclerk@nwsynod.org.uk

Providence Talks - The Gospel of Mark

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

Church and Community Resources

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

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-Yidokodilona)
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 Radaclalisation

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!**

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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](#)



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



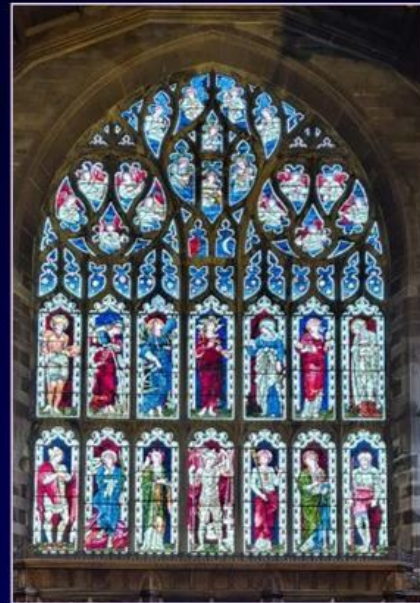
Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us for a special

ORGAN CONCERT

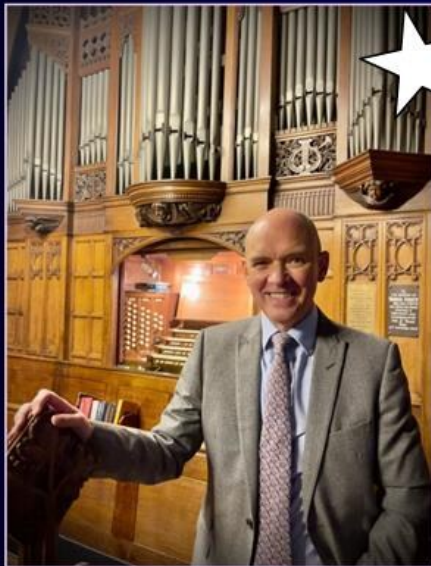
with displays of the Church's History



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

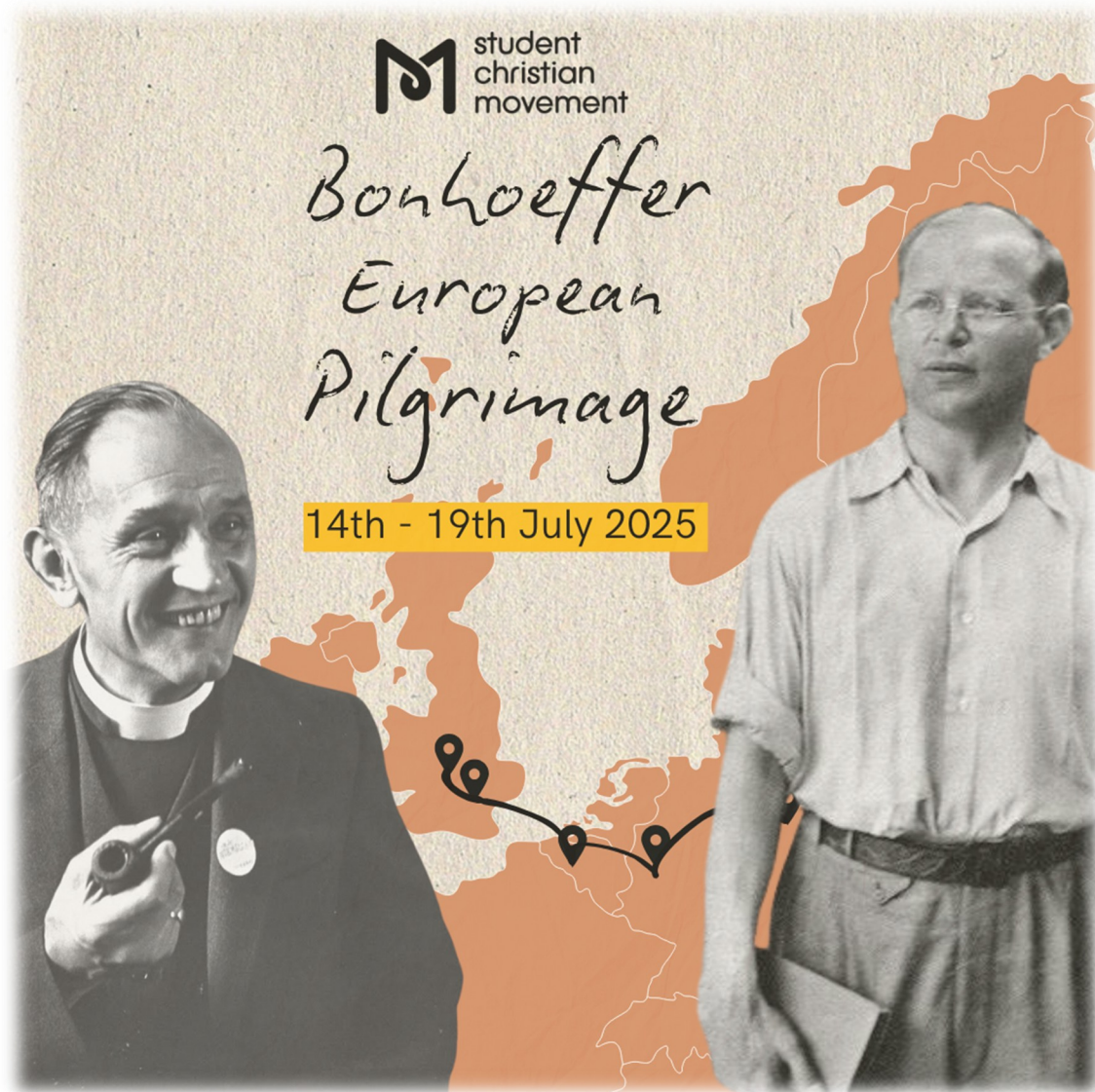


Bonhoeffer European Pilgrimage 2025

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](#)



Churches Together in Lancashire - Some Dates to Save

Some dates to save:

- **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 and 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.

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.



The
United
Reformed
Church



Contact
[children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org)
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



Working with Young People

For more information, or to book, please email Leo at cydo@nwsynod.org.uk

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

Topics covered
Adolescent Development
Engaging young people with the bible
How can we have more humility

Monday 24th March
7pm to 9pm
To book your place contact
cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk

YOUTHSCAPE ESSENTIALS

The United Reformed Church Youth

