

# North Western Synod Magazine



**Good News Stories**  
across our synod

**Learning Events**  
in your area

**Children and Youth**  
news and events

**Save the Date**  
events for your diary

**Synod and URC**  
news and updates

for our  
**Prayers**

## Emmanuel Church Your Community Hub



### Featured this issue:

National Churches  
Trust Grants

Children's Ministry  
Essentials

URC Holiday Forum  
2026

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## Lancashire Missional Partnership Retired Ministers, Widows and Widowers Lunch

The Moderator and current clergy team in the Lancashire Missional Partnership recently hosted a lunch at Samlesbury Hall, Preston, for retired clergy and spouses who live in Lancashire.

The guests enjoyed excellent food and the portions were huge! Some people took their puddings home!

It was great for old friends to catch up and was a really joyful occasion.



# News from Bury United Reformed Church

## The Trials and Tribulations of a Harvest Festival and Lunch

Bury URC held their Harvest Festival on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. It did not go smoothly. The weekend before we held our monthly Saturday Café. At that time the cooker was working fine. On Sunday, it was noticed someone had switched off the cooker switch. No problem, just put it back on. Ha ha - easily said. It was switched on and the cooker clock went haywire and the ovens didn't work. So, what do you do? - switch off and start again. Same thing happened. Somehow we managed to get the cooker working and it was ok'd for the next Sunday for the harvest meal.

Susan very kindly brought the ingredients and set up the tables. Pam prepared the worship area with a display of fruit and veg. The lunch was agreed as vegetable terrine with chicken and sausages. Carol made a couple of fruit crumbles and we also had a mandarin and pineapple pieces in jelly with ice cream.

Come Sunday morning all was going well, the ovens were on and no problems. Then everything went off. Panic stations. The chicken and sausages needed cooking. Nothing had tripped. Finally, the cooker appeared to be working but only the bottom oven. We needed the top oven. A quick call to home to put the ovens on and the chicken and sausages were taken home to cook. The hob was working so everything else was ok.

We start our service at 11 and Susan (our organist) returned just in time just a bit flustered. The harvest festival service included information of the three harvests as noted in the Old Testament - the Barley Festival, the Wheat Festival and the Festival of Apples (also known as the Festival of Tabernacles).

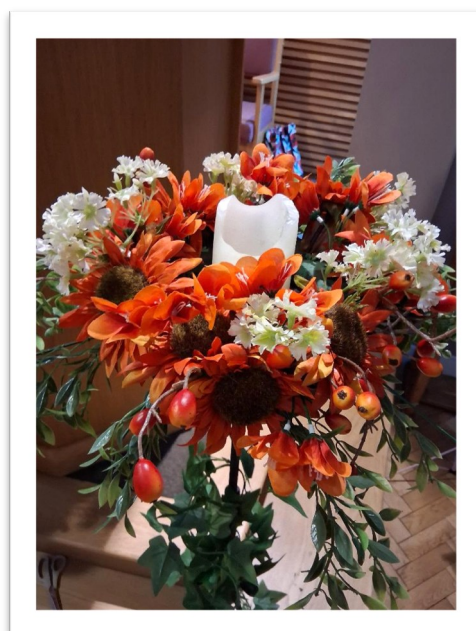
The Altar Table had been covered in a cloth to represent a tabernacle. During the service at each mention of the three festivals - barley, wheat/ bread and apples were presented to the table.

After the service Susan had to return home to collect the cooked chicken and sausages. So it was a little later when we all sat down to a delicious lunch.

Bury URC support the Porch Box Appeal and the congregation was very generous in their giving of dried food and tins towards this at the harvest service.

All Susan's and Carol's hard work was greatly appreciated.

**Pam Rowley**



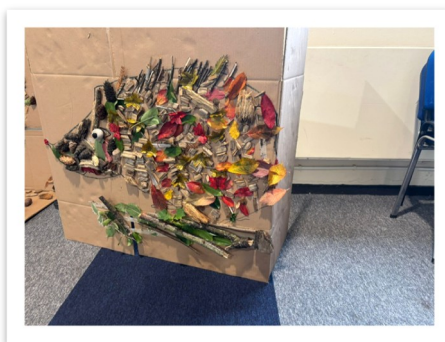
## Pilots Camp 2025



On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 42 Pilots and Leaders from Union Stockport and Red Lane Bolton made their way to Quinta Christian Centre in Oswestry for a weekend of fellowship and fun.

