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For Our Prayers

Retirement of Rev'd Martin Whiffen



Mrs Fiona Hodson - Church Secretary
01257 760066 chorleyurc@gmail.com

Registered Charity Number 1128897
www.chorleyURC.org

27th July 2026

Dear Friends,

RETIREMENT OF REVEREND MARTIN WHIFFEN

On behalf of the Chorley United Reformed Church, Adlington, Leyland and LSMEP Missional Partnership, NW Synod I am writing to invite you to attend Reverend Martin Whiffen's final service with us as he retires from his ministry of 40 years with the United Reformed Church

The service will take place on **Sunday 4th October 2026** at **Chorley United Reformed Church, Hollinshead Street , Chorley PR7 1EP** starting at **10.30am** followed by a light lunch together and we would be delighted if you were able to attend to celebrate Martin's retirement.

There will be refreshments following the service, and an opportunity to continue join in celebrating with Martin, Karen and their family, friends as well as many of those from URC. If you were unable to come for the service you are warmly invited to join us from 12noon onwards or lunch.

The service will be livestreamed, and you can join the celebration by joining us on YouTube - Chorley URC - live.

In order to be clear about numbers for catering and any dietary requirements, I would be very grateful if you could please let me know whether or not you are able to attend Martin's Retirement service no later than **2nd September 2026**. Please reply to chorleyurc@gmail.com

With every good wish

Fiona Hodson
Church Secretary
Chorley United Reformed Church
Tel no. 01257 760066

Design Our 2026 Synod Christmas Card!

We're looking for a unique design to feature on the **North Western Synod Christmas Card 2026** – anyone can enter!

Whether you're a talented illustrator, a keen painter, a digital designer, a crafty congregation, or someone who simply loves getting creative, this is your chance to see your artwork shared across the Synod.

Entries can be individual or group work, and those of all ages can enter.

What can you create?

Anything that captures the spirit of Christmas. Your design can be hand-drawn/painted or digitally designed – the choice is yours. But please ensure that it is A4 so we can reproduce it.

How to enter

Please send your design to office@nwsynod.org.uk or by post to Unit 20, Waters Edge Business Park, Modwen Rd, Salford, M5 3EZ by 9th October. All entries will be on display at the Autumn Synod on 17th October (which will be held at the Chaplaincy Centre at Lancaster University). Those attending will be asked to choose their favourite, the winner will be shown at the end of Synod, and will then become our 2026 Christmas Card.

Why take part?

- See your design featured on the official North Western Synod Christmas Card 2026
- Share your creativity with churches across the Synod
- Enjoy a fun project for your church group or congregation

Spread a little Christmas joy

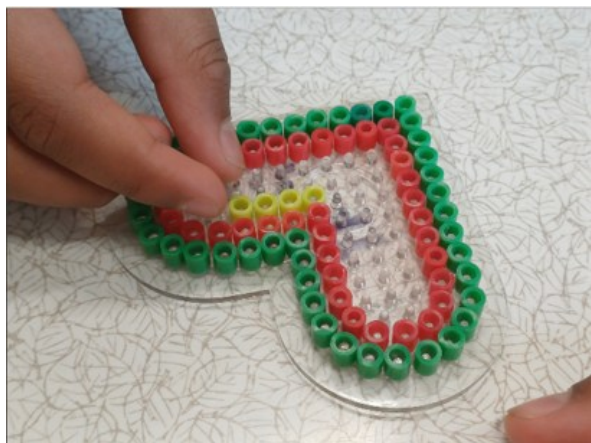
The winning design will be featured on the **North Western Synod Christmas Card** sent to churches, ministers and Ecumenical Partners across the Synod, with full credit given to the designer or church.

News from Grange-over-Sands

Back on a warm day in July, Grange URC along with others from Cartmel Peninsula Churches Together hosted families from Darwen. It was such a joy that so many came together to share hospitality with these families and so inspiring to meet them and hear a little of their stories.

