

Your FREE Newsletter from The North Western Synod of The United Reformed Church

North Western Synod Magazine



Good News Stories
across our synod

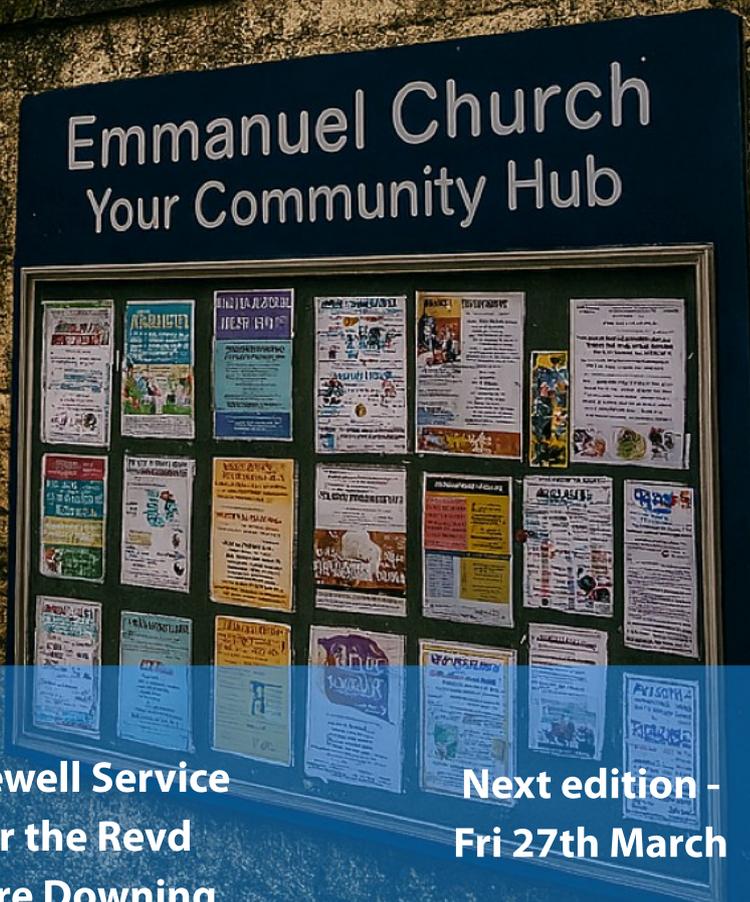
Learning Events
in your area

Children and Youth
news and events

Save the Date
events for your diary

Synod and URC
news and updates

for our
Prayers



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Annual Review 2025**

**Farewell Service
for the Revd
Clare Downing**

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Fri 27th March**

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for our Prayers ...

Spring is around the corner at Forton URC

We are truly blessed at Forton, with the world in such turmoil our small churchyard is full of colour and joy. As soon as we step inside the gates a world of spring wonder awaits.

For a little while at least we can forget the rest of the world and bask in the joy of spring. The Lenten Lillies once again rise to occasion as they have for hundreds of years.

Susan Redmayne - Secretary
Forton URC



Looking for a new home

Heald Green URC has been doing a little spring cleaning, and we realise that we have an excess of hymn books. We would be delighted to gift them to any church or other organisation which would give them a good home. Available are:

