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For Our Prayers

New URC Resources Hub and Helpdesk



We are delighted to announce that the first Church Life Fund shared services, the URC Resources Hub and Helpdesk, are both now available. The Resources Hub is an exciting new venture for the URC which aims to provide local churches with all the practical guidance and support they need to thrive and grow.

We are very excited that we currently have a number of resources available for you, including GDPR policies, HR templates, selected Ministries documents, and Health and Safety guides. We will continue to develop and upload additional content as it becomes available over the coming months.

The Helpdesk is also here to offer personal support whilst you use the Resources Hub. If you have any specific questions about the content on the Hub, the Helpdesk is here to support you in finding what you need to complete the tasks associated with running your local Church.

Click the following link to find out more: [Discover the new URC resources hub today!](https://www.urcresourceshub.org.uk)

Ross Furley-Smith

Helpdesk and Hub Coordinator

07691 9862 (ext.220)| ross.furley-smith@urc.org.uk

National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

On 7th July I was privileged to represent Garstang United Reformed Church at the Houses of Parliament for the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. The invitation had come for a member of Garstang URC to accompany our MP, Cat Smith, to the breakfast and I was the lucky person. The aim of the event is to pray for our parliament, government, and politics, to build relationships between church leaders and parliamentarians and to reflect on the relevance of the Christian faith to public life in the UK today.

Guests to the breakfast were also invited to attend evensong in Westminster Abbey on the previous evening, followed by a tour of the Abbey. Having travelled down earlier in the day of 6th July I arrived at the West Door and was shepherded with other guests to special seats between the Quire and the High Altar. The service followed the typical Anglican tradition with beautiful choral music sung by the young choristers. It was a unique experience to worship in such a magnificent and historic space. The tour was led by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide. We saw the tomb of St Edward (Edward the Confessor), the Cosmati Pavement, the Coronation Chair, the tombs of the Plantagenet Kings, Poets' Corner, and Scientists' Corner – particular favourites of mine were the recently installed memorial to Stephen Hawking and the memorial to George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans). We saw the beautiful David Hockney window created to commemorate Queen Elizabeth 2. It felt very special to walk around the building in the quiet of the evening, without the crowds.

It was thankfully quieter and cooler outside the Abbey when I left to walk across Westminster Bridge to meet up with my son Solomon and his partner, Rosie, taking the opportunity to catch up over a meal whilst I was in London.

Next morning, I rose early and left my hotel at about 6.20am. We had instructions to arrive at the Houses of Parliament before 7am in order to go through security so I crossed the bridge at 6.35am. The breakfast was held in Westminster Hall, the 11th century building where Kings and Queens lay in state. There were at least 70 tables each holding ten people. I was on table 37 with Cat Smith and her other guest, Pastor Andy Woof from Garstang Free Methodist Church and two other MPs and their guests. Grace was said and we all politely tucked into our food whilst introductions were made across the table.

We were welcomed to the event by the Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle and the Lord Speaker, Lord Forsyth of Drumlean. Tim Farron, Liberal Democrat MP, introduced us to the theme of the event which was 'Hope for the Future' and the worship began with the singing of 'Great is thy Faithfulness'. It was very moving to stand in that ancient place praising God with over 700 other Christians from different denominations, and from across the political spectrum. The keynote speaker was Clare Williams Sarpong who talked about how the Christian message offers us personal and political hope and the singing was led by the amazing Ruth Naomi Floyd.

After the breakfast I attended a seminar on 'Advocacy and the Church', about turning faith into public action, where we heard from two MP's (one Labour and one Conservative) about how best to advocate to our politicians about the issues that we care about as Christians. They talked about the importance of building a relationship with our MPs, inviting them to Church events, sharing our concerns with them and most importantly underpinning our communications with stories that the MP can use to inform their work and fuel their own campaigns. The seminar was led by two organisations: opendoorsuk.org who advocate for Christian communities facing serious persecution. They support Christians across the world by protecting and promoting freedom of religion or belief as defined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and [International Justice Mission UK](https://internationaljusticemissionuk.org), a global organisation working to stop slavery and violence. They spoke about one of their campaigns to stop the online sexual exploitation of children. It is heart breaking and disturbing to understand why we need to ask our MP's to urgently act on this issue. You can read more here: [Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Increasing](https://internationaljusticemissionuk.org/online-sexual-exploitation-of-children-increasing) where you can find the information to write to your MP which I urge us all to do.