On Sunday, September 20th the churches together are worshipping together at a service in Celebration of the Youth Work in our area. We will have as our theme the words from 1 Corinthians 12 where we read about the different gifts we all offer and the different parts of the body we all can be – all vital, all equally valued – all needed to be the one body. This day together with the families from Darwen showed this so clearly. Some put tables out, some made food and mugs of tea, some shopped, some made sure we were in the right place at the right time, some sat and listened, some played and some made crafty things, some prayed for all the plans and for all that went on...all essential parts.

And here is the piece that one of our local retired Methodist Minister's, David Edmondson, put in our local paper.



Grange Shares the Love

It was a real pleasure on Wednesday, July 29th for a group of people from many of the local churches in Grange and from the wider community to come together to host a group from DARE for the day. This stands for Darwen Asylum seekers and Refugee Enterprise. Seven families with helpers had come up to Grange from Darwen on the train to visit our beautiful town. They enjoyed lunch at the United Reformed Church, craft activities in the

Methodist Hall and games on St Charles' Field before making their way back to the station through town. Perhaps some of you saw us on our way! The prom playground was a great hit, and they loved seeing the sea. One of the craft activities was with the beads that you make designs with and then iron (yes, we'd done our risk assessment!). The love heart shaped one was a favourite, and symbolised for us all the sharing of love across any barriers of race and language.

Thanks be to God for the many gifts and that we are all part of the one beautiful body of Christ.

Rev'd Kate Hunt

URC Minister Cumbria Missional Partnership

Safeguarding



Newsletter from the URC Safeguarding Team

To access the latest editions of the quarterly Newsletters from the URC, please click [here](#)

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

- 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](#)

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.

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

New Place for Hope Courses



We have some exciting news to share in the form of new courses from Place for Hope. Thanks to our partnership, these courses will be available to attendees from the URC at no cost to you - just select the “**partnership ticket**” option.

Responding to Polarisation: October 3rd, Union Chapel, London ([Book here](#))

- This one-day course equips learners to understand and respond constructively to growing polarisation within churches and the wider communities they serve
- Developed by Place for Hope with input from Alison Goldsworthy, co-author of *Poles Apart* and lecturer at Stanford University, it combines expert-led learning with guided reflection

Participants will explore the causes and impacts of polarisation, develop practical approaches for bridging divides, and build confidence in navigating difficult conversations and relationships.

Rebuilding Faith Communities: Post-Incident Recovery and Culture Change, October 21, Glasgow, venue tbc ([Book here](#))

- Designed for those leading or supporting faith communities after a serious incident, this course focuses on restoring trust, strengthening relationships, and creating safer, healthier cultures
- Through a blend of expert input and reflective practice, participants will gain an understanding of post-incident recovery, community dynamics, and the practical steps needed to support positive culture change

The course aims to build confidence in leading recovery processes with care, accountability, and resilience.

One Body, Many Voices: Peacebuilding in Diverse Communities, October 22nd, Augustine United, Edinburgh ([Book here](#))

- This course supports faith and community leaders to foster inclusion and respond effectively to conflict in diverse congregations
- Combining practical learning with personal reflection, participants will explore the causes of tension, develop skills in inclusive communication and collaborative problem-solving, and learn approaches that encourage constructive dialogue

The course helps leaders build confidence in creating environments where difference is valued and communities can thrive together.

There are also some bitesized courses looking at topics around understanding and engaging conflict.

More info can be found here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/placeforhope>

Martha Hunt - Programme Lead (Training & Reconciliation)

Place for Hope

t: 07899 569 929

e: martha.hunt@placeforhope.org.uk

w: <http://www.placeforhope.org.uk>

Conflict Transformation - Three Learning Events

Conflict Transformation – Three Learning Events Across the Synod

Following feedback on the learning culture session at our last Synod meeting, we are organising **three learning events focused on conflict transformation**, taking place across the region over the coming months.