After finding their beds and hot dogs they split into groups named after our theme for the weekend which was The Environment. They learned about the animal that their watch was named after - Badger, Owl and Hedgehog - and reported back what they had discovered. We had worship which was prepared by Rev'd Ruth Watson who was unable to act as our chaplain this year due but sent what she had prepared and David led worship. Thank you Ruth. After Tuck Shop it was time for bed.

I think that some did sleep for a while but Karen had them up at 7.00am for breakfast! After breakfast we had worship, room inspection and then the watches went outside and gathered items to make a collage of their animal. The results were fantastic.



After a variation of the Post Box Game, it was lunch time and then the under 11's went swimming whilst the over 11's played games on the field - and then swapped once we thought they were wrinkly enough.

The evening was a selection of games then worship, tuck shop and bed. A very busy day!

Sunday morning, they were not quite so bright eyed and bushy tailed but after breakfast and worship launched themselves into the junk modelling where they were tasked to produce an appropriate shelter for their animals. There were some 5-star properties made which I am sure would be a cosy home for them all.

Lunch and some quiz-type games based on the weekend and then our final worship and goodbyes before boarding our coaches and heading for home. I immediately fell asleep so it was a good journey. Handing them over to parents was a bittersweet time as we loved seeing their smiles all weekend.

We had a fantastic time and the Pilots were great at engaging with the activities and on the whole well-behaved.

My thanks to Ruth, Tracy, Dan, David, Karen and Andy, and a special thanks to Clare Downing for joining us for Friday night over to Saturday (if you need someone to do hot dogs....!)

**Anne Hatch**



## Opening of new Church Hall at Trinity URC

Trinity URC, Lancaster, officially opened its new Church Hall on the weekend of 27th / 28th September. The official opening was performed by Cat Smith, the MP for Lancaster and Wyre, who cut a ceremonial ribbon to declare the hall open for business.

Saturday 27th was an Open Day for anyone to drop in, admire the new hall and enjoy some light refreshments. The footfall was beyond our expectations and at one point we ran out of crockery. The amount of cake consumed had to be seen to be believed!

On Sunday 28th we held a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication, led by Rev'd Dr Irene John. This was followed by a buffet lunch.

The whole weekend was a wonderfully uplifting experience and we now look forward to the hall taking its place in church and community life.

**Lynne Cadzow**



# Safeguarding Training



Please click [here](#) for the amended URC Levels of Mandatory Safeguarding Training Matrix (England).

## Safeguarding Foundation E-Learning Course

Please click on the following link to access the module: [Safeguarding Foundation Course](#)

## Introduction to Safeguarding E-Learning Course

The Introduction to Safeguarding in the URC course is designed for those who are asked to do Foundation Level training **but who already come with a background in safeguarding and have completed training within a professional organisation in the previous three years**. This course does not look at the signs and symptoms of abuse - if you need information on this you will need to complete Foundation level training (see above). Please click on the link to access this online course:

[An Introduction to Safeguarding in the URC](#)

## Online + Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training

The following courses are delivered by your Synod Safeguarding Officer, Yvette, either online or at face-to-face venues. Please book your place by emailing Joanne at [helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk) providing your full name, your church, your role and your preferred course (level, date and time).

## Intermediate Safeguarding Training

The next training sessions are:

**Monday 17th November 2025—6.30pm to 8.30pm—Face-to-Face Intermediate  
—Peasley Cross URC**

4 Beaufort Street, Saint Helens, WA9 3BE - Joint training with Mersey Synod

**Wednesday 26th November —6.00pm to 8.00pm—Online Intermediate**

## Combined Foundation + Intermediate Safeguarding Training

This session combines both Foundation and Intermediate modules **instead of** completing the E-Learning Foundation course **and** the Intermediate course.

