
News from the NW Synod 29 July 2015

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1: [Information regarding the availability of the Record of Assembly](#) Please see below information about the availability of *The Record of Assembly* and associated papers. I would be grateful if you could disseminate this info to your local congregations as soon as possible in the way that is most convenient to you (synod websites and newsletters etc).

The full, official, *Record of the United Reformed Church General Assembly's recent one-day meeting in Birmingham which considered one issue only – the marriage of same-sex couples – is now available. A hard copy of *The Record of Assembly* is being mailed to all members of the Assembly, and [The Record](#) is now available on-line to be consulted or downloaded.*

[A pastoral letter](#) to all of URC synods and congregations is also available online, as is a [brief information sheet](#) about the registration of church buildings for marriage services of same-sex couples.

2: [Parking facilities for the Induction of Revd Andrew Mills to Moderator NW Synod](#) The best car park to use is Multi Storey Car Park, between Higher Cambridge Street and Booth Street West. The entrance is down a small road off Booth Street West between the Manchester Business School West and a building site for a new University hotel which has black wooden hoarding around it. This car park is owned by the University and costs £2 for all day parking at the weekends. There is also a car park on Booth Street East which is linked to the Aquatics Centre but this costs £2.40 0-2 hours, £5.80 2-4 hours and £5.80 4-9 hours. It may also be busier if there is a swimming event on.

After parking the car in the Car Park walk up to Oxford Road, between MBS and, Humanities, Bridgeford Street and Arthur Lewis Building. Cross the road and the steps leading to St Peter's are straight ahead.

There are a few disabled spaces for blue badge holders at the back of St Peter's. To access these go to the barrier on Booth Street West, between Crawford House and the new Graphene Centre and press the buzzer for St Peter's reception. Someone will then lift the barrier remotely and the car park spaces are straight ahead. Entrance to St Peter's is then by a side door where there is a bell to ask reception to open the door. Inside the building there is a lift on the left to the First Floor. There are also plenty of blue badge spaces on the ground floor of the Car Park.

3: [News from Blackburn North and East Pastorate](#) Our Pastorate Pentecost service was led by Mal Breeze and it was great to see a full church for this truly inspirational service with kite making and birthday cake to celebrate the church's birthday. In August we are holding our 'Jungle Jamboree' holiday club this will run from Monday 10th to Friday 14th August. Parents and carers are invited to afternoon and the prize presentation on Saturday 15th August then on Sunday 16th August our animal theme continues with a Pastorate pet blessing service led by Mal and Lena.

Our Pastorate harvest tea – hot pot and apple pie followed by Songs of Praise will be held at Westbury Gardens on Sunday 20th September.

Revidge Fold

We offer our congratulations and lots of love to Alan and Ailsa who celebrated their diamond wedding with an afternoon tea for family and friends at Magdalene House. God Bless you both.

We were delighted to welcome over sixty children from St. James' school into church for a visit as part of the BwD Interfaith Forum, interfaith week. In the morning the children had visited a Mosque and a Buddhist Centre and they began with their visit to Revidge with a picnic lunch in the hall followed by a treasure hunt and quiz in the sanctuary and any questions. It was great to see them all and their teachers.

On July 4th we held an American themed barbecue. John and Maurice did a star job cooking the burgers and sausages. We had a quiz and 'Bald Eagle Drive' a great time was had by all.

We are pleased to announce that Anne Duffy will be ordained as Elder of the URC at Revidge Fold. Our love and blessings are with Anne as she begins her service on the Eldership.

Trinity Brownhill

In June we held our Prayer Walk around the area. We had previously walked the areas of Westbury Gardens and Revidge Fold and again as with the other two prayer walks, we were blessed with a beautiful but cool evening. We met at church and started with prayer then walked the area stopping at various points to pray before closing with prayer back at church.

On June 28th Florence Schofield was crowned Rose Queen by Becki Chambers our retiring Rose Queen. Florence has chosen Bloodline for her charity. We wish her every blessing for her year as Rose Queen.

We will be sorry to say goodbye to Colin Isherwood our organist who is retiring after 18 years of dedicated service. Colin thank you for the music we can never thank you enough and we wish you a long and happy retirement God bless you and Jean.

Westbury Gardens

As part of the TMAD (Together Making a Difference) project, a clean up day was held round area culminating in fun and food which was enjoyed by over 300 people.

In July we held a children's service of dedication for all the work St. Anthony's school children had done over the last few Mondays. The children have been coming into school on our Craft Group day and working on a variety of projects. Over 60 children came into church to display the models, cards, boxes etc. they had made. Father Gerard and the Mayor and Mayoress attended and presented the prize for the best design of a coat of arms which will go on the archway in the garden the children have been working on in Delph Lane. They also presented gifts to every child in recognition of all their work.

This was followed by another Messy Church in Shadsworth School – our theme was Beach Bible and the children heard the story of the wise man who built his house on rock and the foolish man who built his house on sand, they had a demonstration with a model house on a sand bank and on bricks and a storm (from a watering can.) They had various crafts and enjoyed a simple tea before going home.

On August 9th we will welcome Debbie Shepard into full Church membership during our morning communion service. Debbie the Lord Bless you and keep you.

4: [Spiritual Retreat Weekend Emmaus Road Prayer Community Spiritual Retreat Weekend 16th – 18th October 2015 Whalley Abbey](#)



NW Synod Spiritual Retreat Weekend

“On the Threshold”

16th – 18th October 2015

Whalley Abbey

Led by Revd Dr. Jan Berry

We will use biblical and theological reflection to explore themes of transition and new beginnings.

There will be space for silence, individual reflection, creativity, and shared worship and prayer.

Spiritual Retreat Programme

Friday 16th October

4.00-Arrivals and afternoon tea

Dinner

Welcome and Introduction – Richard Davis and Jan Berry followed by evening prayers

Saturday 17th October

Breakfast

Morning Prayers

Doorways and Thresholds

Coffee

Letting go

Lunch

Free time till 4.30 tea at 4.00 if required

On the threshold

Dinner

On the threshold - followed by evening prayers

Sunday 18th October

Breakfast and packing

Morning prayer

Moving on

Coffee

Closing worship with Communion

Lunch and departures

Booking Form

Please send to: Revd Michele Jarmany: 6 Mearley Syke, Clitheroe, BB7 1JE

Before Sunday 6th September

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel no / mobile.....

Email address.....

I wish to book place/s on the retreat with accommodation At £175 per person

Cheque enclosed for £.....made payable to N W Synod

Accommodation required: Double.....Single.....

I am happy to share a room if necessary / I do not wish to share (delete as applicable)

Please specify if you have any dietary requirements

*For the full programme and more information contact
Lena 01254 706206 collena@collena.co.uk*

5. Faith and Feathers weekend – October 2015 whether you are a novice, or a veteran birdwatcher, Faith and Feathers is a weekend of good conversation and good birdwatching. There will be plenty of time in our programme to enjoy birdwalks in this special place and to relax with God.

Accommodation on Holy Island will be in the Lindisfarne Hotel, the Crown & Anchor Pub, the Bungalow B&B, or Rose Villa B&B **Cost is £220.00 per person**, which includes all birdwalks and programme items, B and B accommodation and a packed lunch on Saturday. Arrangements have been made for an evening meal on Friday at the Manor House Hotel & Saturday at the Ship Inn (to be paid for individually)

There is a limited number of places so booking will be on a first come, first served basis.

For more information contact: Rev Rachel Poolman (Warden, St Cuthbert's Centre) Tel: 01289 389254 E mail: centre@holyisland-stcuthbert.org