86 Church Hymnary (1977 edition)

60 Mission Praise (1990 hardback edition) + 8 large print

76 Mission Praise (1983 paperback edition)

100 Rejoice and Sing

15 Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise

Please contact alisoncmhaigh@gmail.com

Alison Haigh - Heald Green URC

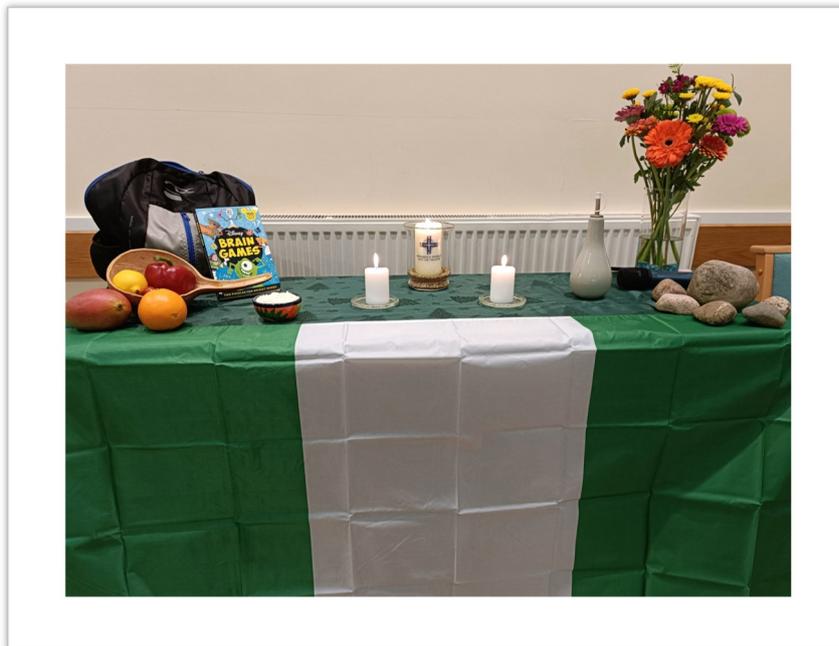


World Day of Prayer Service in Poulton

On Friday 6th March Poulton-le Fylde URC was the host for the World Day of Prayer service for the churches together in Poulton. The service was written by the women of Nigeria and was titled " I will give you rest, come." It was a moving service and I think it gave us all a lot to think about, and to realise how fortunate we are. About 40 people attended the service.

After the service we all enjoyed cups of tea or coffee and cakes.

**Judy True - Secretary
Poulton-le-Fylde URC**



News from Bury URC



At the service on Sunday 1st March 2026, we welcomed two new members into our congregation – Sam Shum and Mon Tsang. The married couple came to the UK from Hong Kong. They both started worshipping with us about 18 months ago.

Rev'd Dan Harris has been at the forefront in welcoming the couple into the church at Bury and it was their request that he would lead the service where they became members.

Rev'd Dan spoke of the vine and its branches along with trees in the forest that symbolises the growth of faith through its roots, the branches, the canopy and the sap within the tree. A thoughtful and provoking service.

Sam and Mon brought almond biscuits specially made in Hong Kong and a tin of sweets to share with our tea and coffee after the service.

During the Alpha course held at Bury URC, Sam and Mon brought several of their Hong Kong friends to join us. They formed one of the three groups for discussion often talking in Cantonese as some of their friends didn't speak English.

After the course ended it was good that Sam and Mon set up a bible study at church purely so they could continue meeting with their Hong Kong friends and they could continue to converse in their own language.

Sam and Mon have regularly brought their barista coffee machine to the monthly café and made speciality coffees for customers to purchase.

Mon has very kindly designed a banner advertising the monthly café which also includes details written in Cantonese. They also designed and made us Fai Chun (New Year scroll) for us. Sam also helps serving tea and coffee after church.

Sam is a pastor serving at the New York Theology Education Centre and Chinese Online School of Theology now, and has served in Manchester Chinese Christian Church and Saddleback Church in Manchester. So, he often preaches in different Chinese Christian Church in the UK

With Rev Dan's help he will soon start to lead worship at Bury, at Dundee URC and Radcliffe and Stand URC.

Considering they didn't stay after worship at the beginning as they felt their English wasn't good enough. They now enjoy mixing and conversing with ease.

It is a pleasure to have Sam and Mon worshipping with us. They bring nothing but warmth and happiness with them.

Pam Rowley - Bury URC

Safeguarding



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

For those who have a background in safeguarding and have completed training within a professional organisation in the previous three years: [An Introduction to Safeguarding in the URC](#)

Online + Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training

Please book your place by clicking on the relevant link below the date:

Intermediate Safeguarding Training

Monday 20th April 2026 - 1pm to 3pm - Online

To book please click [here](#)

Combined Foundation + Intermediate Safeguarding Training

Tuesday 5th May 2026 – 6.00pm to 8.30pm – Online

To book please click [here](#)

Monday 18th May 2026 – 11am to 1.30pm – Face to Face at Trinity URC, Lancaster

Bowerham Road & Ulster Road, Lancaster LA1 4AH

To book please click [here](#)

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 – 1.00pm to 3.30pm – Online

To book please click [here](#)

Advanced Safeguarding Training

Advanced training will now be delivered in ONE session

Online Advanced - Mon 13th April 2026 - 6pm-9.15pm (including a break)

To book please click [here](#)

Online Advanced - Wed 13th May 2026 - 6pm-9.15pm (including a break)

To book please click [here](#)

Online Advanced - Mon 15th June 2026 - 6pm-9.15pm (including a break)

To book please click [here](#)

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

To access the latest editions of the quarterly Newsletters from the URC, 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

Monday 23rd March - 1:00pm Substance Abuse

Tuesday 21st April - 1:00pm Online Safety

Make your booking by emailing Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk stating your name, church, role and course preference.