The next training sessions are:

**Sat 25th October 2025—10am to 12.30pm - Face-to-Face Combined Foundation + Intermediate—  
Cornerstone URC**

111 Burnage Lane, Manchester, M19 2WH

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025—12pm to 2.30pm - Online**

**Sat 15th November 2025 - 10am to 12.30pm - Online**



## Advanced Safeguarding Training

Advanced Safeguarding training is delivered online over 2 x 2 hour sessions.

The next training sessions are:

**Online Advanced - Tues 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - 6pm-8pm - Module 1**

**Online Advanced - Tues 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - 6pm-8pm - Module 2**

## Church House Additional Training

Church House **ADDITIONAL** training dates for 2025 can be found [here](#).

You can book by emailing [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk) stating your name, church, role and course preference.

## URC Learning Hub

For more information about the courses and resources available on the URC Learning Hub please click [here](#).

## Newsletter from the URC Safeguarding Team

The quarterly Newsletters from the URC Safeguarding Team contain useful information and updates on all things Safeguarding. To access the latest editions please click [here](#)

## Safeguarding Contacts

**Yvette Hansbury-Robinson** - Synod Safeguarding Officer - [safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk)

**General Safeguarding Queries** - relating to safeguarding training and/or DBS, please email the Safeguarding Team on [helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk)

**“Safeguarding is a whole church responsibility”**

## Talking About...Brains In Bloom



### TALKING ABOUT... BRAINS IN *bloom*

with Lisa Campbell

TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER, 7-8PM

Explore how children's and  
teenagers' brains develop  
and what that means for  
our ministry

[bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout](https://bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout)



Children and young people aren't just small adults — their brains are rapidly developing in ways that shape how they think, feel, relate, and respond to the world around them. This session will unpack insights into how young minds grow, what's happening in their brains at different stages, and how these changes affect their behaviour, decision-making, and faith development.

Together, we'll explore how understanding brain development can transform the way we minister to young people, helping us offer age-appropriate support, create safe and nurturing environments, and build meaningful, lasting connections. By learning how God designed the developing brain, we'll be better equipped to meet children and young people where they are — spiritually, emotionally, and relationally — and disciple them more effectively in every season of growth.

Book your free place at [www.bit.ly/T4lkingabout](https://www.bit.ly/T4lkingabout)

## Children's Ministry Essentials

### Children's Ministry Essentials

**A comprehensive introduction to mission and ministry with children whatever context you work in.**

10 online group sessions, Saturdays 10am - 12noon

To register contact [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk)

|                                                                |                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov 8 - The world of the child                                 | Jun 13 - Participation                                  |
| Dec 13 - The developing child                                  | Jul 11 - Contexts of mission and ministry with children |
| Jan 10 - Biblical perspectives on children                     | Sep 12 - Pastoral Care                                  |
| Feb 14 - The role of play in faith formation                   | Oct 3 - Leadership and teamwork                         |
| Apr 11 - Creating space for children in our church communities |                                                         |
| May 9 - Inclusion                                              |                                                         |

