
News from the NW Synod 5 August 2015

- 1: **Lay Preachers Weekend**
- 2: **Clitheroe United Reformed Church**
- 3: **Heritage Open Day**

1: Lay Preachers weekend A warm invitation is extended to Lay Preachers to come to the above event. Again we hope to be joined by members of Worship Groups, and others who lead worship within their own congregations on a less formal basis. Rev Dr. Rosalind Selby has offered to run sessions on Funerals and Weddings, as more and more we as Lay Preachers are asked to conduct these services. I will be providing parallel sessions on All Age Worship and Luke's Gospel for those who only lead Worship. Lawrence has agreed to lead a couple of sessions for Bible Study and preaching ideas. I will be sending a programme for the weekend a little nearer the time. The Centre accommodation is en-suite, and the cost for the weekend is £130 (claimable by Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers through the normal procedure). Please send the booking form below, by **14th September**, with non-returnable deposit of **£30 per person**, made payable to **"United Reformed Church, North Western Province", to myself, as per the letterhead**. Your application will be acknowledged with a receipt, and please ask for directions if required. Please bring particulars of any colleague or colleagues deceased since last year's Conference, so that we may make an appropriate remembrance. I look forward to seeing you at this year's Conference. Please can Church Secretaries pass onto their Worship Leaders? Booking form available from the Synod Office.

Carol Sutcliffe
NW Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner

2: **Clitheroe United Reformed Church**



We are pleased to have improved our facilities for all our church users but in particular those with mobility difficulties. As well as improving the toilet facilities including a disabled toilet on the worship area level, access to the building has also been greatly improved. The old steep ramp has now been replaced by a Terry Lift and new wider steps. A passer-by on Saturday said we were 'setting the standard' for other churches in the town. We are not sure about that, but it is good to think that we are seen as welcoming people into our building. The project has cost £63,000 and as well as constant fund raising by the church through its monthly Books, Bric-a Brac & Teas events we are grateful to North Western Synod, URC CBF Grant, Congregational & General, National Churches Trust, Clitheroe Town Council, Awards for All, Harold & Alice Bridges Charity and the Ribble Valley Mayor's Welfare Fund who have provided much appreciated financial support.

3: **Heritage Open Day**



Since the Congregational and the Presbyterian Church joined in 1972, the United Reformed Church have been an advocate of forward thinking and have gone a long way to demonstrating that when we say 'Everybody Welcome' - we mean everybody welcome.

But how much do you know about the United Reformed Church?

Who has had fully ordained Women in Ministry since 1917?

Who has a long history of allowing remarriage of divorcees?

Who is the largest faith group in Britain to decide to host same-sex civil partnership ceremonies on its premises?

Bramhall United Reformed Church is opening it's doors for an exhibition on it's background and history; focusing on the policies and actions that have thrown it into the forefront of modern society. Learn about all the URC are doing to break the barriers and strive towards social and economic justice – through gender equality, provision for same-sex couples and families, and by offering a home to people of different lifestyles, backgrounds and cultures.

Come along to find out more about the Heritage of the United Reformed Church - and witness history in the making.

Saturday 12th September

10am till 4pm

Bramhall United Reformed Church, Robins Lane, Bramhall, SK7 2PE

Contact Louise Everett for more information: louise.everett@hotmail.com

- 0161 439 4807