You should be aware of the ‘Talking About...’ sessions Leo runs each month that explore a particular topic or issue relating to children’s or youth work. They last an hour (details of the March session is also in this newsletter).

Some topics need longer than one hour! So, over the next 9 months, Leo and his colleagues from Mersey and Yorkshire synods are running ‘Essentials’ sessions to explore particular issues with those who work with young people.

As each session deals with a particular issue, they are standalone – there’s no need to attend all the sessions (unless you want to!)

The next session is on **March 24th (7-9pm)**

How does the way teenagers develop affect the ways with which we might engage with them?

Young people and the Bible - ne'er the twain shall meet?

Explore these issues (and more) at our Youthscape Essentials session on **Monday, March 24th (7-9pm)**. Book your place by emailing Leo (cydo@nwsynod.org.uk) or the email on the graphic (cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk)

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

The United Reformed Church Youth

The poster features a dark blue background with yellow accents. It includes two circular images: one of colorful canoes on a lake and another of a campfire at sunset. A central white circle contains the text 'COST £120'. At the bottom, there is a white bar with a 'BOOK NOW' button, the booking link, and the logo for 'The United Reformed Church Youth'.

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

Trustee Vacancies for The Leprosy Mission Great Britain

The Leprosy Mission Great Britain wish to share a message from the Chair of their Board of Trustees:

“Dear Friend

I writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Board of Trustees to ask if you will please circulate our vacancies amongst your congregation.