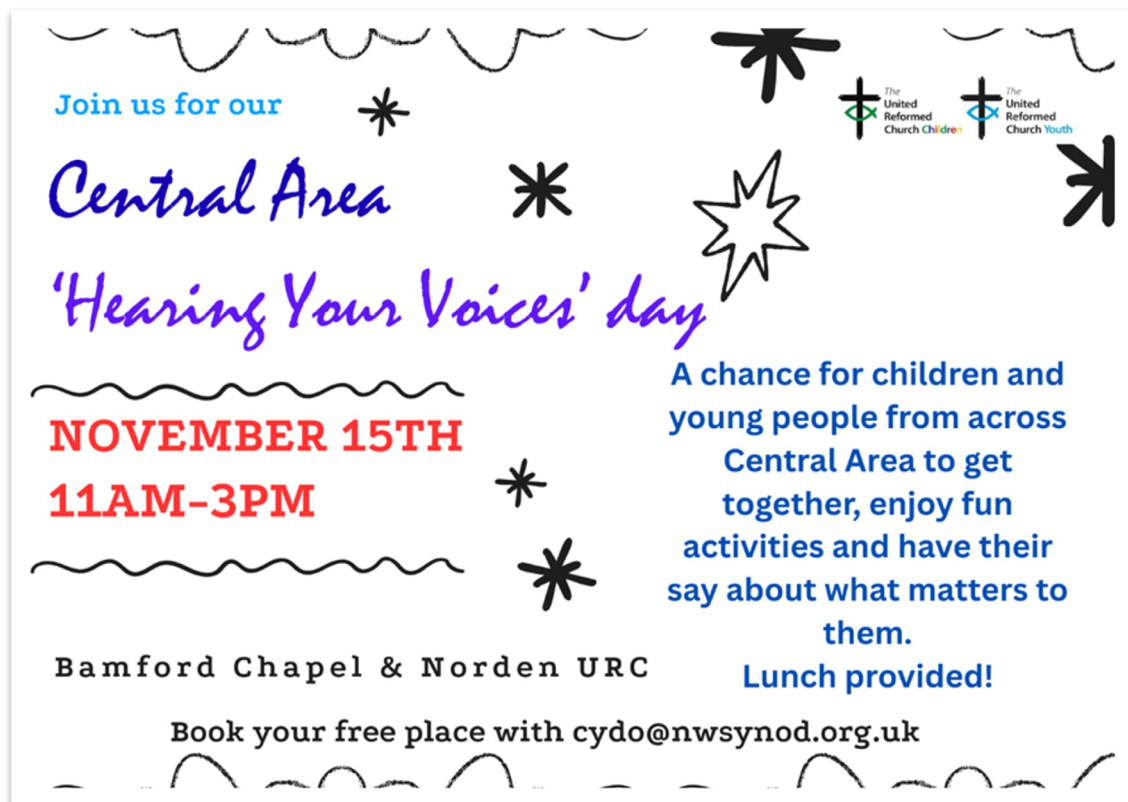


This new course replaces the Core Skills for Children's Work course that many of those in the Synod who work with children undertook some years ago!

It's a brand new curriculum and will be delivered online on Saturday mornings once a month facilitated by members of the CYDO+ team (including Leo).

To register for the course, or to get more details, email: [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk)

## Central Area Youth Day – Hearing Your Voices



A day for young people (year 6 and above) to come together for fun activities, food and to share what matters to them. There will be games, craft activities and discussions. And food!

Please share this event with ALL the young people with whom you have contact – youth groups, uniformed organisations, schools pupils – and encourage, and enable them, to come along and have their say!

For more information, and to book places, email Leo: [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

# URC Children's Workers Together Conference

**URC Children's Workers Together:  
THE CONFERENCE  
28-30 November 2025!**



**Exploring how we work with Children together**

By popular demand we are moving to  
**Highgate House Conference Centre in Northampton**  
for a sumptuous weekend of learning together.



The theme is participation and the wonderful  
**Peter Privett of Godly Play  
and Child Theology Movement**  
(co-author of *Through the  
Eyes of a Child*) will be our main speaker



**Book your place today by emailing  
[children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) – full weekend  
Places cost £210 (funding available through Synods or  
Pilots).**

**workshops, worship, keynotes, networking, resources,  
making, exploring, laughing**

“It was absolutely jam-packed with knowledge, tools and resources for us to use with lots of advice and support to encourage us in our ministries with children”.

These were the words of Emma Sutcliffe, Children and Families Worker at Chorlton Central church after her experience at the conference last year.

It would be great to have even more North Western Synod participants this year and remember, you can apply for a small grant (up to £150) from the Synod Children and Youth Committee to help with the conference cost. Contact Tim Hopley at [clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk) for an application form.

**You can register for the conference by emailing: [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk)**

## Act It Out – Luther King House



**ACT IT OUT!**

Are you under 26?  
Are you interested in using drama and dance in worship?  
Do you want more confidence to share  
your faith with your friends?

Then this **free** training day is for you!

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOV | 10AM-4PM**  
**LUTHER KING HOUSE BRIGHTON GROVE,  
MANCHESTER M14 5JP**



This event is open to any young person (secondary school age and above) who wants to explore using drama and dance in worship. Workshops will be led by young adults from Mersey Synod who are experienced in weaving less traditional forms of worship into services.

We will be joined in the morning by Naomi (CEO of the Student Christian Movement) who will share with us ideas about how we can talk about our faith with our friends and peers.

To book your free place, email [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk).

