
News from the NW Synod 22 July 2015

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1: **Michael Harvey - Training Event** for 'An Invitational Season' on the 24th September 2015 at 7.30 pm at: The United Reformed Church, St Andrew and St George, St Georges Road, Bolton, BL1 2BX. Church Office: 01204 361960

2: **Jim Williams** tells us of the tears and laughter experienced by a 300+ congregation celebrating his ordination and induction to the St. Annes and Elswick pastorate on 4th July.
"I had a fantastic day, the event went off smoothly – people came from all over the place! It was great to share the day with so many folks who had ministered to me and my family during my training at Northern College. I feel a real sense of gratitude to those congregations that let me use them as Guinee pigs! The two church secretaries made a fantastic double act with their humorous account of how the churches got together whilst in vacancy. Graham Adams from Northern College gave a great address about Mary, Martha and hospitality leaving people with as many questions as answers. I got to share my testimony with a lot of people – the church was packed, and although there were some tears, I could feel people loving God and willing me to share my Emmaus moment".

Jim found the actual act of ordination was an uplifting, reaffirming and empowering event based in love. Jim now hopes that the pastorate will be able to reach out into its local communities and share their love of the gospel with others.

"I want to thank everybody involved in the day: the cake bakers, the brewer-uppers, the clergy and the congregation. And I would really like to thank all those who have shared my journey with the Lord over the years. And most of all, I thank God for his faithfulness"

3: **Congratulations to Jenny-Anne Bishop from the Metropolitan Church** who has been awarded the OBE for her services to the Transgendered Community. Jenny-Anne and her partner, Elen, went to Windsor Castle last week where Her Royal Highness Princess Anne invested Jenny-Anne with the honour.



4 **Mission Project to unite with Wilbraham St Ninian's**

One of our two Synod Mission Projects, the Metropolitan Church, and Wilbraham St Ninian's in Chorlton have agreed to a form of union. Both Church Meetings agreed to the members of the Metropolitan Church joining Wilbraham St Ninian's who will ensure the distinctive ministry and mission of the Metropolitan Church will continue. The afternoon service, with a particular outreach to LGBT people in general and LGBT asylum seekers in particular, will continue and the enlarged Wilbraham St Ninian's will form a pastorate with Didsbury. We wish both congregations well for an exciting future.

5 Vacancies

The Synod has a number of vacancies which need filling. Each offers varied and interesting ways of serving God in the life of the wider Church. Time commitments vary depending on the role.

Chair of Trust: This role involves chairing the trustees of the Synod who are the legal owners of most of our property, line managing the Legal and Trust Officer and working closely with the other Officers of the Synod forming a leadership team.

Property Consultant: This role involves working with Area property officers to assist local churches in the various responsibilities involved in managing church buildings and manses. Communications Team:

Following the adoption of the Synod Structure recommendations we have redefined the remit of **the Communications Group**. This group will now act as advisors for communications within the Synod, consist of the Clerk, the Moderator, Office Manager and four reps from our Areas. We are recruiting, therefore, people who have an interest in and experience of; social media, journalism and communications.

Listed Buildings Advisory Committee: This committee oversees applications to do building work or renovations on our churches which are Listed. We are interested in recruiting people with a professional background in architecture, surveying, engineering, those with an active interest in the heritage and built environment as well as people in churches which are Listed and have undergone building work. We need members, a Convener and a Secretary. If you are interested in exploring any of these roles please contact Andy Braunston on clerk@nwsynod.org.uk

6 Induction of new Moderator

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to celebrate the induction of the new Moderator of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church, the Rev'd Andrew Mills on **Saturday 12th September at 2.30pm.**

The service will take place in St Peter's Church and Chaplaincy on Oxford Road in Manchester – a multi-story car park is behind St Peter's on the junction with Upper Brook Street and there are excellent public transport links with many busses going down Oxford Road and stopping either outside St Peter's or by the Royal Northern College of Music.

It will be a great occasion to meet old friends, and new, and to welcome Andrew, and Ruth his wife, to the North West.

I do hope you can join us on the day – please RSVP by 15th August.

With every good wish

Andy Braunston - Clerk, NW Synod

7: the KEY - unlocking potential

Youth Worker – Full time with possibility of job sharing

This is a new post to develop a new and exciting youth work initiative around the Kent Estuary area of South Lakeland, Cumbria – in partnership with churches and other local agencies.

You will:

Be passionate about young people.

Have or be working towards a recognised youth work qualification.

Have experience in the delivery and management of both detached and in-house youth work.

Be able to demonstrate a commitment to the values and ethos of the Christian faith.

We can offer:

An annual salary of £21,744

An optional pension scheme.

Flexible working by agreement.
Holidays in line with statutory requirements.

