
News from the NW Synod 27 August 2015

- 1: Season of Invitation
- 2: Community Partnerships Roadshow – being *Church within the Community whatever that means*
- 3: On the Threshold

1: URC North West Synod is providing a local training event to help churches make the most of their Season of Invitation, on: **Thursday 24th September at 7-30pm**

The training will take place at: **The United Reformed Church of St Andrew & St George, Bolton, BL1 2BX.**

Michael Harvey (co-founder of Back to Church Sunday) will provide interactive and relevant training, which will be useful for ministers and any churchgoers interested in making the most of opportunities to invite people to church.

Across the 2 hour workshop, you will

- Learn how to produce a unique mission field for your church at any given time
- Be given tools to identify distorted thinking in your church
- Discover the creative power of fear
- Receive a number of emotional mental and physical approaches for developing a culture of invitation
- Learn best practice from Season of Invitation

Please Book Your Place on the A Season of Invitation training at

<https://urcnorthwesterntraining.eventbrite.co.uk>. The training sessions are free to attend, **and the first 10 churches** to register for the initiative will receive a free **Traidcraft Invitation Pack**

2: **Community Partnerships Roadshow – being *Church within the Community whatever that means***

A day to

Explore, celebrate and strengthen existing connections between our faith, our church and our communities and stimulate new connections being made;

Encourage and equip ourselves to become a more meaningful presence in our local contexts – living our faith as the Church in our communities

The day offers ample opportunity for churches to dig deep as they think about their own perspective and develop their own individual mission-in-the-community action plan. It's a day of networking – bouncing ideas around between the churches. It's interactive with lots of discussion, and learning from each other, plus videos and real life case studies.

Bring a car load or two from your church and be prepared for challenge. You will go home inspired, renewed and filled with enthusiasm and ideas.

Northampton 7 November 2015 – Abington Avenue URC

Kincardine 12 March 2016 – Tulliallan Police College

London April 2016

Bridgewater 23 April 2016 – Westfield URC

Manchester June 2016 – Chorlton URC

Newcastle June 2015

3: On the Threshold

LAST CHANCE REMINDER - CLOSING DATE SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

**On the Threshold
NW Synod Emmaus Road Prayer Community
Spiritual Retreat Weekend 16th – 18th October 2015
Whalley Abbey**

PROGRAMME

Friday 16th October

- 4.00 Arrivals and afternoon tea
- 6.30 Dinner
- 8.00 Welcome and Introduction – Richard Davis and Jan Berry

Our Retreat this year will be led by Rev. 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.

Jan Berry is a minister of the United Reformed Church and Principal of Open College at Luther King House in Manchester. She is a writer of liturgy, and many of her prayers and hymns have been published in her own collection *Naming God*, in the Prayer Handbook, and in anthologies from the Iona Community. She has experience of leading quiet days and workshops, and enjoys encouraging others to find space and creativity in their own spirituality.

Saturday 17th October

- 8.30 Breakfast
- 9.30 Morning Prayers
- 10.00 Doorways and Thresholds – Jan Berry
- 11.15 Coffee
- 11.45 Letting go
- 1.00 Lunch
- Free time till 4.30 tea at 4.00 if required
- 4.30 On the threshold
- 6.30 Dinner
- 8.00 On the threshold
- Followed by evening prayers

Sunday 18th October

- 8.30 Breakfast and packing
- 9.30 Morning prayer
- 10.00 Moving on – Jan Berry
- 11.15 Coffee
- 11.45 Closing worship with Communion
- 1.00 Lunch and departures

The programme and timings are flexible.

Contact Lena Talbot 01254 706206 collena@collena.co.uk for additional forms

.....

**Booking Form for NW Synod Retreat Friday 16th to Sunday 18th October 2015
Whalley Abbey
Please send to: Revd Michele Jarman: 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