# URC Holiday Forum 2026



Holiday Forum 2026 will take place at the Hayes from 23rd—26th August 2026. The theme for the event is 'Cultivating a Flourishing Faith'. Holiday Forum is a heady holiday mix of faith, fun and fellowship. You will be able to attend in person, or book in to share in parts of the programme virtually.

For more information or to book your place please click [here](#).

Ice Creams - Daily Timetables - Amazing Leaders

Happy Memories - Outdoor Activities - Laughter -



**HOLIDAY FORUM**  
faith, fun and fellowship

**Who are we?**  
We are a diverse group of Christians who meet each year in August, at the Hayes in Swanwick, Derbyshire. We share our faith, have fun and make new friends!

You can play games like table tennis, Scrabble, Yahtzee, bowls and more!

**What happens at Holiday Forum?**  
We share in worship, discussion groups based on a theme. We do arts and crafts, take part in a talent show. We often go as strangers and come away having made new friends.

**YOU'LL BE GUARANTEED A WARM WELCOME!**

All-age worship and organised children and young people groups each morning!

- Young & Old - Faith, Fun & Fellowship - Organised -

Respectful - Unbelievable Friendships - Meaningful



## Autumn Arts at Altrincham URC

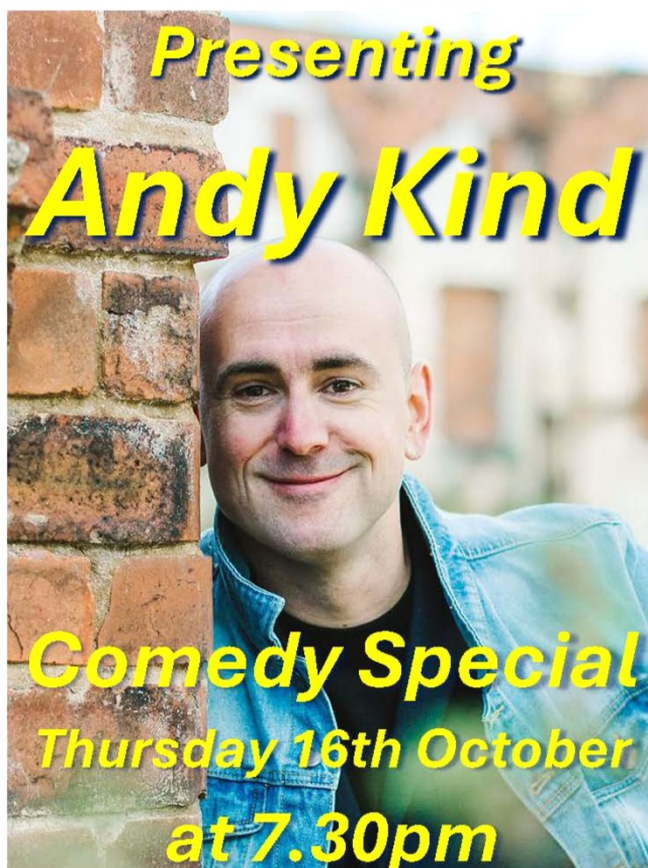
For more information, or to book tickets for Andy Kind's comedy night, please email [outreach@altrinchamurc.org.uk](mailto:outreach@altrinchamurc.org.uk) or leave a message on Tel: 0161 929 9747.

# AUTUMN ARTS AT AURC

## 13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> October

### Art Exhibition by local Christian artists

Admission FREE, open 12 noon to 3pm  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY



*Presenting*  
**Andy Kind**  
**Comedy Special**  
**Thursday 16th October**  
**at 7.30pm**

Altrincham United Reformed Church  
81 Cecil Rd (corner of Ashley Rd)  
Hale WA15 9NT  
[www.altrinchamurc.org.uk](http://www.altrinchamurc.org.uk)

**An Autumn Festival of events  
at ALTRINCHAM URC**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 10.45am**  
Special service celebrating  
harvest

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 1pm**  
Free harvest lunch  
everyone welcome

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2pm and  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2pm**  
**Make your own art**  
Free sessions where a local artist  
will support you to create an art  
piece just for you

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm**  
A one off **Comedy Special** with  
stand-up comedian **Andy Kind**  
Tickets: £5, concessions £3

