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for our Prayers ...

Please pray for others around our Synod, Church, and World

News from Bury URC

At Bury URC we had a delightful Sunday service led by Rev'd Anne Stokes.

At this service we welcomed five new members through transfer from Blackford Bridge URC, which closed earlier this year, to Bury URC as well as accepting two new members to Bury URC.

Fran, Pamela, Marion, Olwen and Chris were welcomed by Rev'd Anne Stokes as transfer of membership.

Janet and Matthew were welcomed as new members by Rev'd Anne Stokes. They were each given a certificate of membership and were also welcomed by the Church Secretary Carol Majiyagbe.

It was a lovely service with Rev'd Anne speaking of leadership, responsibility and support. The new members were each given a bouquet of flowers.

Pam Rowley - Elder, Bury URC



News from St Paul's with St John's

It gives me great pleasure to share the news from one of our fellow worshippers here at St PJs - St Paul's with St John's, Abbey Hey, Gorton.

Gerald Albert Snr

Gerald Snr and his wife Venicia, along with their family Gerald Jnr, Germaine, Geraldine & Geralyne, who were originally from Nigeria, joined us around 10 years ago. We have seen them grow as a family from early school days to adulthood and they have really embedded themselves within our church family here at St PJs.

Around 18 months ago Gerald Snr founded the charity support group "KINGS" (Knowledgeable Inspiring Next Generations) an organisation focussed on knife crime amongst young adults. Within the first 12 months the charity was shortlisted for an award and invited to the award ceremony "Manchester Forever". The charity was surprisingly awarded "Community Group of the Year" in the category for "the community group or project that has made a meaningful and significant impact strengthening communities in Manchester."

Moving on from this, Gerald was recently invited to an event in London, unsure of what he was attending. WOW! He was awarded and presented with a "United Nations Ambassador for Peace" which allows him, should he visit the USA anytime in the near future, an open passport to access the United Nations building!

What an honour!! We all congratulate him on this amazing achievement.

Well done Gerald. Your church family are very proud of you.

What next, watch this space!!

Ronnie Munton - Elder - St Pauls with St Johns





News from Poulton-le-Fylde URC

On Sunday, at Poulton, we celebrated our harvest festival and we were also delighted to welcome Lucy as a new member.

The Rev'd Jim led a lovely service about prayer and we also sang a number of hymns. Afterwards we all enjoyed a time of fellowship with a Jacob's Join Meal.

Judy True - Secretary - Poulton-le-Fylde URC





Safeguarding Training

Please click <u>here</u> 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 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 28th 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 28th October 2025 - 6pm-8pm - Module 1 Online Advanced - Tues 4th 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 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
General Safeguarding Queries - relating to safeguarding training and/or DBS, please email the Safeguarding Team on helpdesk@nwsynod.org.uk

"Safeguarding is a whole church responsibility"

Talking About...Brains In Bloom



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

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

Nov 8 - The world of the child Jun 13 - Participation

Dec 13 - The developing child Jul 11 - Contexts of mission

Jan 10 - Biblical perspectives and ministry with children

on children

Feb 14 - The role of play in

faith formation

Apr 11 - Creating space for

children in our church

communities

May 9 - Inclusion

Sep 12 - Pastoral Care

Oct 3 - Leadership and

teamwork





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

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

URC Children's Workers Together Conference



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 - 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 for an application form.

You can register for the conference by emailing: children.youth@urc.org.uk

Act It Out – Luther King House



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.

Churches Together in Lancashire - Forthcoming Events

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those who supported the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea back in September. It was great event and continues to be spoken about around the country! You can explore the programme and contributions in full **here**.

There a number of wonderful programmes coming up that I hope you share widely and support personally.

31st October and 1st November 2025 - Creation Care Conference at Blackburn Cathedral with Canon Dr Ruth Valerio



Blackburn Cathedral is hosting a Creation Care Conference from 31st October to 1st November, bringing together voices from across the Christian Ecumenical spectrum to explore how faith communities can respond to the environmental crisis. The event takes place in the awe-inspiring presence of Gaia, a large-scale sculpture of the Earth by internationally- renowned artist Luke

Jerram. Suspended in the Cathedral's nave, this striking installation prompts a fundamental question: "What is the relationship between Christianity and concern for human-made climate change?" Please click here for further information.

Monday 8th December 2025 - 7pm - Christian Police Association Carol Service at All Saints Church Preston

Churches Together in Lancashire enjoys working with the Christian Police Association. Please do encourage your church or groups to join with those who serve in our communities to keep us safe. The service takes place at All Saints Church, Elizabeth Street, Preston, PR1 2RX. The music will be led by the Preston Band of the Salvation Army and joined by the St Andrew's Oswaldtwistle Primary School Choir. Readings will be given from across the Christian ecumenical community in Lancashire.

Thursday 18th December 2025 - Midday - "Lancashire Carers Sing Christmas"

This annual event will be broadcast live from the studios of Radio Lancashire in Blackburn. The music will be led by the Blackburn Band of the Salvation Army and the Blackburn People's Choir. We are gathering stories of people who care in various ways over Christmas be it through the professional care agencies or by individuals in the community. If you have a story to share please email Anton @ antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk. You can tune in live at home, hold an event in the community either in real time or at a time and venue of your choosing by downloading the materials from www.ctlancashire.org.uk and using the BBC Sounds app.