In the seminar we talked about the theological basis for this kind of campaigning. Jesus is the defender of the vulnerable, the protector of the powerless, the champion of justice and he can only act through us. I came away from the event convinced that it is important, as Christians, to find ways to be political, to influence the political culture of our country, guided by God's wisdom. One of the ways we can do this as a church is through our worship and prayers. I ask you all to pray for our parliament at this time and especially for our MP, Cat Smith. Tim Farron said in his welcome that: "In 1 Timothy 2: 1 – 2 we are urged to make petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving for all those in authority to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

You can see more information about the event here:

[Christians In Parliament - Prayer Breakfast 2026](#)

Bev Lamey

Elder - Garstang URC

Photo: *Bev Lamey, Cat Smith (MP) and Andy Woof, Pastor at Garstang Free Methodist Church*



Jubilee Minister - Rev'd Daniel Wiseman

Dear Friends

Rather than sending out sad news about ministers, it's great to celebrate a living one.

Here is a picture of Rev'd David Wiseman & his wife Margaret, who spent time in both North Western and Wessex Synods, but has seen the light and now resides in Yorkshire..... His name was marked at GA as Jubilee Minister and at Trinity St Andrews in Skipton yesterday (12th July) his 60 years as a minister was celebrated as well.

I'm a bit biased as well as David is a member at my home church, and since he moved to Skipton about 20 years ago he has become a close friend.

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk

The United Reformed Church Yorkshire Synod



Bringing Our Community Together at the Big Burnage Parade – Cornerstone URC South Manchester



On 5th July, Cornerstone joined the first ever Big Burnage Parade, a wonderful celebration of community, creativity and belonging that brought together hundreds of people from across the local area. For us, it was far more than simply taking part in a parade. It was an opportunity to build relationships, be present within our neighbourhood and demonstrate God's love through welcome, hospitality and service.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Cornerstone hosted International Craft Sessions and Mask Making Workshops, welcoming people of all ages to create the colourful artwork that featured in the parade. These sessions brought together church members, local families and community groups, reminding us that strong communities are built through shared experiences and conversations.

On the day itself, Cornerstone proudly walked behind the band of the 5th Manchester Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association, one of our church youth organisations. Seeing our young people leading the parade was a wonderful reminder of the important role they play both within our church and the wider community.



At Fog Lane Park, more than 440 people visited the Cornerstone community stall. Families enjoyed making healthy mocktails before planting seeds in their recycled cups to take home, opening conversations about caring for creation and our local environment. Our Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association also ran popular craft and drumming activities, which attracted families throughout the afternoon.



The greatest impact of the day was not simply the number of people we met, but the conversations we shared, the new relationships that were formed and the opportunity to connect with people who had never visited Cornerstone before. Events like this remind us that the Church's mission extends beyond our buildings as we seek to share God's love through simple acts of welcome, kindness and community.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise workshops, walk in the parade, run activities and welcome visitors. Together, you helped Cornerstone continue to be a visible, welcoming and active presence at the heart of Burnage.

Chloe Anwen
Community Engagement Manager, Cornerstone URC

Safeguarding

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

Designed for those who are asked to do Foundation Level training **but who have completed training within a professional organisation in the previous 3 years**. This course does not look at the signs and symptoms of abuse - if you need this you will need to complete Foundation level training (see above). Please click on the link to access this module: [An Introduction to Safeguarding in the URC](#)

Combined Foundation + Intermediate Safeguarding Training

- Friday 31st July 2026 – 12.00pm to 2.30pm – In Person – Grange-over-Sands URC
Kents Bank Road, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7EY
To book please click [here](#)
- Wednesday 26th August 2026 – 1.00pm to 3.30pm – Online
To book please click [here](#)
- Friday 28th August 2026 – 10.30am to 1.00pm – In Person – Trinity Church Cheadle
Massie St, Cheadle SK8 1BP
To book please click [here](#)
- Monday 7th September 2026 – 6.00pm to 8.30pm – Online
To book please click [here](#)
- Wednesday 23rd September 2026 – 1.00pm to 3.30pm – In Person - Fairhaven URC
22 Clifton Dr, Lytham Saint Annes, FY8 1AX
To book please click [here](#)
- Wednesday 30th September 2026 – 12.00pm to 2.30pm – In Person – Fleetwood URC
Agnew Rd, Fleetwood, FY7 7BL
To book please click [here](#)
- Saturday 24th October 2026 – 10.30am to 1.00pm – In Person – Greenmount URC
Holcombe Rd, Bury, BL8 4BB
To book please click [here](#)

Intermediate Safeguarding Training

- Wednesday 21st October 2026 – 6.30pm to 8.30pm - Online

To book please click [here](#)

Advanced Safeguarding Training

- Online Advanced – Wednesday 16th September 2026 - 6pm-9.15pm (including a break)

To book please click [here](#)

Minister's Advanced Safeguarding Training

Please click the link below for the booking form. The zoom link will be sent the week before.

