

North Western Synod Newsletter

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View of Cheadle Hulme URC

Welcome to
CHEADLE HULME UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
www.cheadlehulme.urch.org.uk

Sunday Worship
10.30am

Holy Communion
4th Sunday In The Month

Baptisms, Marriages, Civil Partnerships

Room Bookings: 01625 877180

Swann Lane Pre-School
Flexible Mix and Match sessions available
admin@swannlane.co.uk

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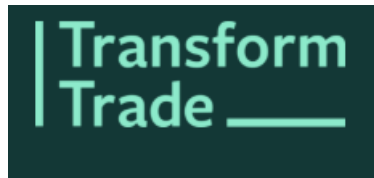
Synod and URC News & Updates

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for our Prayers ...

Big Brew at Marple URC

Earlier this year, Marple URC held a Fairtrade Big Brew in aid of Transform Trade. Our MP, Lisa Smart, came along and we managed to raise £440 as well as enjoying fellowship and refreshments, selling fairly traded and ethical goods and having several other stalls to make money for and raise awareness of Transform Trade's work.



To find out more about Transform Trade please click [here](#)

Jill Kenna - Church Secretary
Marple 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

Combined Foundation + Intermediate Safeguarding Training

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](#)

Saturday 23rd May 2026 – 10am to 12.30pm – Face to Face at Bamford Chapel + Norden URC

Norden Road, Bamford, Rochdale, OL11 5PQ

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 - 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](#)

Specialist/Supplementary Training

The URC runs bite-sized two hour Zoom sessions open to anyone across the denomination on a variety of topics to complement your current safeguarding knowledge.

Upcoming sessions:

Thursday 14th May	1:00pm	Safeguarding for Ministers supporting Survivors
Tuesday 19th May	6:30pm	Spiritual Abuse
Thursday 28th May	1:00pm	Adult Safeguarding

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

Minister's Advanced Safeguarding Training

Please click the link below the relevant date to go to the booking form.

The zoom link will then be sent the week before.

- Monday 5th October 1-3pm and Monday 12th October 1-3.30pm – [October booking form](#)

If you have any queries, please contact: [Carrie Kaunda](#)

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

Holiday Club Materials



online from
May 2026

**Come and join the adventure
with Wisdom Quest from URC Children and
Youth
Journey through the bible on a quest for some
wise words.**

**Including group challenges, stories, prayers,
craft, activities and much, much more.
Additional material for other age groups.
All materials can be found here
<https://bit.ly/URC-holidayclub>**

**Grants for holiday clubs available:
urc.org.uk/grants-funding-opportunities**



Thinking of running a Holiday Club this summer? These free materials, written by members of the URC Children & Youth Work team are available to download [here](#). There are plenty of other resources available there too – all free of charge.

Pilots 90th Anniversary

Ever had a Pilots group in your church? Still have one? Thinking about starting/re-starting one?

The United Reformed Church Yorkshire

BIG DAY OUT

16 MAY 2026

AT THE YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

LET YOUR SOUL SING AND PRAISE

PRAISE · PRAYER · WORKSHOPS

TICKETS	
26+	£5.50
19-25	£3.50
U18	FREE

SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK OR EMAIL : OFFICE@URCYORKSHIRE.ORG.UK

A WIDE CHOICE OF ACTIVITIES FROM 10.30 TO 3.00

TURN OVER FOR ALL THE DETAILS

Why not come along to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on May 16th and celebrate with Pilots and ex-Pilots from across the denomination?

We will be having a face to face celebration which is joining with the Yorkshire Synod Big Day Out at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on 16th May. Pilots will pay for all Pilots-related bookings, but you must book via the web site detailed on the next page or via e-mail.

The general programme for the day can be seen [here](#).

In addition, we are putting on Pilots art and craft activities in the garden room from arrival until 11am. This will allow you to still take part in the nature related crafts and outdoor games if you wish, and to choose from the 4 activities that will be available at 11am. Following the worship at 2.30pm, we will meet near the worship area to have Pilots games, and a formal Pilots closing. As with other groups, you will then be free to explore the park if you wish.

Please either book here: [Pay on door – BIG Day Out 2026 Yorkshire Synod – Yorkshire Sculpture Park](#)

or send an e-mail to office@urcyorkshire.org.uk with details of how many people are coming.

Please do this as soon as possible.

Youth Mental Health First Aid



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

3 to 4 June | 9am to 5pm | URC East Midlands Synod Office
To book contact trainingpa@urc5.org.uk or use the QR code



Invest in the wellbeing of young people and become a certified Youth Mental Health First Aider.

Gain the skills and confidence to support young people by booking onto the new **Youth Mental Health First Aid** course by @MHFAEngland. This two-day training will equip you to recognise the signs of emotional distress, start supportive conversations and confidently safeguard and signpost to appropriate help.