The aim is to make these opportunities accessible to people across the Synod, with events being held in different areas. The dates currently planned are:

- **7 November** – Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston
- **28 November** – Manchester area (venue to be confirmed)
- **17 April** – Cumbria or Lancashire area (venue to be confirmed)

Everyone is welcome to attend whichever event is most convenient for them. However, if you are unable to make the date closest to you, you are very welcome to attend one of the other sessions instead.

Further details, including venues, timings and how to book, will be shared as arrangements are confirmed. Please save the dates and look out for more information soon.

CYDO Email and Interim Arrangements

As many of you will know, Leo Roberts, who has been the Children and Youth Development Officer in North Western Synod for 30 years, is retiring at the end of August.

Whilst the synod undertakes a review of the CYDO role, Steven Mitchell (CYDO for Mersey Synod and an Elder at Penwortham URC) will be offering 1 day a week to NW to 'keep an eye on things.' He will have access to cydo@nwsynod.org.uk so, should you need help or support, please use that email address.

If, for any reason, you wish to get in touch with Leo after he has retired, please use his personal email address: leo.roberts@ntlworld.com

Youthscape Essentials Deep Dive - Worship in Youth Ministry



Youthscape Essentials Deep Dive

Worship in Youth Ministry

Join us in this one off session as we explore
Why do we sing? How do we involve young
people in worship? How do we create spaces
for them to meet God?



Tuesday 22 September
7pm to 9pm
<https://shorturl.at/Mp26u>



Join the URC Children, Youth and Intergenerational team as we explore how we can help young people engage with worship.

Why do we worship? How can we involve young people more meaningfully? And how can we create spaces where they can meet with God?

This standalone session will combine reflection, discussion and practical ideas to help you connect worship and youth ministry, with simple ideas you can take back and use in your own context.

Tuesday 22nd September
7pm to 9pm

Please click [here](https://shorturl.at/Mp26u) to reserve your place.

Godly Play Training Course



16th to 18th October 2026

This three day course is hosted in partnership with the East Midlands Synod and held at the Synod Office in Nottingham.

Training facilitated by Richard Knott & Alison Summerskill

Led by two experienced trainers, this course is a mixture of trainer-

led sessions and opportunities for coached participant storytelling. We work to model a Godly Play environment, with the opportunity to use and see a comprehensive set of resources. Each day focuses on a different kind of Godly Play presentation (sacred stories, parables and liturgical action / church practice) to help you begin to understand how different genres of Christian language support spiritual exploration.

Workshops in this core training also cover:

The Spirituality of Childhood

Setting up a Godly Play environment

Your particular context, concerns and questions

"The Godly Play training gave me the time to explore more deeply this brilliant approach, and it was really accessible"

"Since going on the Godly Play training course, I have used forms of Godly Play frequently in our weekly worship and children's groups. I would highly recommend." (The Rev'd Ruth Maxey)

The cost is £50 to anyone connected with a URC congregation including Local Ecumenical Partnerships which reflects a subsidy from the URC Children, Youth and Intergenerational Department and includes all course materials, meals, and refreshments.

If you would like information about overnight accommodation nearby, please get in touch.

For more information or to book visit:

<https://forms.office.com/e/KKk85K7qHz?origin=lprLink>

Or email: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk



Advent Resource



The 2026 Advent Resource from the URC's CYDO+ Team is now available.

They always sell out quickly – so order now and avoid disappointment - it's never too soon to start planning 😊

Please click the link below:

<https://urcshop.co.uk/the-2026-urc-advent-kit-they-should-have-used-a-camel/>

Season of Creation 2026



It has been agreed that General Assembly will encourage local churches to celebrate the Feast of Creation on the first Sunday of September each year from 2026.

This is in addition to our continued efforts to encourage churches to celebrate the season of creation, from 1 Sept to 4 Oct.

Resolution 41 General Assembly encourages United Reformed Churches to observe the Feast of Creation in Christ on the first Sunday in September from 2026.

Resolution 42 General Assembly instructs the Worship, Faith and Order Committee to provide and curate worship resources to help the churches to celebrate the Feast of Creation, including resources produced as a result of the global ecumenical process.