If you have any queries, please contact: carrie.kaunda@urc.uk.org

- Monday 5th October 2026 – 1pm-3pm **and** Monday 12th October 2026 – 1pm-3.30pm

[October booking form](#)

Church Safeguarding Coordinator Training

- Online Church Safeguarding Coordinator Training – Monday 24th August 2026 - 6.30pm-8.30pm (for those new to the role, or as a refresher)

To book please click [here](#)

DDC Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) & Safer Recruitment Training

For those involved in DBS verification for England and Wales our DBS Partner, Due Diligence Checking (DDC), runs Zoom courses in conjunction with the URC on how to use the DDC portal to conduct DBS checks, and also how this fits into safer recruitment in the URC.

The online course dates are:

- Tuesday 8th September - 10am-12pm
- Thursday 8th October - 10am-12pm

Please contact emma.pearce@urc.org.uk to book a place stating your name, church and role.

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

Could You Consider Becoming a Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy?

Safeguarding is a vital part of the Church's ministry and mission, helping to ensure that our churches remain safe, welcoming, and supportive places for everyone.

If you have ever considered becoming a **Church Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy**, or have been approached about the role, we would encourage you to explore this rewarding opportunity.

You may already have valuable safeguarding experience through your work or volunteering with another organisation, such as a school, charity, healthcare setting, youth organisation, or community group. Even if your experience has been gained outside the Church, the skills, awareness, and understanding you have developed can be invaluable and are highly transferable to this role.

The role is not about having all the answers; it is about caring for people, promoting good safeguarding practice, and knowing where to seek advice and support when needed. Full guidance is available to explain the role, responsibilities, and the support you will receive, and we are always here to help you every step of the way. Comprehensive training is provided, and you will be supported by your Synod Safeguarding Officer whenever advice or guidance is needed.

Please prayerfully consider whether this could be a way in which you can use your gifts and experience to serve your church community. By taking on this important ministry, you will play a key role in helping to ensure that our churches continue to be safe, caring, and welcoming places for all.

Here are some links to give you more information:

[Safeguarding Coordinator - United Reformed Church](#)

[Church Safeguarding Coordinator Declaration Form - United Reformed Church](#)

Also do pop along to my session if you want to find out more information:

[Online Church Safeguarding Coordinator Training](#)

For those new to the role, or as a refresher

Monday 24th August 2026

6.30pm-8.30pm

To book please click [here](#)

Yvette Robinson | North Western Synod Safeguarding Officer

M: 07827 390 299

E: safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk

Monitoring Website and Social Media Comments

As part of our shared commitment to keeping our churches safe, welcoming, and respectful places for everyone, we would encourage all churches to regularly monitor comments posted on their websites and social media accounts. Unfortunately, online platforms can sometimes attract inappropriate, malicious, abusive or concerning comments that may affect the wellbeing of individuals or the reputation and safety of the church community.

If you notice any comments that raise safeguarding concerns, appear threatening, discriminatory, abusive or target individuals or groups, please do not ignore them. Where appropriate, remove or hide the comment in line with your platform's settings, keep a record (such as a screenshot) and report the concern to your Church Safeguarding Coordinator. If the matter is serious or you are unsure how to respond, please also contact the Synod Safeguarding Officer for advice and support.

By remaining vigilant both online and in person, we can all play our part in ensuring our churches continue to be safe, welcoming and caring places for everyone.

Yvette Robinson | North Western Synod Safeguarding Officer

M: 07827 390 299

E: safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk

Sacrament Training



Please note the following dates for Sacrament Training. If you are due for reauthorisation, please take note of the following training dates:

Tues 6th October - 2pm - Communion

Tues 20th October - 2pm - Baptism

Tues 20th October - 7pm - Communion

Tues 10th November - 2pm - Funerals

Tues 10th November - 7pm - Communion

Tues 24th November - 2pm - Weddings

For those who have had three or more authorisations for communion or baptism, we will be offering a short video (coming soon) which will satisfy the requirement for reauthorisation. If you have had fewer than three

communion or baptism sessions, the live Zoom session is required.