For more information, or to book  
tickets for Andy Kind's comedy  
night please email  
[outreach@altrinchamurc.org.uk](mailto:outreach@altrinchamurc.org.uk)  
or leave a message with the Church  
Office on **0161 929 9747**

# Worshipping through Winter

## A gathering for all who lead worship in URC churches and Ecumenical partnerships

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025. 10am-1:30pm**

**Hazel Grove URC, Short Street,**

**NW Synod South area (East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders, Greater Manchester South, and Manchester and Salford Urban Mission)**

Alicia Jones (South area lay preacher advocate) and Liz Delafield (Mission and discipleship mentor, South area) got together in the Summer to reflect on how we can best support lay preachers in our area. People tell us that they value opportunities to share ideas and resources, and simply to get to know others who lead worship. This is an opportunity to do just that.

Please bring with you any resources you may wish to share for Advent, Christmas and January. We will be returning to year A again in the lectionary. Perhaps look at the readings for those services you have been asked to take and bring those with you. We hope that the gathering will have a real practical focus, so you should come away with lots of ideas. If there are specific things you would like us to cover, let us know and we can build that in. This day is for you.

There will also be an opportunity to reflect on ways we can support each other in the future.

We will end the event with lunch together. Please bring your own lunch. We will provide some seasonal treats. Thank you to Hazel Grove URC who have offered to host us and provide tea and coffee.

Please pass this onto those who lead worship in your church, or anyone who is considering beginning to do so.

Please let us know you are coming by **27<sup>th</sup> October** - Liz Delafield [liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk) or Alicia Jones [southlpadvocate@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:southlpadvocate@nwsynod.org.uk)

## Worshipping through Winter

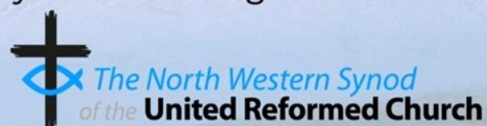
### **Worship leaders' gathering. Worshipping through winter.**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 10am-1:30  
Hazel Grove URC Short Street SK7 4AD**

- **For all who lead worship in URC churches or ecumenical partnerships.**
- **We will finish with lunch together. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee/tea and Christmas themed treats provided.**
- **A chance to connect and share ideas and resources for Advent, Christmas and January. Please bring any resources that you find helpful.**



Contact Liz Delafield  
[liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk)  
or Alicia Jones  
[southlpadvocate@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:southlpadvocate@nwsynod.org.uk) to let us  
know you are coming.



# Christian Community Hub Movement



## Launch Event November 6th

**Salvation Army, Merton Close, Oldbury, West Midlands  
B68 8NG**

Christian Community Hubs are multiplying and growing across the country, building supportive communities with the life and love at Jesus at their heart. These wonderful ministries are transforming many local communities and bringing more and more people to know and love Jesus. The purpose of the Movement is to enable mutual inspiration, learning and resourcing so that every neighbourhood can be blessed by a Christian Community Hub.

Also, at the launch event there is an opportunity to have an exhibition stand and to run a short 20 min workshop to promote your work.

Click [here](#) for booking details to attend and / or to have an exhibition stand.

There is a small fee for this, as the entire enterprise is running on faith for God to provide!

If you would like to run a short workshop please let me know, there is no additional charge for this but there are a limited number of workshop slots, so it will be first come first served.

We've also set up a Facebook group to share encouragement and resources, we'd also like this to be used by like-minded groups / organisations -so please do join:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1108174417309788/?ref=share>

If you'd like any more information or would just like to have a chat, please do get in touch.

**Nigel Adams - Co-Ordinator Christian Community Hub Movement**

[nigel@transformingnottstogether.org.uk](mailto:nigel@transformingnottstogether.org.uk)

[www.christiancommunityhubs.uk](http://www.christiancommunityhubs.uk)

## Methodist Sacramental Fellowship Online Gathering



### **METHODIST SACRAMENTAL FELLOWSHIP**

**NOVEMBER 7th/8th**

**ONLINE GATHERING**

**SPEAKERS AND THEMES**

**Revd Dr Susan Durber**

**Nicaea Council and Creed**

Revd Dr Susan Durber is a minister of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, and the World Council of Churches President from Europe.