Although the URC doesn't have an official liturgical calendar, there is certainly a *de facto* one through our range of resources, this 'encouraging' from General Assembly demonstrates an understanding of the need for positive action from churches in the face of mounting climate emergency and environmental degradation.

We don't do this alone, of course, but in keeping with our Ecumenical roots offer this as part of the global Church. Last year's conference at Assisi was significant in bringing together agreement across a great many denominations and from Western and Eastern Christian traditions.

<https://www.feastofcreation.com/>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/christian-leaders-unite-in-assisi-to-establish-historic-feast-of-creation>

The representative from the Worship, Faith and Order Committee at GA wanted the Feast of Creation to be '**as big as Christmas and Easter**'!

Will you be encouraged to FEAST on Sunday 6 September 2026? What could that feast be like? Every Christian 'feast' is a celebration. Is it also appropriate to pause and reflect, to confess our sins of not caring for creation, to lament or grieve? Or to simply give people a foretaste of the heavenly feast, with its incredible diversity and total joy, by throwing a banquet for the whole community that demonstrates the rich bounty of Earth

This year we will be guided by the vision of the prophet Ezekiel (47:1–12): a river flowing from the temple of God, which grows without stopping and brings life where everything seems barren.

Water heals, restores, and makes creation flourish. But it also challenges us: to recognize ecological damage, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to immerse ourselves in the responsibility of caring for and restoring our Common Home.

May this Season of Creation be a path for the healing of the Earth and human well-being to flourish together.

#SeasonOfCreation #SOC2026 #LivingWater

For resources, please follow the link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WeWEjt_WxyS6Ed5qD8tnRIahSMJ5SUmI/view?pli=1&sfnsn=scwspmo

Acorn Retreat - An Hour You Won't Regret!



ACORN RETREAT

An hour you won't regret!

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
7.30 – 8.30 PM
ON ZOOM



Meeting ID: 840 0524 6071

Passcode: 176238

WHO'S IT FOR?

Current Acorn group members, people who took part in the Lent campaign, and interested spectators!

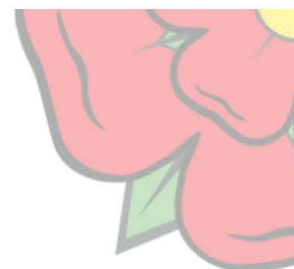
Come and hear living Acorn stories from URC churches, and discover the upcoming Acorn Christmas Advent Calendar campaign!

ALL WELCOME



Global Week of Prayer Event

PRAY FOR LANCASHIRE



Dear Church Leader,

We are delighted to let you know about the next **Pray for Lancashire** event taking place between Sunday September 6th to Sunday 13th September. You may know that this week is a **Global Week of Prayer** being co-ordinated by 24/7 Prayer, with a vision to see every nation on earth hosting a physical prayer room with non-stop prayer happening day and night (www.24-7prayer.com/weekofprayer/). The event invites communities worldwide to engage in creative, hands-on prayer experiences, uniting the global church in a shared declaration of God's greatness. As we pray together, we seek to encounter God's presence and carry His heart for transformation into our towns, cities, and nations.

As part of **Pray for Lancashire**, Christians across the region are booking hour-long prayer slots, as we seek to cover each hour of the week in non-stop prayer! People can pray on their own, at home, with others, in church buildings or as part of a prayer walk. As they sign up for a prayer slot they will receive a prayer resource to help guide their prayer time.

It is also encouraged that churches mark the week of prayer in some way during their Sunday services (6th Sept), providing more opportunities for people to engage in the global week of prayer. The theme for the week is 'AT THE NAME OF JESUS' as we pray Philippians 2v9-11 over our communities, *'that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord.'*

To sign up for a prayer slot and share this with your churches/communities please visit bit.ly/LancsPrayer or use the QR code at the bottom of this letter.