The Revd Anton Muller MA - County Ecumenical Officer Churches Together in Lancashire

Worshipping through Winter

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

Saturday 1st 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**th **October -** Liz Delafield <u>liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk</u> or Alicia Jones southlpadvoctate@nwsynod.org.uk

Worshipping through Winter

Worship leaders' gathering. Worshipping through winter.

Saturday 1st 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 or Alicia Jones southlpadvoctate@nwsynod.org.uk to let us know you are coming.



Preaching from the Storm: International Voices for Climate Justice Proclamation



Manchester Cathedral - A Service of Remembrance





A Service of Remembrance for Lives Cut Short



Monday 24 November 2025 7.30 p.m.

Manchester Cathedral, Victoria Street, M3 1SX Names are read out, candles lit and prayers said in memory of those whom we love but see no more.

with music from the Accord Inspirational Gospel Choir

The service is organized by supporters of SAMM (Support After Murder and Manslaughter), a national network who offer support and help for families and friends bereaved through homicide.

More information: contact Revd Canon Steve Williams (07757 411 377)

Please ring him if you want a particular name to be read out, or e-mail st.gab.prest@gmail.com

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 29th November 2025

10.30am - 4pm

Shelter - Walk For Home Event Manchester

For several years now, Shelter has hosted the amazing **Walk For Home** event in London, with over 2,000 people walking the streets at night during December to raise money for Shelter's work and to recognise that we don't want to live in a society where so many people are forced to sleep rough or live in unsuitable accommodation. And this year, we are bringing **Walk for Home 2025 to Manchester!**

It's a 5km walk, starting at 6pm on **Tuesday 2nd December** at Shelter's hub in Watson Street, and we are asking for a £10 registration fee and for people to commit to raising £100 in sponsorship to help Shelter tackle the housing emergency in Greater Manchester and beyond.

For more information, or to sign up and start fundraising please click **here**.





J S Bach Christmas Oratorio



William

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



Tickets £27.50, students £5.50 Available from stollerhall.com





WilliamByrdSingers



Kairos & Gaza Today: A Podcast discussing the Gaza Conflict, the Ceasefire and Hope for Tomorrow



Some of you will have attended the **Palestine in Crisis** event at Luther King House last week, either in person or online. **yourchurch** partnered with Sabeel-Kairos UK and Commitment for Life to bring Revd Ashraf Tannous (Munther Isaac's successor as the Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem) and Sahar Francis, a Palestinian Human Rights lawyer and a Christian, to Manchester.

The following morning, I sat down with them and Revd Dr Graham Adams to talk together about how to evaluate what is happening theologically. We looked at the events of the war, the genocide, the ceasefire, the Israeli Zionist project and the prospects for a genuine peace with justice using the insights gleaned from the Kairos theologians in the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa during the mid-1980s.

As well as being a "God-moment", a Kairos is a crisis and a moment of truth. Meeting in the townships that were militarised during the State of Emergency, when adults and children as young as six were subject to summary arrest and detention without charge, trial or access to lawyers and family, they wrote,

"We as a group of theologians have been trying to understand the theological significance of this moment in our history. It is serious, very serious. For very many Christians in South Africa this is the KAIROS, the moment of grace and opportunity, the favorable time in which God issues a challenge to decisive action. It is a dangerous time because, if this opportunity is missed, and allowed to pass by, the loss for the Church, for the Gospel and for all the people of South Africa will be immeasurable.

A crisis is a judgment that brings out the best in some people and the worst in others. A crisis is a moment of truth that shows us up for what we really are. There will be no place to hide and no way of pretending to be what we are not in fact. At this moment in South Africa the Church is about to be shown up for what it really is and no cover-up will be possible."

You are welcome to listen in on our conversation as we explore the KAIROS brought about by events in Gaza and the West Bank - not only for the Palestinians, but for the UK government and, most tellingly for us, the UK churches.

Click here to listen to the podcast.

Lawrence Heath-Moore

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**th **November** for Large grants (£50,000) then **16**th **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 as soon as possible.



Talking NW Synod - The Power of How Are You?



Listen to the latest NW Synod Podcast. In this edition Lawrence speaks with Michael Harvey about cultivating a culture of invitation in Synod churches and the surprising power of asking, "How are you?".

They explore how a genuine question can unlock personal stories of pain and hope, modelled by Jesus, and how simple practices—like a short daily prayer and following up "How are you?" with "How are you really?"—equip people to listen compassionately.

The episode highlights two free "superpowers"—listening and silence—and suggests that authentic conversation can lead to healing, new perspective, and unexpected grace.

Click **here** to listen.

Help Lift 470,000 Children Out of Severe Hardship

Tell your MP the two-child limit must be fully removed

No child should know what a food bank is, let alone need one. But almost a third of food bank parcels provided by the Trussell community go to families with three or more children.