She has served local churches, as Principal of Westminster College Cambridge and as Theology Advisor at Christian Aid.

From 2014-2022 she was Moderator of the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC.

She has published books on preaching, on the parables of Jesus, collections of prayers, and articles and statements on ecumenism.

**Revd Adam Stevenson**

**Angels abound:**

**Iconography in the paintings of Norman Adams**

A former Chair of the Fellowship, Adam is the Superintendent Minister of the Scotland Circuit and a member of the Management Committee of the Methodist Modern Art Collection.

## Programme

### Friday

7.00 Evening Prayer

7.30 Session 1 - Susan Durber

8.45 - 9.00 *short break*

9.00 Compline

### Saturday

9.00 Morning Prayer

9.30 Session 2 - Susan Durber

10.45 Break

11.15 session 3 - Adam Stevenson

12.30 Lunch

1.30 Holy Communion

Please email: [MSF@manleyparkchurch.org.uk](mailto:MSF@manleyparkchurch.org.uk) to let us know you want to join us by **October 21<sup>st</sup>** and we will email the Zoom link to you a few days before November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please share this flier with anyone you feel would like to join us.

If you know people who would be interested but can't manage the technology, why not invite them to join you at your home, or if your church has the technology, host a local group for all or part of the conference?

## Worsley Road URC Christmas Fair

### **Worsley Rd U.R. Church**

**Houghton Lane, Swinton**

### **Christmas Fair**

*To be opened by*

**Moorside Primary School Choir at 10.30am**

**Rainbows and Brownies at 11.30am**

**Urban Stage School of Performing Arts at 12.30pm**

**SCL School of Dance at 1.30pm**

**Visit Father Christmas**

**Tasty Refreshments,**

**Bottle Stall, Cake Stall,**

**Pirates, Craft Stalls, Face Painting,**

**Raffle, Tombolas**

**& much more.**

**• Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**10.30am - 4pm**

## J S Bach Christmas Oratorio

Message from Leslie Robinson - Publicity Officer, William Byrd Singers

Dear Friends

I am writing to let you know about a very special event taking place in Manchester this Advent season – a performance of J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* on **Sunday 14th December at 2.30pm** in the prestigious Stoller Hall.

This remarkable work offers a **grown-up retelling of the Nativity story**, told entirely through Bible texts set to glorious music. With its memorable arias and rousing choruses, it provides a wonderful way for adults and congregations alike to encounter the Christmas story afresh.

For more information and to book tickets please click the link:

[William Byrd Singers – Christmas Oratorio | Stoller Hall](#)

Our aim is to keep the ticket price as low as possible in order to make the concert accessible to a wider audience. We are therefore running a **rewards-based crowdfunder** to help bring this performance to life. For more information you can find the crowdfunder here: [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bach-in-time-for-christmas](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bach-in-time-for-christmas)

We would be deeply grateful if you could share news of this concert and the crowdfunder with your congregation or community. A flyer is attached for your use.

Thank you so much for your support. We hope you and your community will be able to join us for what promises to be a truly glorious celebration of the Christmas story.

With best wishes

**Leslie Robinson**



## J S Bach Christmas Oratorio

# J.S. Bach Christmas Oratorio

Parts 1,2,5 & 6

*Sung in German*

Taylor London (soprano)  
Tim Morgan (counter-tenor)  
Ruairi Bowen (tenor)  
Andrew Slater (bass)

The William Byrd Singers

18th Century Sinfonia

*Conductor:* Keith Orrell

2.30PM

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025

THE STOLLER HALL

Hunts Bank, Manchester M3 1DA

William  
**Byrd**  
Singers



**Tickets £27.50, students £5.50**

Available from [stollerhall.com](http://stollerhall.com)



WilliamByrdSingers



williambyrdsingers

[www.williambyrdsingers.com](http://www.williambyrdsingers.com)

## Autumn Synod - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Synod this year will be held at Lancaster University with a start time of 10.30am.

If you are unable to join either in person, or online, then please see if another member of your church is able to attend as Synod Representative. If someone else is attending on your behalf, please ensure that you let Kerry at the office know in advance (08000 903 903 or [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk))

There will be a limited bookshop available at lunchtime; if you would like any 2026 URC Prayer Handbooks, please let Kerry [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk) have your order in advance of the meeting.

