

---

## News from the NW Synod 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

---

- 1: **New Website and Photos of our congregations**
- 2: **Moderator's snapshots**
- 3: **Devotions for Lent**
- 4: **News From Albion URC**
- 5: **Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Conference**
- 6: **News from Ashton-Upon-Mersey URC**
- 7: **Death of the Revd Philip Eastman**
- 8: **Death of the Revd Kenneth Frank James Knight**
- 9: **Death of the Revd David Alexander Welbrock**

**1: New Website and Photos of our congregations** As you know we have been working on putting together a new website for the Synod which would be useful to people outside the church to understand us a little better and to be a resource for our churches. The website is now live the normal web address can be used. We have some photos still to put up (and could do with many more!).

Please give any feedback to Andy Braunston via [clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk)

We need high quality photographs – in digital format – of our congregations for our new Synod website. Please email a picture of your congregation to Andy Braunston via [clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk).

**2: Moderator's snapshot** Last week I spent a day in London with the two Moderators-elect for General Assembly (Revd Kevin Watson & Mr Alan Yates), the Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship (Richard Church) and another new Moderator (Rev Steve Faber, West Midlands) engaged in media training. It was an intensive day of preparing ourselves for producing a "Thought for the Day" at short notice, a live radio interview (the mics are so large you can hardly see the interviewer across the table), a live TV interview in the studio and then an outside broadcast interview. The day was superbly facilitated by Ali Hutchinson who is an experienced journalist and trainer. Each of these recordings was then played back to the group – with a chance to first offer our own view of how we performed, before peer criticism contributed to our understanding. I discovered (to the mirth of my peers) that when the countdown is given "3 – 2- 1-live" and the interviewer utters the first three syllables of her question that it is best not to collapse sideways and almost fall off the chair! In spite of such things we were all declared fit to be interviewed and would give a good account of the URC in the event.



**3: Devotions for Lent** Following the success, and wide take up, of the Advent and Christmas devotions sent out by the North West Synod Andy Braunston and Lis Mullen are working together to get a team of people from the North Western and Northern Synods to write some daily devotions for Lent. These will be sent out by email to those who sign up and also placed on the Northern Synod website. They will run from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday (we hope to have another set for Easter to Pentecost).

If you would like to sign up for these please go to

<http://eepurl.com/bKR8mz>

and fill in the form

**4: News from Albion URC** At Albion on Saturday 30th January at 7.30pm there will be an Organ Recital by Gordon Stewart, Sponsored by Manchester Organists' Association. Admission: £6 and you can pay at the door.

Albion United Reformed Church, Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6QQ

**5: Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Conference** I am sending you the information for the Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Conference at Luther King House. This is a very flexible conference, you can either attend for a day, for two days or the whole Conference and accommodation is available. The cost then is also flexible. The approx. costs are:

<b>Thur-Fri (2 Day)</b>	<b>Full</b>			<b>Discounted</b>	
Residential	£150	£130	Non - Res	£100	£85
<b>Thur-Sat (3 Day)</b>					
Residential	£230	£200	Non-Res	£130	£110
<b>Sat Only</b>	£30	£15			

**Words and  
Images  
For Worship**

**Northern College at Luther King House Conference for Lay Preachers and  
Worship Leaders  
5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

(Attendance Thursday-Saturday, *or*, Thursday-Friday, *or*, Saturday only)

**Including sessions on:**

Old Testament, New Testament (John’s Gospel, Revelation), Music in Worship, Visual in  
Worship, Art and Theology

Bookings via

Northern College, Luther King House, Brighton Grove,

Rusholme, Manchester M14 5JP

College tel: 0161-249 2506 (Fax: 0161-248 9201)

Email: [rosalind.selby@lkh.co.uk](mailto:rosalind.selby@lkh.co.uk)

**6: News from Ashton-Upon-Mersey URC** Ashton-upon-Mersey is to hold a concert by the renowned Revd Stephen Brown a URC Minister now in Scotland, (a past Minister at Gatley URC) and the Revd Carol Anne Parker of the Church of Scotland. The due is known as “Thursday’s Child”.

Please see poster and flyer for you to distribute and we do warmly invite you to join us. You will be assured of a wonderful evening (see some reviews below). Please telephone the number on the flyer if you require tickets and I will post them to you ASAP. The Cost is £5 per head, cheque payable to Ashton-upon-Mersey.

Pat Joyce (Mrs) Church Secretary

“Thursday’s Child”...play an amazing selection of acoustic musical instruments and combine them with beautiful singing to produce songs that reach into your soul.” Kate, St Andrew United Reformed Church Scarborough.

"You gave us much to ponder and took us deep into the richness of music and song in addressing issues of life in meaningful and profound way, thankyou...it was also great to appreciate your talents and enjoy the opportunity to sit back and soak up the atmosphere you created". Sandra Wellington, Training Officer, Mersey Synod.



**FRI 19th Feb 2016**

**7.30pm**

**TICKETS - £5**

**Ashton-on-Mersey URC**

**Whitefield Rd**

**Sale M33 6NZ**

info 0161 282 2737

0161 969 0715

*"songs that reach right  
into your soul"*



*"an engaging musical experience"*

*"their passion for music and life is infectious"*

*"creative and affective songwriting"*



**7: Death of the Revd Kenneth Frank James Knight** It is with deep regret that I have to tell you that the Reverend Kenneth Frank James Knight died on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Kenneth was ordained in 1982 and served at Corby, Brigstock & London Road, Kettering until 1985. He then moved to the West of Reading Group where he served until 1989. Kenneth lived in retirement in Teignmouth with his wife Christine. Please remember Christine in your prayers.

The funeral arrangements are not yet available. Please contact the South Western Synod Office at [synodoffice@urcsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:synodoffice@urcsouthwest.org.uk) or phone 01823 275470 to be advised when we have the information.

**8: Death of the Revd Philip Eastman** sadly died on 10th January aged 97.

In his long and varied Ministry, he served in the following places and roles: Islington Chapel 44-48; Secretary, Churches Commission on International Affairs 48-57; Secretary, International Department BCC 52-55; Assistant Secretary FCFC 57-58; General Secretary, International Fellowship of Reconciliation 58-67; New Barnet 67-86; Wareham & Lulworth 86-89.

His family's wishes were for a private family funeral/thanksgiving service which was held on Wednesday 20th January. He leaves a widow, Mary, whom we hold in our prayers.

**9: Death of the Revd David Alexander Welbrock** sadly, retired minister, died on Saturday, 16 January aged 89.

David was ordained at Peckham Congregational Church on 22 June 1955 and served there until 1959.

David served at Parr's Wood Road, Manchester from 1959 – 1963, then followed a period as Training Officer for the Congregational Union of England and Wales from 1963 – 1967.

David was minister at Basingstoke and Tadley from 1967 – 1977; St Stephen's, Roker from 1977 – 1989; Boldon from 1981 – 1989 and Sunderland and Boldon Group from 1989 – 1991.

David's funeral will take place on Thursday 28 January. There will be a private, family committal at South Shields Crematorium, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St Margaret's Church, Prince Edward Road, South Shields, NE34 7ND at about 1 pm, followed by refreshments at the church.

Our condolences are with Beryl and family.