We all know how quickly life can change. If you've been getting by fine raising three kids, but then get sick and can't work as many hours, you shouldn't be left with no option but a food bank.

Our social security system should be protecting families who don't have enough money for life's essentials. We need to fully remove the two-child limit – it's the most effective way to protect children from hunger.

Every child deserves a decent start in life

Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary, Churches Together in England writes:

"When Jesus said love your neighbour he did not make any exceptions. The two child limit pushes larger families into poverty and discriminates against children with more than one sibling. Removing this limit on support would be a step towards a social security system that provides a safety net that protects us all from hunger and hardship. I would like to add my voice to those calling for a more just system and a commitment to love all our neighbours. It is not right that people cannot afford the essentials we all need and parents are regularly going without food so their children have something to eat."

Will you ask your MP to write to the Chancellor to fully remove the two-child limit?

Please follow this link to join the campaign from the Trusselll Trust:

Tell your MP the two-child limit must be fully removed | Trussell

Mike Hart

Transformation Director

Community Church Project Worker + Hub Manager - Albion Church Community

Please email David Hey at albionurc@hotmail.co.uk to register your interest in this vacancy.

Albion United Reformed Church

Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire OL6 6QQ

Email: albionurc@hotmail.co.uk

Web site address: www.albionurc.org.uk

Charity No.1128066





Community Church Project Worker and Hub Manager

Job Description

Job Title: Community Church Project Worker and Hub Manager – Albion Church Community

Hours: 24 hours per week including some evenings & weekends

Location: Albion United Reformed Church, Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6QQ

Salary: £17,300 (based on a FTE of £27,000)

Holidays 20 days including bank holidays (pro-rated)

Reporting to: The Line Manager, Albion United Reformed Church Management Committee

Purpose of the Role

To lead both the mission-driven community outreach and project work of the church, and manage the operations of the church community hub. This dual role is to ensure that the Hub is not only a well-run facility, but also a centre from which the church engages meaningfully with the wider community, offering programmes, support, fellowship, and opportunity.

Key Responsibilities

The role combines project work, community engagement, and facility / operational management. Main areas of responsibility include:

Community & Project Work

- Research, plan, deliver, and evaluate community outreach projects that respond to local needs (e.g. youth work, family support, senior citizens, mental wellbeing, social justice, etc.).
- Build strong relationships with local residents, community groups, schools, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies, etc.
- Coordinate and lead events, workshops, drop-in sessions, faith exploration / spiritual development sessions where appropriate.
- Recruit, train, equip, and support volunteers to assist with community and project activities.
- Ensure projects align with church values and mission, including pastoral care, discipleship, and spiritual outreach where fitting.

Page 1 of 2

Hub Management & Operations

- Oversee day-to-day operations of the Hub: opening/closing, cleanliness, safety/security, maintenance, supplies, room bookings, equipment, etc.
- Manage lettings / bookings: handling enquiries, contracts / hire agreements, payments / invoicing, maintaining booking schedules and ensuring spaces are ready for use.
- Ensure compliance with health & safety, fire regulations, safeguarding (children / vulnerable adults), data protection (GDPR), any licensing (if applicable), etc.
- Manage Hub finances: budgeting, tracking income/expenditure, reporting, identifying income generation opportunities (room hire, café or refreshment sales if applicable, fundraising or grants).
- Oversee volunteers / staff associated with the Hub: recruit, schedule, support, train, supervise.

Strategic Planning & Growth

- Develop vision and strategy for both community project work and for the Hub facility: how they work together, how the Hub supports mission, how to grow impact.
- Monitor, evaluate, and report on outcomes: project metrics (attendance, outcomes, feedback), Hub usage, financial performance. Use insights for continuous improvement.
- Identify, apply for, and manage external funding or grants to support both Hub operations and projectbased work.

Communications / Stakeholder Relations

- Promote the Hub and church's community programmes: online (website, social media), local press, church notices, flyers, partnership networks.
- Act as public face of the Hub in community and stakeholder meetings.
- Maintain good internal communication with church leadership, trustees, staff, volunteers; ensure transparency about Hub usage, project planning etc.

Other Employment Conditions

- Pension Scheme for those eligible
- Some flexible working
- Free parking
- Laptop and mobile phone for work purposes
- The post is subject to a satisfactory DBS check

Please email David Hey at albionurc@hotmail.co.uk to register your interest in this vacancy

Useful Links

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

The purpose of JPIT is to help the Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues.

For the latest edition of the JPIT Newsletter please click **here**.

Christians on Ageing



The story of older people is the story of their unique life journey. They have lived through war and peace, have known hope and failure, and have found, and sometimes lost, friendship and love. For many, their Christian faith has been the context within which they have lived and in

which they will die. They have handed on the gospel message to the next generation but are also living it day by day. Their story is not just about the past; they are part, in the here and now, of the Churches' proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are a valued and precious resource. They want to give as well as receive. **Christians on Ageing** is one of their voices.

For the latest edition of the Christians on Ageing Newsletter please click **here**.

for our Prayers

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
- For those involved in the discussions about the future of ministry in the North Western Synod
- For your Ministers as they consider how best to support you