Date: 3rd to 4th June 2026

Time: 9am–5pm

Place: URC East Midlands Synod Office, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham. NG5 3AA

The cost is normally £350 but we are subsidising it to £35 to cover the cost of materials.

To book please contact email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk
or click [here](#)

Outdoor Church at Heald Green URC

Our next gathering will be on **Sunday 10th May 3pm-4pm**.

Do join us and invite anyone who might want to come. The beekeeper is coming and there will be an opportunity to visit the church beehives.

Future sessions are planned for later in the year too. We plan to meet once every 2 months:

July 12th

September 13th

November 8th

Prov 16:24 “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.”

OUTDOOR Church

Join us for all-age, creative worship and activities exploring the wonders of bees and how these tiny, God-made creatures can inspire and challenge us.

Sunday 10th May 2026 3-4pm

The Church Garden, Heald Green URC, Wilmslow Road, Heald Green, SK8 3BH

All Are Welcome.

Activities this month:

- Meet a beekeeper and learn about the bees living in the church beehive.
- Mini-beast Survey
- Make a bug hotel or bee watering station to take home.



Free event, no booking required.
Wear appropriate clothing for the weather.
For more information contact
Alison Haigh: alisoncmhaigh@gmail.com.



Farewell and thank you to the Revd Jonnie Hill

A farewell and thank you service will take place at **Marple URC Church on Sunday 17th May at 2:30pm** for the Rev'd Jonnie Hill.

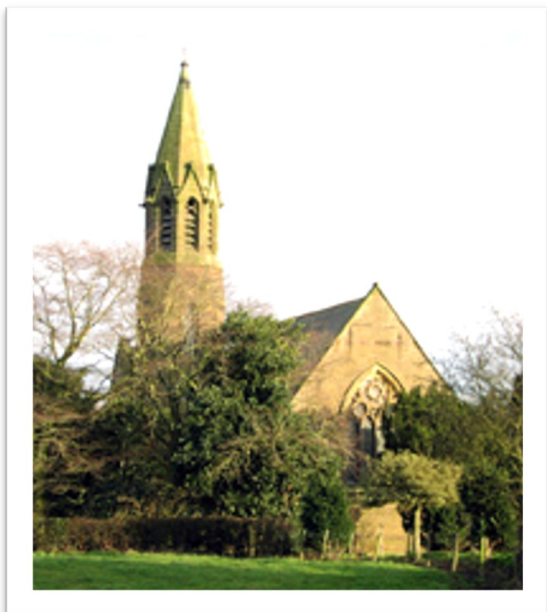
Jonnie has worked with East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders for the past 3 years and is now stepping back from that ministry.

The service will be followed by tea and cake.

Please contact Rev'd Margaret Dexter-Brown for numbers for catering: margaretdexterbrown@icloud.com



Elswick Church Anniversary



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This year we celebrate our Church's 377th Anniversary on Sunday 24th May 2026.

The service commences at 2.30pm and will be led by Michael Harvey, an inspirational speaker from Synod, together with Zac Crowe playing the organ.

After the service all are welcome to join for refreshments in the "Old Church".

For catering purposes would you please let me know if you would like to join us:

Sam Kernohan—Assistant Secretary

Tel: 01995 670 816 or Email: kernohan@hotmail.com

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

'Clerical Errors' in Concert at Hyning Monastery



A celebration of Summer in Words & Music 

Clerical Errors in Concert

Clerical Errors is an ecumenical ensemble sharing the joy of music in the pursuit of Christian unity.

Hyning Monastery
Sunday 31st May
3.30pm
Tickets £12
with
Harmonious Tea

A programme of light classic, jazz and folk expertly performed across a range of instruments & denominations!!

With music by
Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Paul Desmond,
Hart & Rodgers, Loeillet, Monti, Quantz, Schultze,
Piaf & more!

*Performed by the Revds Steve Carter (Guitar),
Kevin Huggett (Bass) Anton Müller (Flute),
The Revds Kath & Andrew Dodd (Piano & folk guitar)*

Joined by
William Nixon (Flute & Piano), Roseanna Sharples (Vocals)
& Sr Mary-Helen Jackson (Flute)



Hyning Monastery,
Warton, Carnforth, Lancs LA5 9SE
Tickets available only in advance at
hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk
01524 732684
Proceeds to Hyning Monastery &
Churches Together in Lancashire



Good afternoon

I hope this finds you well.

My ecumenical ensemble "Clerical Errors" will be giving a concert at Hyning Monastery on Sunday 31st May at 3.30pm.

Proceeds from ticket sales will be shared between Hyning Monastery and Churches Together in Lancashire.