If you have had more than three communion or baptism sessions, and you prefer to participate in the live Zoom, you are welcome. When you RSVP for sacrament training, please indicate the number of trainings you have had already.

To book, please click [here](#) which will take you to the Events Calendar.

Red Lane Pilots - Young Leaders Training

Red Lane Pilots



Young Leaders Training

Because some of our “Older” Pilots have reached an age where they are not getting much out of our activities and have shown a leaning towards helping with the younger Pilots it was decided to explore the possibility of them doing some training.

Leo very kindly offered to facilitate that and he came to us at 8.00pm after the Pilots meeting finished for 3 weeks and took Jake (19), Jacob (16), Hannah (16) and Finlay (15) through intense but fun sessions where they learned as much about themselves as how to help younger ones grow and get the most out of their time at Pilots.

Anne and I stayed and also gained from the sessions but it was good to be the group on a more informal level and we look forward to working with them when we re-open in September.

Thanks Leo for leading and encouraging these young adults to grow.

Have a fantastic retirement and thank you for your support for Pilots—we’ll miss you.

Karen Hatch

Pilots Leader—Red Lane



Holiday Club Materials and Grants



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



This year's URC Holiday Club materials from the Children, Youth and Intergenerational team (CYI) are available at:

[Holiday Club Materials - United Reformed Church.](#)

With the theme **Wisdom Quest**, these are free, downloadable resources for those running holiday clubs for children aged 5–11. (Plus appendices for intergenerational, toddlers, 11–14s and vintage holiday clubs.)

Tying in with the CYI theme for the year, **Wise Words**, begin the quest of searching for God's wisdom, in words, actions and lives. Throughout the Bible we find words to live by, including the 'I am...' statements of Jesus. Explore some of these stories while thinking about how to share our wisdom with others.