1T4 Youth Event

A promotional poster for the 1T4 Youth Event. The background is a gradient of teal and green. At the top, the title '1T4 YOUTH EVENT' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the location 'WHITEMOOR LAKES, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 8QT' and dates 'SAT 2 - MON 4 MAY 2026' are in yellow. A paragraph describes the event as a weekend for 11-14s with outdoor activities, discussion, games, and worship. The central part features two circular images: one of a group of young people in blue hats and another of a campfire. A yellow circle between them says 'COST £125'. Below the images is a Bible verse icon and the text '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.' The bottom of the poster has a 'BOOK NOW' button, a URL 'www.linktr.ee/1T4event', and the logo for 'The United Reformed Church Youth'.

BOOK NOW www.linktr.ee/1T4event



There are still a few places available for this event – especially designed for 11-14 year olds.

The Synod Children and Youth Committee will subsidise attendees by £100 - meaning young people will get a fully catered weekend of discussion, outward bound events and worship for only £25!

Places can be booked via www.linktr.ee/1T4event

Youthscape Essentials – All-Round Youth Work Training

A pink-themed poster for 'Youthscape Essentials' training. The text is arranged in a list-like format. On the right side, there is a circular photograph of four diverse young people (three men and one woman) smiling and looking upwards. Below the photo is the logo for 'The United Reformed Church Youth', which consists of a stylized cross with a blue eye-like shape inside it.

Youthscape Essentials
All Round Training for youth work volunteers

Introductory Day (in person)
Saturday 9th May 10am to 4pm
Christchurch, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge S36 1DY

Online Sessions
Option 1 (7pm to 9pm)
June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Online Sessions
Option 2 (10am to 12pm)
May 30th, June 6th, 13th, 20th

Final Day (in person)
Saturday 27th June 10am to 4pm
Christchurch, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge S36 1DY

To book use QR code or link below
<https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register>
Course Code: 2436385

The United Reformed Church Youth

Join members of the CYDO+ team of the United Reformed Church for Youthscape Essentials - an engaging and practical training course for anyone involved in youth work or thinking about getting started. This course helps you grow in confidence, understanding and skill to support young people in your context.

Through the course you'll explore insights into youth culture, develop core youth work skills, and reflect on your own leadership and faith — all rooted in Scripture and shaped by current research. The flexible format means some sessions will be in person (Saturday 9th May and Saturday 27th June in Stocksbridge) and others online, with options to choose evenings or mornings to suit your schedule. Whether you're new to volunteering or want a refreshed foundation for your ministry, this course will equip you to work with young people more confidently and intentionally.

Click <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register> to book and use **Course Code 2436385**.

Leo has 3 spare places in his car – contact him if you'd like to attend and get a lift!

Steal Away - A Talk at Heaton Moor United Church



Steal Away

Afro-American Spirituals,
an alternative understanding.

A talk by the Rev'd Dr John Parry

To be held at
Heaton Moor United Church
Stanley Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 4HL

Friday, 20th March 2026
at 7.30 p.m.

Donations are welcome and will be shared by
Heaton Moor United Church
and the Maggie's Centre at The Christie, Manchester.

Journeying through ordinary time with Matthew



Journeying through ordinary time with Matthew.

A workshop for anyone who leads or plans worship.
Hazel Grove United Reformed Church,
Short Street, Stockport, SK7 4AD.
Saturday 18th April 10am-12:30pm

- Background to Matthew's Gospel.
- What does this say to us today?
- Exploring a text.
- Planning a service.
- Share ideas and fellowship.
- End with lunch together. (Bring your own lunch). Tea/coffee provided



Contact Alicia or Liz
southlpadvocate@nwsynod.org.uk
liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk



The Big Sing at Albion URC



The BIG SING!