We're also very excited that the National Day of Prayer for Schools is aligned with the Global Week of Prayer this year. The National Day of Prayer for Schools will be on Wednesday 9th September and you can read more here; www.message.org.uk/prayforschools

How to get involved

1. Book your 24 hour prayer slot and encourage your Church community to book in too.
2. Engage with the National Day of Prayer for Schools by joining a Prayer Zoom, leading a Prayer Walk and praying for your schools
3. Join Christians from other parts of the region as we lift high the NAME OF JESUS! We will put a list of prayer gatherings below.
4. From this September we also plan to launch 'Fast for Lancashire' as we seek to find a group of people who will form a chain of prayer & fasting for Lancashire. If you'd like to be a part of this then email petebaker@lifelancs.org

Week of Prayer Gatherings

Sun 6th	AM: Pray in your Churches as part of morning services 6.30pm: Launch event at Holy Trinity Church, Colne (BB8 8JE)
Mon 7th	8am: Prayer Walk up Pendle Hill. Meet on Barley Lane at 8am (https://bit.ly/PendlePrayer)
Tues 8th	1pm: Chorley Prayer Walk. Meet at St Peter's Church (PR6 0HP)
Weds 9th	National Day of Prayer for Schools! 12noon: Meet at Blackburn Cathedral for an hour of Prayer, followed by a prayer walk in Blackburn 7.00pm: Churches across Lancaster and Morecambe gather to pray and worship at St Thomas Church Lancaster.
Thurs 10th	12pm: Blackpool Church Prayer Gathering at Blackpool Church (FY1 1BP)
Fri 11th	Preston Churches Prayer gathering - details TBA 7.30pm - 12pm: Lancaster Churches Half Night of Prayer, Hope Church (LA1 1RX)
Sat 12th	3pm: Kay Street Baptist Prayer Gathering (BB4 7LS)
Sun 13th	Pray together in local Churches

Resources

If your church community would like to get involved and run something in your location, then you are most welcome and the more people engaging in prayer during the week the better! The launch video for the 24/7 Global week of prayer can be found [here](#) and there are lots of creative resources including how to start a prayer room and creative prayer activities available on the 24/7 Prayer website [Prayer resources - 24-7 Prayer International](#)

There are also lots of other ideas on the [Prayer Spaces in Schools website](#) including specific Global Week of Prayer activities to use with children and young people, and if you would were interested to lead a Prayer Walk in your locality, then there is a really useful guide you can take from the 'How to Pray' [toolshed](#).

I hope you are encouraged by all that is being planned and please do sign up to get involved and share this exciting week amongst your churches and communities.

We pray that across Lancashire (and beyond) God would pour out His Holy Spirit and *that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.*

Thank you for your support.

Every Blessing,

Dan Finn
(on behalf of the Pray for Lancashire team)

Sign up to pray here:



New Chapel URC—Harvest Quiz + Supper

Join us for a fabulous evening of quizzing, food and raising money for the **National Deaf Children's Society** and **New Chapel URC**

Harvest Quiz and Supper

On: Friday 25 September

Time: 6:30 pm

At: New Chapel UR Church,
Horwich, BL6 6QN

Cost: £10 minimum donation to include quiz and 2 course supper

Raffle

Please bring your own drinks

For tickets message on our facebook page or email: safeguarding.newchapel@nwsynod.org.uk

Coffee Morning + New to You Sale at New Chapel URC

Coffee Morning and New to You Sale

At: New Chapel URC,
Horwich, BL6 6QN

On: Saturday 03 October 2026
From: 10:00 am to 1:00pm

Raising funds for
Macmillan Cancer Support and
New Chapel URC



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT

The People's Emergency Briefing Screening by YoURChurch



What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK?

Join us for an on-line screening of the People's Emergency Briefing - an eye-opening 50-minute film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like:

- Extreme weather
- Food security
- Health
- Cost of living

You may have thought you knew everything there was to know about the climate crisis, but this film might make you think again!

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, and a range of voices from across the UK.

After the film there will be an open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do locally in our communities.