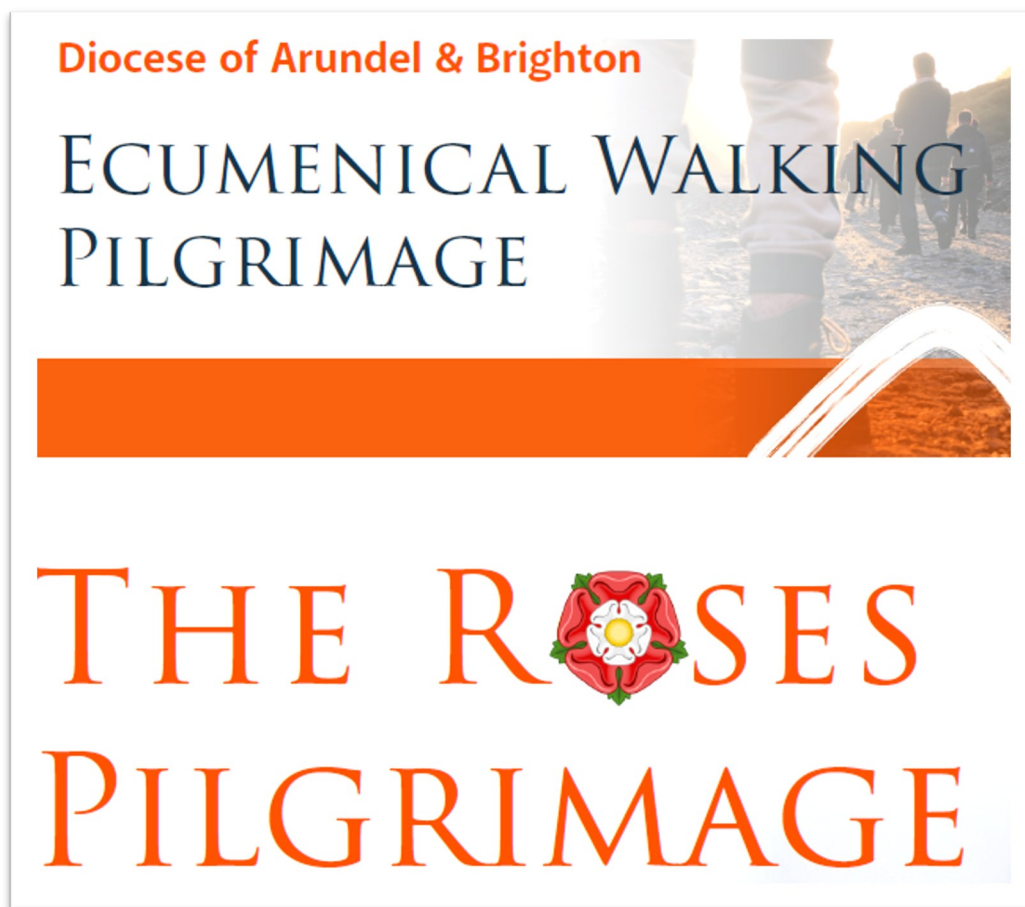


Grants

The Children, Youth and Intergenerational Committee supports churches in running holiday clubs by offering a grant of either £50 or £100 towards the costs of resources, snacks, decorations, equipment etc.

Apply at: [Children & Youth work grants - United Reformed Church](#)

The Roses Pilgrimage Middlesbrough-Ripon-Skipton-Blackburn 15th-30th August 2026



All are welcome to join the Roses Walking Pilgrimage from Middlesbrough to Blackburn, 15th to 30th August 2026.

The route links the cathedrals of Middlesbrough, Ripon and Blackburn, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. We follow the lower Tees valley and Vale of York before crossing the Pennines and cutting through the Forest of Bowland, so expect some great scenery. There are rest days in Ripon and Skipton. The organisers are Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages who have run an annual pilgrimage since 1975 in different parts of England and Wales. Come with us and experience walking as part of our travelling Christian community, whether for a fortnight or just an afternoon!

The walk is guided and luggage is forwarded. The cost is £350 to walk with us all the way, or £33 per night to book a shorter spell.

To find out more and book your place, visit www.thepilgrims.org.uk/book

Book Launch - Joy Comes in the Morning



The story of Lizzie Lowe is outlined below - and then the remarkable and moving changes that her life and death led to for her church, St James Emmanuel, in Didsbury.

This has led to a book, which launches in September.

To find out more about Lizzie's Legacy please click [here](#)

BOOK LAUNCH

Joy Comes in the Morning

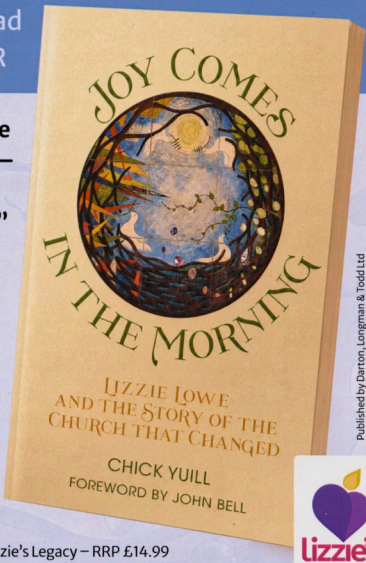
11 September · 8pm · Emmanuel

6 Barlow Moor Road
Didsbury M20 6TR

"From tragedy to hope for countless others – all this and more is Lizzie Lowe's legacy."
Steve Chalke

John Bell leads an evening of reflection and discussion with former St James and Emmanuel rector **Nick Bundock**, author **Chick Yuill**, and **Hilary and Kevin Lowe**.

Doors open 7.30pm
Light refreshments
Proceeds of book sales in aid of Lizzie's Legacy – RRP £14.99
More information at stjamesandemmanuel.org/booklaunch



Adored, talented and popular, in 2014 Lizzie Lowe took her own life at the age of 14. Amongst the pressures of being a teenager, she was afraid to tell her family she was gay and unable to reconcile her sexuality with her Christian faith.

Lizzie did not realise she was simply loved for who she was – unconditionally.

The tragedy shook her family, friends, church and community to the core. The immense outpouring of grief led to a deep realisation that change had to take place.

Lizzie's death challenged her church, St James and Emmanuel, to examine how it reflected God's love for EVERYONE. It is now one of the UK's few fully LGBTQ+ inclusive evangelical churches.

From their place of grief, Lizzie's family, with the support of the church, established **Lizzie's Legacy**:

- providing a safe place for young people to share and be themselves
- promoting diversity within the church and wider community
- creating relationships with organisations that support inclusion, diversity and mental health.