With every good wish

Anton

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

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>

Induction of the Revd Mike Thomason

Save the date - We hope that many of you will be able to join us at Worsley Road URC in Swinton on **Saturday 5th September 2026** for the induction of Revd Mike Thomason as Moderator of the North Western Synod.

Worsley Road URC
310-312 Worsley Road
Swinton
Manchester
M27 0EF

Further details to follow.



'A Million Acts of Hope' Week of Action



13th May to 20th May is **A Million Acts of Hope** week of action, and we want to share your stories during that week. We're encouraging you to send us your photos and short videos *now*, showing hope in action in your community, so we can *amplify* them during the week of action across our national social media channels using the hashtag [#AMillionActsofHope](#).

There's far more that connects us than divides us and we'd like to highlight that.

For full details click the link below:

[Drown out division with A Million Acts of Hope - United Reformed Church](#)

URC Buildings for Mission Webinar

Webinar

URC BUILDINGS FOR MISSION FORUM

What is our Mission?

*Join us as we explore
what joining in with God's
activity can look like*



19 May 7.30pm



The
United
Reformed
Church

Buildings for Mission Forum Webinar - Tuesday 19th May 7.30pm

What is our Mission?

Join us as we explore what joining in with God's activity can look like.

Register for the webinar [here](#)

We look forward to seeing you.

Lindsey

Lindsey Brown

Head of Ecumenical Relations and Evangelism


United Reformed Church



GMCT Pentecost Praise

**GREATER MANCHESTER
CHURCHES TOGETHER**

PENTECOST PRAISE



**SATURDAY MAY 23RD
3.00PM**

**SALE SALVATION ARMY
27 Ashton Lane, Sale
M33 6NP**

Symposium: Reframing Healing for our Time



A Symposium Marking the 800th Anniversary of
the Canonisation of St William of York

Reframing Healing *for our Time*

Faith, Health & the Human Condition

++Stephen Cottrell

Prof Roger Kneebone

Dr Petre Maican

Revd Dr Chris Swift

Dr Susan B. Cross

SPEAKERS

Archbishop of York

Emeritus Professor and co-director of the
Imperial College Centre for Engagement and
Simulation Science (ICCESS)

Lecturer in Modern Orthodox Theology,
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania

Director of the Leeds Church Institute

Author of *'From Mission-Shaped to Jesus-Shaped'
Church: Hospitality as a Missiological Agenda in
the Church of England'*

9 July 2026 | 10am – 5pm | York St John University



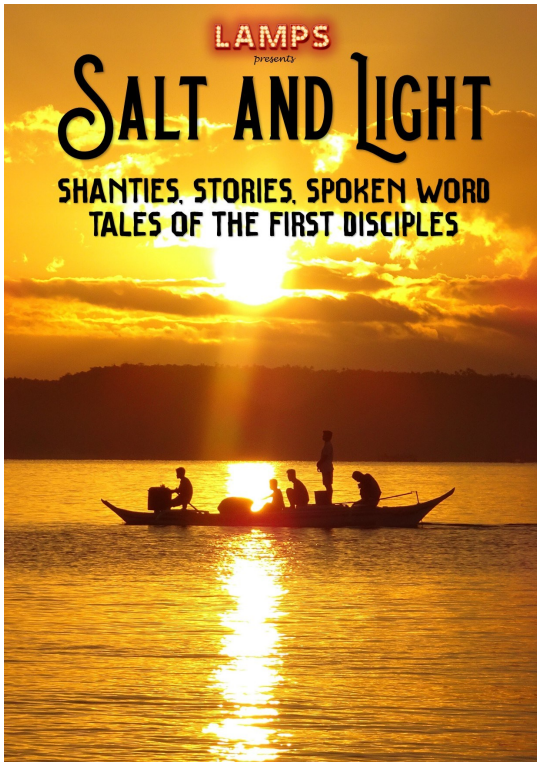
Est. 1841 | YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Further information on speakers and 'pay what you can' tickets are available via Eventbrite [here](#), or via the York Minster website [here](#).

Participants from a wide range of disciplines are welcome, so that the conversation is as rich, diverse, and generative as possible. In order to ensure the symposium is accessible to all, we are offering tickets on a "pay what you can" basis.

The symposium is in-person only. Talks will be recorded for sharing after the event.

The LAMPS Collective - Salt and Light



If your church is aiming to reach out to your community with the good news of the Gospel in powerful, creative ways this Autumn, Christian theatre company The LAMPS Collective would love to help you do that!

Our fabulous new outreach play ***Salt and Light***, which delighted audiences at Spring Harvest in 2023, is perfect for those asking the big questions. Who is this Jesus? *What* is he? And what (if anything) does that mean for me and my life?