Alkrington & Providence URC Celebrates 100 Years with Special Centenary Service



Alkrington & Providence URC
Sunday 11 October • 10.30am

With the **Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester**
and the **Mayor of Rochdale.**

Alkrington & Providence United Reformed Church will celebrate 100 years of worship, fellowship and service to the community with a special Centenary Service on Sunday 11th October 2026 at 10.30am. The service will bring together current and former members, friends of the church and representatives of the wider community to celebrate this significant milestone and give thanks for a century of Christian witness and service in Alkrington.

The congregation will be joined by the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, the Mayor of Rochdale and the Rev'd Mike Thomason, Moderator of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church.

The church will also welcome back its former minister, the Rev'd Janet Sutton, who will share in the preaching during the service.

The Rev'd Daniel Harris, minister of Alkrington & Providence URC, said:

"Our centenary is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for all those who have been part of the life of Alkrington & Providence over the past 100 years. We celebrate all that has gone before, but this is also very much about the future — continuing to be a welcoming Christian community, serving our neighbours and sharing God's love in the years ahead."

The Centenary Service will celebrate the generations of people who have worshipped at Alkrington & Providence and contributed to the life of the church and the wider community over the past century. As well as looking back with gratitude, the service will look forward with hope to the next chapter in the church's story and its continuing mission and service within Alkrington and the surrounding community.

The church is particularly keen to reconnect with people who have been part of its story over the years. **Former members and worshippers, those with family connections to the church, friends and neighbours, and anyone from the wider community are warmly invited to attend.**

Rev'd Harris added: "A centenary belongs not simply to the people who worship here today, but to everyone who has helped shape this church over the generations. We would be delighted to welcome back old friends, as well as those who may be visiting us for the first time."

Event details

Alkrington & Providence URC Centenary Service

Sunday 11th October 2026 at 10.30am

In the presence of the **Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester** and the **Mayor of Rochdale**, with the **Rev'd Mike Thomason, Moderator of the North Western Synod**, and former minister the **Rev'd Janet Sutton**

Everyone is welcome.

Northern Places of Worship Forum

We are pleased to invite you to the first meeting of the

Northern Places of Worship Forum

When? **Wednesday 9 September 2026, 10am-1pm**

Where? **St John's House, Bury**

*"Connecting places of worship across the North of England to share knowledge, tackle challenges and build a stronger future **together**."*

Who? volunteers, clergy, trustees, staff and supporters involved in caring for places of worship across the North of England.

Our first meeting will focus on the new **Places of Worship Renewal Fund** and other funding opportunities, with a guest speaker from **Historic England**. There will also be opportunities to network, share experiences and help shape the future direction of the Forum.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided



The Forum brings together volunteers, clergy, trustees, staff and supporters involved in caring for places of worship across the North of England. Established through the National Churches Trust's Cherish Project, in partnership with Churches Together, it aims to provide a supportive network for sharing knowledge, discussing challenges and building connections across the sector.

To register, please complete the booking form: [Register for the Northern Places of Worship Forum](#)

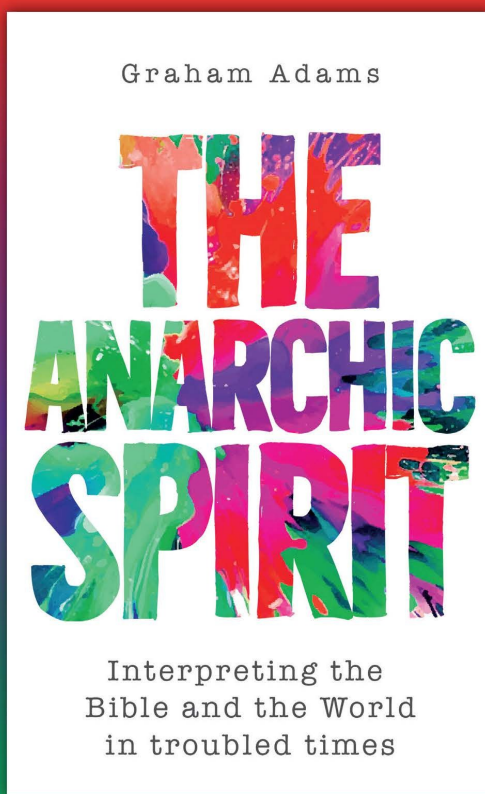
Matthew J Maries

Cherish Project Support Officer (North West)