Lizzie's LEGACY
a shining light for young lives

You can support Lizzie's Legacy at lizzielowe.org

Disability Awareness Sunday - 27th September



URC congregations are invited to celebrate **Disability Awareness Sunday 2026 - 'One Body, Many Parts'**

United Reformed churches around the UK are invited to mark **Disability Awareness Sunday (DAS) 2026**. The official date is **27th September**, but churches can celebrate on a date that works for them. Watch out for other online or local [Disability Awareness Week](#) events (20-27 Sept).

The DAS 2026 theme, **'One Body, Many Parts'**, draws on 1 Corinthians 12 and celebrates the truth that **the Church is not complete without disabled people**.

A free, creative service resource is [available to download](#) from charity Through the Roof, packed with ideas for the theme.



The resource is written by **Triona Brading**, a young autistic Christian author, ministry trainee and Roofbreaker disability champion with Through the Roof. She brings insight, joy and fresh perspectives to our understanding the Body of Christ.

FREE resource for churches!

The free Disability Awareness Sunday 2026 Resource includes:

- A 6-min video for use in worship, plus two other short videos on the theme
- Ready-to-use service ideas, with Bible notes, song ideas and prayers
- Practical ideas for all-age worship and youth activities sheet.

You can also order 'One Body, Many Parts' handouts for everyone attending a UK DAS event [here](#). And if this is your first DAS celebration, our original DAS resource is still available at the same link, on Luke 5: four people breaking 'through the roof' for their paralysed friend to meet Jesus.

Churches can request the free DAS resources now at:

throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday

Show the video. Pray together. Celebrate every member of Christ's Body.

JPEG and PDF versions of the invitation card above are available [HERE](#) to share with churches.

For more info contact: janet@throughtheroof.org or annette@throughtheroof.org

Tel (main office): 01372 749 955

www.throughtheroof.org

Methodist Sacramental Fellowship Online Gathering



**METHODIST
SACRAMENTAL
FELLOWSHIP**

OCTOBER 30th & 31st ONLINE GATHERING

SPEAKERS AND THEMES

Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths

"Poetry and Politics as Sacramental"

Revd Kenneth Howcroft

"The Church as Sacrament(al)?"

The Revd Jason McMahon-Riley

**"From Love to Liturgy, Pilgrimage to Practice: How the
British Methodist Church's 'Pilgrimage of Faith' led to
personal and liturgical transformation."**

Programme

Friday

7.00 Evening Prayer

7.30 Session 1 - Leslie Griffiths

8.45 - 9.00 *short break*

9.00 Compline

Saturday

9.00 Morning Prayer

9.30 Session 2 - Kenneth Howcroft

10.45 Break

11.15 session 3 - Jason McMahon-Riley

Booking

Please email: MSF@manleyparkchurch.org.uk to let us know you want to join us by October 14th and we will email the Zoom link to you a few days before October 30th .

Please share this flier with anyone you may 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?

About the speakers

Leslie Griffiths

In a book he wrote 20 years ago, Leslie Griffiths made a case for listening again and more intently to voices which the church had either pushed to the margins or simply condemned. He called that book *Voices from the Desert*. Now, he wants to argue that the age-old distinction between politics and religion needs to be looked at again.

Traditional Methodism has always emphasised the energies and drive that emerge from what it's described as "inward religion." He argues, however, that there's also a very spiritual content in what happens outside oneself.

These days, he's deeply immersed in the world of politics - at home, in Europe, and globally and will attempt to explain how his own spirituality has been developed in his time as a member of the House of Lords, the Council of Europe, the life of his beloved Haiti and much else.

Kenneth Howcroft

The Revd Kenneth Howcroft is a presbyter in full connexion with the British Conference. A former classicist (specialising in classical philosophy) and teacher of classics he trained for the ministry at Wesley House in Cambridge where he completed an MPhil in New Testament Studies. His first appointment from 1983-8 was to the West London Mission based at Hinde St. He was President of the British Conference in 2014-15.

Prior to that he had served at various times as Assistant Secretary of the Conference; its Ecumenical Officer; and the leader of its Formation in Ministry Office. From 2011-14 he served in Rome helping to establish what became the Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome. Since returning to Britain he served until 2019 in the Birmingham Circuit with pastoral charge at Solihull Methodist and Coleshill United Churches.

He chaired the Conference Working Group which produced the report *God in Love Unites Us*, and is currently a member of the Law and Polity Committee and that committee's observer on the Faith and Order Committee.