“Phenomenal standard of acting”.... “The writing was second to none”... “Exquisite harmonies”... “One of the best pieces of theatre I think I have ever seen!” (Spring Harvest audience 2023)

Set in the small fishing community of first century Capernaum and packed with vivid storytelling and great music, ***Salt and Light*** examines the different responses within one family to the charismatic new rabbi walking their shores. It’s an ideal springboard for discussion or simply a great opportunity for church members to invite people along who don’t normally come to church.

Performances are available in **September 2026**. We bring everything you need (actors, staging, lighting, sound). All you need to provide is a space and a warm welcome!

A performance of ***Salt and Light*** lasts about an hour and twenty minutes and is suitable for ages eleven up. You can see clips from the show here [Salt and Light - Lamps Collective](#)

For more information about payment models, any questions or to book a performance please email our bookings co-ordinator - **Gillian** on bookings@lampscollective.com.

One Body, Many Parts: Churches invited to celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday 2026



Churches across the UK are being invited to take part in **Disability Awareness Sunday 2026**, with the release of a free, creative new resource [available to download](http://www.throughtheroof.org) from Christian charity Through the Roof (www.throughtheroof.org).

The 2026 theme, '**One Body, Many Parts**', draws on 1 Corinthians 12 and celebrates the truth that **the Church is not complete without disabled people**. The official date is **27th September 2026**, though churches are encouraged to take part on any Sunday that works for them.

Seeing things differently

At the heart of the new resource is the vision of **Triona Brading**, a young autistic Christian, Roofbreaker disability champion with Through the Roof, and ministry trainee. Triona brings insight, joy and imagination to the biblical image of the Body of Christ. She shares her perspective as an **autistic Christian** in the main video she made for churches to show for Disability Awareness Sunday:

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you. The head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you.’ Can you imagine it?

Body parts going rogue and breaking free of the body, hopping away and trying to live independently of one another!”

Her gentle humour opens up a powerful challenge: what does it really mean for the Church to live as **one body**, where every person — disabled or not — is welcomed, needed and able to play their part?



Autistic Christian author Triona Brading shares new Disability Awareness Sunday resource

Free resource for churches!

The free Disability Awareness Sunday 2026 Resource includes:

- Two short videos
- A ready-to-use service outline
- Practical ideas for all-age worship and youth activities

For more information please contact:

Janet Eardley - janet@throughtheroof.org

Annette Stuart - annette@throughtheroof.org

Tel (main office): 01372 749955

Please visit www.throughtheroof.org for information, news and resources.

About the work of Through the Roof

Through the Roof is a Christian disability inclusion charity whose name is inspired by the Bible account in Luke 5. Our mission is to transform lives through Jesus with disabled people.

We have been advocating for disability inclusion in church for over 25 years. We pray that every church actively welcomes disabled people and experiences the blessings of Church where **all** are seen as indispensable to the Body (1 Cor. 12).

Through the Roof works with churches and people across all disabilities to enable: Access, Belonging and Commission...

Access: For everyone to know Jesus, with disabled people fully welcomed in Christian life

Belonging: For everyone to grow together as the family of God, with disabled people flourishing in community with others

Commission: For everyone to reflect the character of Jesus, with disabled people making disciples, to the glory of God

Urban Outreach Bolton are recruiting



Does the thought of working for a Christian charity appeal to you?

Do you want to make a positive difference to the lives of people who are really struggling?

We are looking for 2 compassionate, highly motivated and skilled individuals to join our **Adult Services Team** in our Eve's Space Project and our **Children and Families Team** in our RUNA Project.

For more information, details of the job descriptions, application forms and application guide please click [here](#)

If you would like to discuss these roles further, you can get in touch with **Nicola Gillard** (Chief Operations Officer) on Tel: **01204 385848** during office hours or email on nicola.gillard@urbanoutreach.co.uk

We are unable to consider expressions of interest sent by letter, email or via social media, all applicants will need to complete the job application form available via the above link. The closing date and time for applications is **Tuesday 12th May 2026 by 5pm.**

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



URC Children's, Youth + Intergenerational Work Team

For the latest news from the C Y W & I Team, plus a link to the latest bi-monthly Newsletter please click [here](#)

Public Issues

Churches working together for peace and justice jpit.uk



JPIT Newsletter

Click [here](#) for the May 2026 Newsletter

May 2026

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.



Christians on Ageing

Please click below for the latest Newsletter:

[Christians on Ageing - April Newsletter](#)



Greater Manchester Live Well Newsletter

[April 2026: GM Live Well Newsletter](#)



Lancashire Mind

To find out more about Lancashire Mind's Projects Hub please click [here](#)

for our Prayers

We invite you to pray:

- 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