National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB

t. 02038731124 | nationalchurchestrust.org

'The Anarchic Spirit' Book Launch



BOOK LAUNCH



Graham Adams will launch his new book, ***The Anarchic Spirit***, joined by Eleazar Fernandez (Professor Emeritus of Constructive Theology, at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, US). Refreshments will be provided and copies of the book available to purchase.

**Tuesday 22nd of September at 7:30pm at the
Luther King Theological College, Manchester M14 5JP**

"A bold, urgent, and deeply creative book, Adams reimagines the Bible for a world in crisis. For readers committed to challenging empire, exclusion, and systems of control, this work offers a compelling vision of an anarchic Spirit opening fresh, risky pathways toward justice, hope, and renewed forms of community"

Dr Robert Beckford, author of *Behold the Men*



scm press



Luther King
Theological College

Please click on the below link for further information or to register for admission—either online or in person.

[Select tickets – 'The Anarchic Spirit: Interpreting the Bible and the World in troubled times' Book Launch with Graham Adams. – Luther King Theological College](#)

GMCT Annual Assembly



ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 14TH 6.30PM-9.00PM

THE QUIET REVIVAL

A PRESENTATION BY THE BIBLE SOCIETY WITH Q&A

Sessions on
Engaging with Young People
Engaging with Children

SALFORD CATHEDRAL CENTRE
3 FORD STREET M3 6DP

Parking on site

GMCT ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

6.30PM GATHERING -TEA AND COFFEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WORSHIP

KEYNOTE ADDRESS FROM THE BIBLE SOCIETY
FOLLOWED BY Q&A

BREAK OUT SESSIONS:
ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN

CLOSING PRAYERS AND BLESSING

9.00PM DEPARTURES

Funding for Faith



 easyfundraising

£87,568

has been donated to churches and religious groups over the past 3 months

This summer, almost £90,000 in unrestricted funding has been donated to churches through the easyfundraising platform.

Through this free to use and trusted website, thousands of online retailers will donate money to your church when your congregation shop with them. Popular retailers who will donate to your church include Tesco, trainline, eBay, Argos, Asda, Sainsbury's, John Lewis, M&S, Boots, Asda, Booking.com and 8,000 others.

Every three months, the donations are paid to your church as unrestricted funding, to spend on whatever you need. easyfundraising is already trusted by lots of churches in our region who are raising much needed funds this way.

The next funding payout is due in November and your church can be part of it - for more information and to set up your free easyfundraising page please click below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/funding-for-faith>

Letter to all members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Dear Friends

This letter is designed to give you an indication of the denomination's central finances but is necessarily a brief over-view. Your church (or group) treasurer has a letter giving more detail which we are sure they will be delighted to share with you.

In recent years, on the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund, we have seen a gradual decline in church contributions and the shortfall on synod's pledges have been made up by the synods themselves.

We are hugely grateful to the synods for their generosity but recognise this is not sustainable over the long term. It is also of concern that the weakness of church contributions weakens the covenant that binds us together as a denomination, namely that those with resources contribute to supporting those who have less.

The central URC budget for expenditure (for 2026) includes a number of areas of expected costs reduction, significantly in staffing. Some very hard choices have been made and implemented. On the other hand, the URC needs to buy in expertise that we need for our world of increasing regulation and oversight, in view of the scarce resources available from volunteers. We hope that at local church level you will take a moment to reflect on the expertise (paid and unpaid) that steers the URC through all we have to do to be compliant with complex regulation. (Please pray for us!).