Jason McMahon-Riley

The Revd Jason McMahon-Riley is a presbyter in the Methodist Church of Great Britain, received into Full Connexion in July 2025 following his training for ordained ministry. His work is grounded in the Methodist and Wesleyan tradition, with a particular theological interest in sacramental theology, liturgical practice, and the role of worship in shaping ecclesial identity and discipleship.

Jason's ministry reflects a commitment to the integration of theology and practice, especially in relation to the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. He is particularly concerned with how sacramental life is understood, articulated, and embodied within contemporary Methodism, and how these means of grace continue to form Christian community in a changing cultural context.

Alongside his ministerial responsibilities, Jason brings an interest in music, creativity, and the life of the local church, recognising their significance in the Church's worship and mission.

Just Peace Coalition – Crisis in the West Bank



Last week, I attended an online webinar run by the Just Peace Coalition – a growing partnership of charities and denominations (including the United Reformed Church) - who are seeking to respond to the growing tensions in the Holy Land.

The main presentation was from Dalia Qumsieh, a human rights lawyer working for a charity based in Bethlehem and part of the Kairos Palestine initiative, who testified to the experiences of Palestinian Christians in the Beit Sahour

region of the West Bank, along with all Palestinian citizens in that area.

Many of you will know of the situation in the West Bank, some will have had the opportunity to visit, but what Dalia shared was the unprecedented acceleration and expansion of settlements and annexation. Billions of shekels are being invested in enabling Israeli settlers to occupy land owned and farmed by Palestinians for centuries. These settlers are being weaponised too so the increase of violence towards Palestinian citizens has increased five times this year already.

Resources like water and electricity are being restricted to Palestinian farms and homesteads, and at times shut off altogether, while they are redirected to support the infrastructure being put in place for the occupying 'settlers'.

There was a strong emphasis on the fact that Palestinian Christians, a minority group in the region, particularly are being targeted.

The aim of the webinar as well as helping to inform the church is to encourage people to act. I'm including a link to the website below so that if you feel so moved you can add your name to the list of those seeking to understand how to respond.

More information will be made available through the website and also resources that will help us to call on the UK government to act and lead others in a coordinated and urgent response to the needs of those who suffer under this brutal assault on their lives and livelihoods.

[Home - Just Peace Coalition](#)

Darren Holland, Synod Ecumenical Officer

Discipleship Development Fund Small Grants – Could this be for you?



Looking for support to develop your discipleship journey? Each synod has funding available in 2026 through Discipleship Development Fund (DDF) Small Grants, designed to support individuals in learning, growth and faith development.

Grants are available throughout the year, while funds last. The maximum grant award is £300.

How it works:

- Download the application form [here](#) from our new website
- Complete the form and send it to Rob Hoch-Yidokodilona at learningmentor@nwsynod.org.uk

If you've been thinking about your discipleship journey, this could be the moment to take the next step and make an idea happen.

Talking NW Synod with Maggie McDonald



Voice, Faith, and 'Colour': Maggie McDonald on Music as Ministry

Click [here](#) to listen to this edition of Talking NW Synod podcast, featuring Maggie McDonald - singer, vocal coach and church musician.

Maggie shares her journey from the Royal Northern College of Music and Glyndebourne to teaching and coaching with major choirs, singing for royal audiences, and leading worship. She explains how the voice is a living instrument, how teaching singing involves body, breath and hearing, and how her synesthesia lets her see music in colour. Maggie also reflects on the spiritual power of congregational singing and a memorable moment of being 'bathed in golden light' while performing.

Click [here](#) to listen to Maggie singing "Urlicht" from Mahler's 2nd symphony "The Resurrection" in C minor,

Safety in Church Buildings and Martyn's Law

There has been an increase in local churches seeking support on building and people safety.

In response some guidance has been added to the URC website:

[Staying Safe in Church Buildings - United Reformed Church](#)

There is also further information and links on the North Western Synod website - including links to updates about Martyn's Law - please click on the link below, scroll down to Property and select the 'Safety in Church' section.

[Trust and Property — URC North Western](#)

North Western Synod Treasurer



Synod Treasurer

Part time: 8 days per month
Salary : £20,000 per annum
(FTE : £50,000)

The North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church stretches from the Scottish borders through Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and into parts of Cheshire and Derbyshire. The Synod's purpose is to help local churches in their mission to reach out to the people around them with love, truth, justice and peace and to make this world more as God wants it.