Albion United Reformed Church - Sunday 21st June 2026 - 6-8pm

Good news! It's not often these days that we get the opportunity to sing with a large crowd of worshippers, but that's exactly what's on offer on the first day of summer.

Mersey Synod's Café Jam will be leading a BIG SING on Sunday 21st June at Albion United Reformed Church (Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6QQ). Starting with cake and hot drinks at 6pm, it will be an evening of singing a wide variety of hymns and songs – some old, some new, some lively, some quiet, some folk-style. With an interval at around 7.10pm with further cake and refreshments, the service will end at 8pm.

There is limited parking at the church, ample parking in the surrounding streets, and a nearby car park.

Get your tickets today and invite friends, neighbours and family for the chance to celebrate our God in song together!

Please book via the following link: <https://bit.ly/3NmWod5>

Farewell Service for the Revd Clare Downing



The United Reformed Church North Western Synod
invites you to

**The Farewell Service for the
Revd Clare Downing
North Western Synod Moderator**

30th May at 2pm
Cornerstone URC

261-267 Parris Wood Road
Burnage
Manchester
M20 6EE

Please RSVP by 15th May
to Kerry Later office@nwsynod.org.uk

The GM Live Well Spring Festival 2026

To find out more about the many activities taking place as part of the Live Well Spring Festival please click [here](#)



The Together Alliance - The March to Stop the Far Right



The Together Alliance, which brings together individuals and organisations including the United Reformed Church, in opposition to the “Far Right” is organising a March in London on Saturday 28th March.

You can find more details here - <https://www.togetheralliance.org.uk/>

Ministry Enquirers Webinar

Webinar

Ministry Enquirers

Learn what God might be asking of you

Join us in thinking about God's call to:

Stepwise, Worship Leading, Lay Preaching,
Lay Pioneering, Ministry with children and young
people, the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or
Church Related Community Work.

Email us for joining details: ministries@urc.org.uk

11th April on Zoom
9:30am - 12:30pm



Contact ministries@urc.org.uk for joining details.

Free to Believe Conference 2026

For further information and to book click [here](#).

Free to Believe Conference 2026

‘Come help us dream your future into birth’

Speakers: Ian Bradley, Jo Clifford, Graham Adams

Worship leader: Nicola Robinson

Wednesday 17 to Friday 19 June 2026

**Highgate Conference Centre,
Northamptonshire**

£275 (Same price as 2024)

Download a booking form at freetobelieve.org.uk

or email bookings@freetobelieve.org.uk



North Western Synod Annual Review 2025

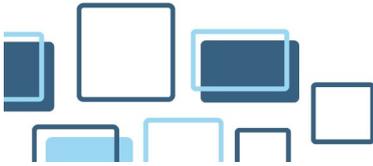
North Western Synod



**SYNOD ANNUAL
REVIEW
2025**

Please click [here](#) to access the Synod Annual Review Report 2025

Synod activities and achievements for
the past year



Children, Youth and Families Worker - Gatley and Trinity

Do you have a desire to help children and families grow in faith?

We are looking for a

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES WORKER

to lead mission and outreach to children, youth, schools and families to explore new ways of sharing God's love and the Christian faith. The successful applicant will work in collaboration with the ministry teams and existing volunteers across Trinity Church Cheadle (Methodist and United Reformed Church) and Gatley United Reformed to nurture and grow the faith of young people and families connected with the churches.

This is a full-time role of

35 hours per week,

flexible working including some evenings and weekends with time off in lieu.

Salary of £28,600 to £29,050 (depending on experience, plus pension).

This is an opportunity to develop new initiatives and nurture existing groups and activities. If you have a passion for working with and advocating for children, young people, and families and an enthusiasm for sharing the Christian faith with people of all ages, we would love to hear from you.

Closing date for applications: Friday 27th March 2026, 5pm

Interview date: Saturday 18th April 2026

To request an application pack with background information and the full job and person specifications, please email bwcircuit@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about the role or would like to arrange a visit to the churches ahead of your application, please contact Revd. Stephanie Atkins:

Stephanie.atkins@nwsynod.org.uk

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post-holder is a practising Christian who is willing to work within the ethos of both the Methodist and the United Reformed Church.