This is a strategic and exciting time to join The Leprosy Mission; we have a strong and committed group of Trustees who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to support the governance and future direction of the organisation. Sadly we have a number of trustees, including myself, who are nearing the completion of their tenure.

Following a recent review, we are seeking to appoint three Trustees to join us, particularly in the areas of fundraising, finance or digital marketing / communications. [More details about the position can be found here.](#)

As you know we are an explicitly Christian charity. The ethos, function and decision-making of the Board is in keeping with the teaching and ministry of Jesus. Trustees must therefore be committed and mature Christians, able to demonstrate a personal commitment to Jesus Christ which is reflected in their devotional life and involvement in a Christian community.

Joining our Board provides an excellent opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of people affected by leprosy and to gain valuable experience in being part of a forward-thinking team.

So, please do share this opportunity and join me in prayer that God will bring the right people forward to join the Trustee team.

With kind regards and blessings

Anne Fendick

Chair – Board of Trustees”

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

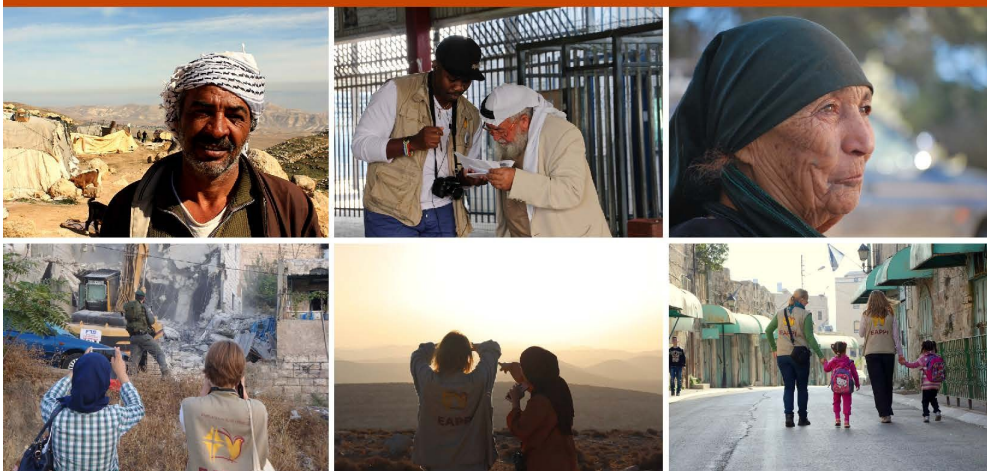
The EAPPI are recruiting human rights monitors for 2026. They call their human rights monitors Ecumenical Accompaniers, or EAs for short. EAs spend three months in the occupied West Bank witnessing and monitoring human rights violations and standing in solidarity with local peace activists. When they 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**

Kairos Housing are looking for an Operations Manager

For all the details, including how to apply, visit www.kairoshousing.org.uk/work-for-us

KAIROS **HOUSING**

WE'RE HIRING!

Do you have the management, financial and operational expertise to help us grow our charity?

We're looking for an **Operations Manager** passionate about supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

"Kairos Housing brings hope...and hope is everything."

Be a part of bringing that hope,
download our Job Pack and apply today!
www.kairoshousing.org.uk/work-for-us

Closing date: 17th April

The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust

The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust is seeking to appoint a Clerk to the Trustees to succeed the current postholder on his retirement.

The role involves overseeing the general administration and financial affairs of the charity.

Hours : In the region of 35 to 40 hours per month, worked flexibly

Remuneration : £17,000 - £19,000 plus pension

The position will be home based with some meetings in Central London and Cambridge.

The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust maintains the Congregational Library and makes grants to fund the work and mission of Congregational and United Reformed Churches.

For further information see the Trust's website www.conglib.ac.uk

Applications by email to: willie.duncan@conglib.ac.uk

or in writing to:

The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust (1978) Limited, 17 Springfield Park, Alwick, Northumberland NE66 2NH

Closing Date for Applications - **15th May 2025**

Interviews will be held in London on **5th June 2025**



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