We know you have some of these challenges at local level too. We hope that one of the outcomes of the Church Life Review and Church Life Fund going forward will be the availability of URC resources and advice that can be accessed by local congregations. Ask your Church Secretary about these and look at this year's General Assembly decisions.

The annual audited accounts of the URC (for the year ended 31 December 2025) are now finalised and were published just before General Assembly. You can find a copy at:

<https://urc.org.uk/trustees-report-and-financial-statements/>

The accounts of the M&M Fund (the greater, but not only part of the URC Trust finances) show our total income £670,000 ahead of budget, but our costs were around £610,000 higher than expected. The deficit for the year on the M&M fund was around £650,000. We had hoped for much better.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2025 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Tutor in Old Testament Language, Literature and Theology



Two - Year Fixed Term post as Tutor in Old Testament Language, Literature and Theology.

Salary – appropriate banding on University of Cambridge academic pay scales, starting circa £42000 per annum. For ministers of the United Reformed Church, appropriate Plan for Partnership arrangements.

Westminster College is seeking to appoint a two -year fixed term Tutor in Old Testament Language, Literature and Theology, with the possibility of an extension to a third year of employment. We are looking for a scholar and teacher with a passion for assisting the Church in exploring scripture as it shapes its faith, practice and mission. The College currently prepares students for ministry in the United Reformed Church, but it also teaches a growing number of independent students. Holding a PhD, you will be able to teach biblical Hebrew and related Old Testament studies at undergraduate and post- graduate levels. You will teach across a range of awards within the Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF), including Hebrew language and advanced Hebrew Bible modules. As an active researcher you will help develop the research profile of Westminster College as it develops its graduate and post-graduate programmes. You will share in formational and pastoral work with Westminster students and assume such administrative duties as are required and directed by the College Principal.

Westminster College would particularly welcome applications from women and people from Global Majority Heritage backgrounds, who are currently underrepresented on the College academic staff group. All appointments will be made on merit.

For more information about this post contact Dr Peter McEnhill, Principal, at principal@westminster.cam.ac.uk or see the vacancy page of our website [Vacancies - Westminster College](#)

Closing date for applications is Friday 4th September 2026.

Interview date to be confirmed, but interviews are likely to be held late September/early October.

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

URC Representative on World Day of Prayer National Committee

Closing date: Tuesday 15 September 2026

At the heart of the United Reformed Church (URC) lies a strong commitment to active ecumenical partnership and global Christian unity.

We are looking for someone with a passion for prayer and ecumenical unity to serve as a URC representative on the World Day of Prayer National Committee for England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

The World Day of Prayer service is held annually on the first Friday in March. There are approximately 1,500 local branches which hold about 3,000 services each year. It is part of the international World Day of Prayer movement with over 100 countries and islands involved.

Representatives are expected to be able to commit to an initial 3-year term, followed by a further 2 terms if willing (max. 9 years).

Why volunteer with us?

- **Make a Global Impact:** Connect with a worldwide movement active in over 120 countries, while helping allocate vital charitable grants funded by service offerings globally
- **Enrich Your Spiritual Journey:** Immerse yourself in worship materials, theology, and lived experiences shared by Christians from countries around the globe (such as Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Italy)
- **Build Ecumenical Bridges:** Form deep friendships and collaborate creatively with committee members representing different Christian traditions across the UK
- **Grow Your Skills:** Gain valuable hands-on experience in publishing, proofreading, workshop facilitation, Bible study leadership, and charity governance.
(Mentoring and training are provided to help build your confidence!)

More information:

[Job advert](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Person Specification](#)

If you're interested in volunteering for this role or would like more information, please contact Victoria Blunt, Convenor of Nominations Committee at nominations@urc.org.uk

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 Newsletter

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

May 2026



Disability Awareness Sunday - 27th September 2026

Click the link: [Disability Awareness Sunday - Through the Roof](#) for further information and to download resources.

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: August 2026](#)



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

for our Prayers

We invite you to pray

- For those members and friends at Adlington URC as they mark their final service on Sunday 30th August 2026
- For 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