
News from the NW Synod 17th February 2016

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- 1: Moderator's snapshot



Last Friday I had the privilege to attend an event which both launched a project and a book. Oasis Academy/Media City (Salford), where our SCM Stuart Nixon is involved in a new growing church community connected to the academy, hosted an event to which many leaders from the surrounding community were invited. The Revd Steve Chalke (standing, together with a panel of community leaders and 2 pupils from the Academy – Stuart Nixon on the right), who founded the global work of Oasis, launched his new book “Radical” which explores the way in which we need radically new solutions to forge pathways of peace in the world today. Alongside this was the launch of a new initiative “1000 days of peace”, offering creative peace-making initiatives over the next 1,000 days culminating at the point where we mark the centenary of Armistice Day in 2018. As part of that initiative there is a developing school’s programme which may at some stage result in a GCSE in peace-making studies. Please pray for this initiative – and so many initiatives that our congregations are involved in which seek to bring the message of Christ’s Peace into communities across the Synod.

2: 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

3: Church Returns Many thanks to everyone who has returned their Church Returns. If you have not already done so please return asap as the deadline for these was the 31st January. If you have misplaced your form please let me (Kerry) know at the Synod Office and this can be replaced.

4: Mental Health matters - focus on dementia



The poster features a purple header with the text 'mental health matters' in white. Below this is a green section with a white dandelion seed head illustration and the text 'Focus on Dementia' in white. A purple box at the bottom contains the event details: 'Saturday 12th March, 10am-4pm Bramhall Methodist Church, SK7 1AL' and a 'Register Online >' button.

mental health matters

Focus on Dementia

An enlightening and inspiring event, exploring how churches and faith groups can respond effectively to the needs of those with dementia and their carers in our communities.

Saturday 12th March, 10am-4pm
Bramhall Methodist Church, SK7 1AL [Register Online >](#)

There is hardly a family that isn't affected by dementia. But what can we do as churches to help those with dementia and their carers? You are welcome to our one-day conference on Saturday 12th March, 10am to 4pm, at Bramhall Methodist Church SK7 1AL. There will be talks from specialists in the field, presentations highlighting best practice, workshops exploring topics such as "How can our churches be dementia-friendly?" and an exhibition. To register online for this event, please follow this link: <http://www.bramhallmethodists.org.uk/index.php/highlights-articles/194-focus-on-dementia>. Or phone the Church Office at Bramhall Methodist Church on 061 439 1204 between 9am and 12 noon, Monday to Friday.

5: Notes from the Legal & Trust Officer (Kath Fowler)

Guidance notes relating to outside organisations using Church premises: These were circulated some years ago but there have been one or two changes in relation to Safeguarding and Insurance. I am circulating my updated documents in the Synod bags and please, therefore, bring the new documents to the attention of your Elders and replace your existing copies (the alterations are not obvious so please take care to dispose of any earlier copies you may have).

Guidance notes in relation to Letting of Manses during a vacancy and Charitable status/registration number and Constitution of local Churches: I am often asked about these and I have, therefore, prepared guidance notes on these topics too.

I have guidance notes on other topics but I don't think it's helpful to circulate them all as Church Secretaries are inundated with paperwork. If you need any information about practical or legal matters, please let me know.

My guidance notes are available by post or electronically, either from me personally (trust@nwsynod.org.uk) or via Kerry in the Synod Office.

6: Safeguarding sessions amended date.

Please note the date for the session in Central Area at Patricroft URC is 26 February 2016.

More workshops will be announced as venues offer themselves. If your church would like to offer itself as a venue for the area – particularly in South, Lancashire or Cumbria, please contact Leo on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk

Amended date

Area	Date	Time	Venue	
Central	26/02/16	7pm	Patricroft URC	
South	04/04/2016	7pm	Wilmslow URC	

It is important that you book in to a session so that Leo can ensure he has enough resources for each session. Please email him (using the email address above).

7: Death of Revd Derek Fitch.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Rev Derek Fitch on 15th February.

Derek served at: Swanland 1958 – 61; East Boldon 1961 – 68; East Boldon and Roker 1968 – 69; Desborough 1969 – 79; Wolverton 1979 – 84; St Luke's Bedford 1984 – 95. Funeral details will follow.

We thank Derek for his long service and ask that the Lord show his love and compassion on his wife Kathleen, his daughter Jean and all those close to Derek at this time.

8: Fairtrade Fortnight



As you can see Fairtrade Fortnight this year is from 29th February to 13th March. The Fairtrade Foundation is encouraging everyone to celebrate it by holding a Fairtrade Breakfast.

As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

It's a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast.

When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's the extra cash in their pockets or being able to expand their farms to grow more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and workers are able to fulfil a basic human need – to put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

So at St Andrew and St George, Bolton, we are having a Fairtrade Breakfast between 9.15. and 10.00.am on SUNDAY 6th MARCH.

There will be Fairtrade orange juice, Fairtrade muesli, Fairtrade bananas, Fairtrade jam, marmalade and honey, Fairtrade nuts, Fairtrade tea and coffee – and of course healthy brown (and white) toast!

Has your church considered a Fairtrade breakfast? Plenty of details and suggestions can be found on www.fairtrade.org.uk