For further details and an application pack, please email:
irene.mckay@virgin.net or telephone: Irene McKay on 07958 605049

Closing date for the receipt of completed applications:
Friday 7th August 2015 Interviews on Thursday 20th August 2015)

The KEY Project is a joint initiative of the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches in the Kent Estuary. Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check.

8: Rural Ministry Course 3rd-5th November 2015

This three day residential course covers a wide range of issues regarding life in the countryside and the role and mission of the church within the rural community. The content of each course includes:

Today's rural context
How context shapes ministry
Rural mission
Worship in context

The three day residential programme, employs a variety of approaches including practical sessions, group work and a choice of workshops. It is designed for lay and ordained ministers across the denominations who may be entering a rural appointment for the first time, or who may already be in rural ministry but feel the need for a 'refresher'. It attracts those who are keen to examine the challenges and opportunities that this ministry offers.

Each course can accommodate up to 20 participants and early booking is advised.

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The fee for the course is £245 per person.

This includes a free subscription for one year to Country Way magazine. A non-refundable deposit of £75 is required at the time of booking.

Bookings can be made through the website <http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/arc-training/rural-ministry-courses>



9: The new Windermere Centre programme is now available. It can be downloaded from the Windermere Centre website (<http://windermere.unc.org.uk/about-nw/>), or to order paper copies, please email windermere.centre@gmail.com.

The Windermere Centre have a monthly e-newsletter, which is full of free resources for you and your church. To subscribe, visit: <http://windermere.unc.org.uk/resources-nw/>.

Diary dates:

Windermere Centre Family Retreat, 3-8 August

A chance to spend some quality time together, with lots of free time, optional evening activities, and family-friendly morning and evening prayers.

http://windermere.unc.org.uk/events-by-date-nw/?event_id=6

Older Folks' Fellowship, 24-28 August

For those who like to take life a little more slowly - come and enjoy good food, good company and good outings, with space for reflection and prayer.

http://windermere.unc.org.uk/events-by-date-nw/?event_id=7

Autumn Walking, 13-18 September

Get out and explore the Lake District on foot. There will be a choice of walks each day - one more challenging and one less so, with optional evening activities.

http://windermere.urchurch.org.uk/events-by-date-nw/?event_id=4

Non-Stipendiary Ministers' Weekend, 18-20 September

Contact Bernard Fidler for details (bernard@fidder.co.uk)

Card Mania, 21-25 September

A fun card-making workshop to learn new skills and enjoy the fellowship of other card-makers. For beginners and experts alike. All materials supplied.

http://windermere.urchurch.org.uk/events-by-date-nw/?event_id=9

Advancing in Advent, 9-13 November

Book now for your chance to join this retreat led by John Bell of the Iona Community, exploring how to rediscover the Incarnation this Christmas season.

http://windermere.urchurch.org.uk/events-by-date-nw/?event_id=10

10: Luther King House

BA and MA Degree Programmes

We are still taking applications and enquiries regarding our BA and MA Degree programmes for next year's courses (2015-16 - starting in September 2015). If you are interested in applying to study with us, please get in touch with the registry office on 0161 249 2504 or email learning@lkh.co.uk

Our staff are happy to meet with you and explore the right course of study for you. More information about these and all our courses can be found on our website:

[click here for information about the BA in Contextual Theology](#)

[click here for information about the MA in Contextual Theology](#)

Open Lecture Series 2015-16

We are pleased to announce that a number of Open Lectures have already been confirmed for the 2015-16 Academic Year.

We offer a series of monthly theological lectures which are free of charge and are open to all. No need to book in advance for these – just turn up on the night.

Open lectures take place from 7.30pm – 9.00pm, with opportunities to buy refreshments in the dining room or bar after the lecture if you want to continue the conversation in the lounge. Meals and hot drinks are available to buy before the lecture if you wish.

For a programme list of our 2015-16 Open lecture series, download our [2015-16 Open Lecture Programme](#).

Day Workshops

Open Learning Programme 2015-16

We are also pleased to announce that a selection of Day Workshops have also been confirmed for the 2015-16 Academic Year.

Our workshops are offered throughout the year on a range of topics. These practical workshops and retreat days explore a wide range of issues, all with particular relevance for local church life, which are open to people of all backgrounds and experience. They are generally held on a Saturday and cost £20 (including teas and coffees).

Further details, information and how to book can be found on the Events page on our website -

<http://lutherkinghouse.org.uk/news-events/events/>

Greenbelt 2015

Friday 28th - Monday 31st August 2015

For anyone hoping to visit Greenbelt this year (and why wouldn't you?) keep your eyes peeled for Luther King House, as we will be hosting a stall as part of GreenSource 2015!

If you will be there during the festival, please feel free to come along and help, or just to say 'Hi!'. There will be a few familiar faces about, and, if they aren't familiar, come along anyway and introduce yourself!

Full details on this year's Greenbelt Festival can be found on their website - <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>

We look forward to seeing you there!