An enhanced DBS disclosure will be required.



Communications Officer for Mersey Synod



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER FOR MERSEY SYNOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

18 hours per week. Office based

Salary: £13,440 to £16,000 (dependent upon qualifications and experience)

We are seeking an enthusiastic and creative Communications Officer to join the Mersey Synod URC team to lead and help us to manage our media with collating and publishing information, news and local church stories across the Synod and beyond, where needed. The ideal candidate will have:

- At least two years' experience in a relevant communication, journalism, or public relations role, preferably with a relevant qualification.
- The ability to develop and engage in all aspects of Synod communications.
- Experience working collaboratively with IT personnel, Synod Office staff, and local churches.
- A self-motivated and proactive approach to work
- An ability to speak and write fluently in the English language
- An ability to work with social media, IT software and computer skills

The role is based at the Synod Office in Wavertree, Liverpool, with some mobility required to travel between locations. Home and flexible working arrangements are negotiable.

We offer a range of employee benefits, including:

- Employer Pension Scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Approved expenses (including mileage) incurred during worktime
- 25 days plus bank holidays paid annual leave per year
- Training and education programme

For further information, please contact:

Email: synodclerk@urcmerseysynod.org.uk or via Phone: 07497 125171

For the application pack, please visit www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk

Completed applications are to be emailed to adminofficer@urcmerseysynod.org.uk

Please note that we do not accept CVs.

- **Closing date for applications: midnight Monday 6th April 2026**
- **Interview date: Monday 27th April 2026**

Please note: Mersey Synod URC reserves the right to close the advert prior to this date in the event of high numbers of applications being received.

- This post is subject to the requirements of Safer Recruitment including references and DBS check in line with URC policy and procedures
- Is subject to Equal Opportunities
- The successful candidate must be open to the Christian faith.

URC Resources Hub & Helpdesk Coordinator

- London (Hybrid)
- Permanent contract, Full-time, 35 hours per week
- Salary: Circa £38,599 – £40,180 per annum
- Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Wednesday 15 April 2026
- Interview date: Tuesday 28 April 2026

Job Advert

We are seeking a proactive and organised Hub and Helpdesk Coordinator to oversee the day-to-day operation of the URC Resources Hub and deliver an efficient, user-focused helpdesk service.

In this role, you will be the first point of contact for enquiries, triaging and tracking queries through to resolution and escalating issues as needed. You will monitor Hub performance, flag content and technical issues, maintain service documentation and coordinate closely with the relevant teams and users to ensure a consistent and reliable service.

The role also involves preparing regular performance reports and escalating risks or development needs, helping to support continuous improvement of the Hub's operations.

The successful candidate will demonstrate excellent judgement, strong risk awareness and confident use of IT tools. You will have outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to manage a complex workload within the tight deadlines and the confidence to act on your initiative when appropriate.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who thrives in a service-oriented digital environment. We offer you a flexible and friendly hybrid work environment from the Office of General Assembly in London and from home.

Apply for this post

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please read the job description and complete the job application form.

[Job description \(PDF | 149kb\)](#)

[Job application form \(Word | 975kb\)](#)

Send the completed job application form to: recruitment@urc.org.uk

Please note, we do not accept CVs.

Useful Links



Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities at the URC

For more details please click [here](#)



URC News Update

Please click [here](#) for the latest updates from around the URC



Greater Manchester Live Well Newsletter

Click [here](#) for the **March** Newsletter



Upcoming training & events - Lancashire Mind

To find out more about suicide prevention training with the Orange Button Community Scheme click [here](#)



What's new at Luther King?

For the latest Newsletter please click [here](#)

Daily Devotions

from The United Reformed Church

Welcome to Daily Devotions from the URC

Each morning the URC sends out a reading, reflection and short prayer which helps us to focus on our journeys of Christian discipleship. Please click [here](#) for more information.

for our Prayers

We invite you to pray:

- For Revd Noma Morambi as she is inducted and begins her new ministry in the Lancashire East Missional Partnership on 21st March at Westbury Gardens URC
- For Revd Gilbert Esambe and Florence as they begin their new chapter together in marriage on 27th March at Westbury Gardens URC
- 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
- For the continued growth of church mission