The Synod wishes to appoint a Treasurer who will, supported by an office-based finance team, offer a strategic overview of the Synod and Trust's current and future financial requirements. You will work closely with the Executive, the Chair of Trust and Trust Officer to ensure the implementation of Synod and Trust financial policies. You will need an ability to engage in the financial oversight of the Synod finances, as well as to explain to Synod and Trust the constraints within which the wider church must operate

You will

- Have financial experience ideally in a medium-sized organisation, and should possess a recognised financial qualification or demonstrable equivalent experience
- Be a member of a church recognised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, or the Evangelical Alliance
- Develop organisational and future financial strategy in conjunction with the Finance Officer and others
- Be responsible for the production of the Annual Report and Accounts, and present the Trustees' Report, initiating the audit process and attending meetings as required
- Advise the Synod and Trust on the parameters for the Synod budget and advice on appropriate funding strategy
- Together with the finance team, ensure compliance with Companies House, Charity Commission and other statutory bodies

You will be home based, although work closely with the Synod office in Salford. You will report to the Synod Trust Company and be responsible to the Trust through the Chair of Trust, and to the Synod through the Moderator. If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us for a Job Description and application form (noting that we do not accept CVs): clerk@nwsynod.org.uk or telephone 08000 903 903

Closing date for completed applications: midday on 11th September 2026. Interviews on Thursday 24th September 2026

West Midlands Synod Clerk



Are you our next Synod Clerk?

This post provides authoritative leadership for the governance, administration and effective operation of the Synod, ensuring that its decision-making, committees and wider relationships are well managed, compliant and strategically supported.

Scope and dimensions of the post:

- Provides oversight of the governance and ensures effective operation of the Synod, Synod Executive and associated committees
- Acts as a principal adviser on process, policy implementation, constitutional compliance and organisational coordination across the Synod.

Supports effective collaboration between office holders, ministers, churches and wider denominational bodies to ensure coherent delivery of Synod priorities.

Application deadline: Monday 10th August 2026 (noon)

[Download the Job Description](#)

[Download the Person Specification](#)

[Download the application form](#)

This is a part time, 21 hour post.

Salary: £43,176.00 (full time equivalent)

Actual for 21 hours: £25,905.60

10% employer's pension contribution

Please email your application to: moderators@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

Chaplaincy Support & Communications Worker



Chaplaincy 360 is seeking a full-time Chaplaincy Support & Communications Worker based at the University of South Wales Treforest Campus, with travel across university sites and occasional evening and weekend work.

This varied and rewarding role combines administration, communications, and pastoral support. The successful candidate will be a welcoming presence at the Meeting House, ensuring the work of Chaplaincy 360 is organised, visible, and welcoming, in person and online. Strong communication, IT, and social media skills are essential. Digital engagement is key to connecting with students and staff.

Key responsibilities include administrative support to chaplaincy leadership, coordinating meetings, events, and activities, creating engaging content for social media etc. supporting student engagement and community building, and assisting with the running of the Meeting House. The post holder will work with chaplains, volunteers, staff, and students.

Applicants must have excellent organisational, communication, and interpersonal skills, be empathetic and discreet, and be comfortable working in a diverse, multi-faith, and multicultural environment. They should be supportive of the Christian ethos and mission of Chaplaincy 360. Experience in social media management, video editing, pastoral or community work would be an advantage. The role may offer opportunities to gain supervised pastoral experience.

Closing date for applications is 8am on Monday 17th August 2026.

For an informal discussion or for an application pack, please contact:

Rev Michelle Romaniw, Head of Chaplaincy Services, The University of South Wales, Pontypridd, CF37 1DL

Email: michelle.romaniw@southwales.ac.uk

Tel: 01443 654 060

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](#)



JPIT Newsletter

Click [here](#) for the July 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.



[Luther King Newsletter: July 2026](#)



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

for our Prayers

We invite you to pray:

- Pray for your MP: that they will make wise decisions for the good of their constituents
- Pray for the work of the House of Commons and the House of Lords: that good and just decisions will be made
- Pray for politics of wisdom, integrity, self-sacrifice and policymaking for the good of all
- Pray for integrity, truth and compassion throughout Government
- Pray for Churches who are facing difficult decisions about the future of their fellowships and buildings
- Pray for those involved in the discussions about the future of ministry in the North Western Synod
- Pray for your Ministers as they consider how best to support you
- Pray for the continued growth of church mission