## National Churches Trust Grants



National Churches Trust Grants are available to any church looking to undertake works to their building to help support ongoing worship, community engagement etc. including repairs to roof, install a kitchen or accessible toilets, clear asbestos or simply need help undertaking regular essential maintenance to the building,

They offer a variety of grants dependent on the work required, from £10,000 to £50,000.

There are different deadlines for grant applications. The next being **4<sup>th</sup> November** for Large grants (£50,000) then **16<sup>th</sup> December** for Medium and Small grants up to £10,000.00.

Please click here for more information:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants>

**Mike Aspinall**

## Minister's Away Day

To book your place and advise of any dietary requirements please email Joanne at [Helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:Helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk)



**MINISTER'S AWAY DAY**

**27th November 2025**  
**10am to 3.30pm**

**Brockholes Nature Reserve**

**Preston New Road, Samlesbury,  
Preston, PR5 0AG**

The day will include training in Conflict Transformation with Martha Hunt and Helen Boothroyd from Place for Hope, as well as a tour of Brockholes Nature Reserve.

To book your place and advise of any dietary requirements, please email Joanne at [helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk)

## Table Talk Coasters



**A new partnership between the conversation-starter charity Ugly Duckling and the United Reformed Church is looking to put coasters on tables throughout the UK and spark one million faith-informed conversations in two years.**

Many thousands of eco-friendly coasters are being produced as part of Ugly Duckling's TableTalk resources – a range of products designed to help people have life-changing conversations.

Each coaster is designed with a few questions to spark a conversation, as well as a QR code that links to a daily question on Ugly Duckling's website. And to drive the initiative forward, 100,000 of the coasters are being distributed by the URC, each one bearing a unique URC question: "When have you been filled with wonder?"

Suitable for use in homes, cafés, churches, universities, workplaces, or even left for someone to pick up from a train table, the coasters can be used by anyone in any space. They can be simply left for someone to ponder on their own, or used in a more intentionally missional way – for example, by volunteers at coffee mornings.

We have a supply of these coasters at the Synod Office - if your church runs cafes or other suitable events where you could make use of these coasters please contact Joanne at [helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk).

## for our Prayers

### Statement from the GM Faith and Belief Panel & GM Faith Community Leaders



Following the recent incident at Heaton Park Synagogue, our prayers are with the Jewish community following this attack. Please find below a statement from Greater Manchester Faith Community Leaders and a prayer from the North Western Synod, which you may find helpful and which can be used by churches.

**"We stand in solidarity with the local Jewish community following a serious incident at a synagogue in north Manchester. This is an appalling attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year.**

**We share the Mayor of Greater Manchester's thoughts: "We think of them and their families as they recover from this incident".**

**We affirm the work of the emergency services and pray for the wider Jewish community who are understandably in shock.**

**We ask that people do not speculate on any aspect of the incident.**

**Today and every other day the Faith Communities in Greater Manchester actively stand together against hate and with our diverse communities."**

*With our Jewish sisters and brothers,  
we grieve, mourn, and pray,  
bringing to the Eternal One,  
our pain and protest,  
our tears and tenderness,  
our fears and failures.*

*O Most High,  
we lift to You all who live in fright and anger,  
especially today the Jewish communities of  
Manchester;  
bring peace and security,  
tenderness – even in the face of tragedy,  
and balm for the affliction of our souls.*

*With those praying and fasting, Risen Lord,  
we long for redemption from hatred and terror.  
We yearn for a just and equal world where all are  
safe,  
whether in the street, at work, or at worship  
in synagogue, mosque, temple, gurdwara, or  
church.*

*Guide with Your wisdom, Holy Spirit,  
the police and security services as they  
investigate,  
civic and religious leaders as they work for calm,  
that none may exploit devastation to bring division,  
so that believer and non believer alike may work  
together for the good of all.*

*Finally, Eternal God,  
we remember before You those murdered today,  
and their family, friends, and communities,  
may your perpetual light shine upon them, and  
give them peace  
as we seek to build a better world.  
Amen.*