
News from the NW Synod 9th March 2016

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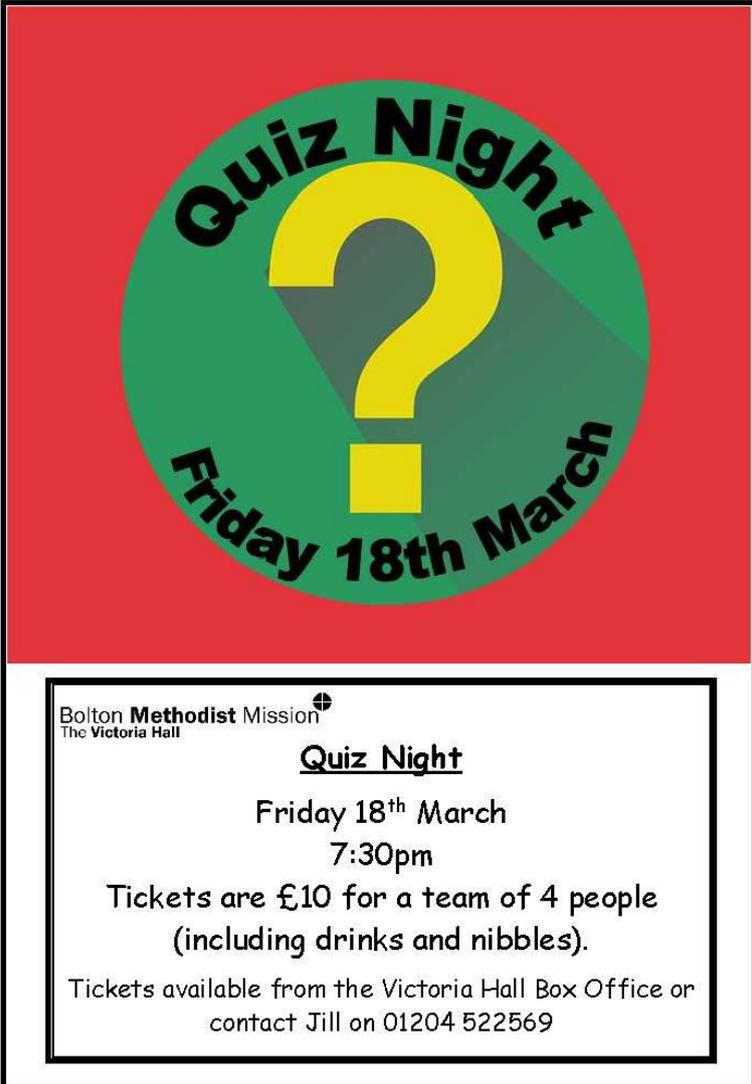
1: Moderator's snapshots As an encouragement to people more widely to celebrate and reflect on the festival of Lent PassionArt: Be Still is a series of art pieces spread across six of Manchester's most iconic venues. The contemporary installations, paintings, sculpture and live performances by internationally renowned and local artists uncover moments where the sacred inhabits the ordinary. My snapshot this week was inside Manchester Cathedral and shows a small part (dotted around the cathedral) of the works displayed by a UK potter Julian Stair under the title "Quietus Revisited". Other venues include St Ann's Church, the John Rylands Library, The Hidden Gem, and the Manchester Art Gallery. It is possible to seek silence and stillness even in a busy city and the art trail offers visitors to the city the opportunity to use the trail as a pilgrimage through a day, or perhaps to use a venue during a lunch hour to help engage spiritually and practically "with stillness, prayer and mindfulness". If you are around Manchester during Lent then this is worth a visit. Further information can be found at www.passionart.guide. As we all journey through Lent and into Holy Week and Easter let us pray for our sister congregations as they seek to bear witness to Jesus Christ in fresh ways within their communities. Please also pray for the Bolton churches as they continue to prepare for their Passion Play performance at 12noon outside the Town Hall on Easter Saturday when up to 5,000 visitors are expected.



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: Quiz night at Bolton Methodist Mission



The poster features a large red background. In the center is a green circle containing a large yellow question mark. The words "Quiz Night" are written in black, bold, sans-serif font along the top arc of the green circle, and "Friday 18th March" is written along the bottom arc. Below the red background is a white rectangular box with a black border. Inside this box, the text is as follows:

Bolton **Methodist** Mission
The Victoria Hall

Quiz Night

Friday 18th March
7:30pm

Tickets are £10 for a team of 4 people
(including drinks and nibbles).

Tickets available from the Victoria Hall Box Office or
contact Jill on 01204 522569

4: Prayer Labrynth

PRAYER LABYRINTH

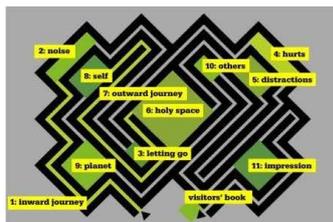
PRAYER LABYRINTH

SALE URC, MONTAGUE ROAD

During Holy Week the Prayer Labyrinth at Sale URC will be available for people to come and spend a short time in contemplation and reflection. The journey through the Labyrinth takes 30 – 45 minutes. As you move towards the centre there is opportunity to let go of those things in your life that, sometimes,



prevent you from feeling God's presence near to you. Then as you journey out again you can reflect on those things that you need to take into your life to become a better disciple. If you have not been on this journey then come and join us. If you have already experienced the Labyrinth then you will know how much you can get from the journey and will want to go on it again. For further details ring 0161 969 0714.



The Labyrinth will be open during the following times –

Tuesday, 22nd March,	2.00pm – 4.00pm.
	7.00pm – 9.00pm
Wednesday, 23rd March,	2.00pm – 4.00pm.
Thursday, 24th March,	2.00pm – 4.00pm.

5: Resource for Vocations Sunday 2016 Those who lead worship might be interested in this year's URC resource for Vocations Sunday - which falls on Sunday 24th April.

Students from the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College (including our own Synod Clerk, Andy Braunston) were asked to prepare resources to help preachers and worship leaders. They wanted the service to encourage people to think of vocation as something that we all have and to give a flavour of both the Scottish College and Spill the Beans material (the model they followed). The students have provided notes on the Biblical readings, prayers for different parts of the service, activities for different age groups, a fairy tale, a drama and suggestions for hymns.

Preachers and worship leaders can use some or all of the resources as they plan their worship.

You can find the material on the URC website

<http://www.urch.org.uk/vocations-sunday-2016.html>



6: News from Trinity URC Lancaster Trinity URC Lancaster have maintained a link with St Johns Church in Vellore, South India for over 30 years. There have been visits of members of St Johns to Lancaster and from members of Trinity to St Johns on a regular basis during this time. The people of Trinity have held many fund raising events to help the projects supported by the members of St Johns. The latest group of 4 ladies visited India for two and a half weeks in February 2016 returning with news of all the worthwhile work continuing to be undertaken by the people of St Johns. Ceri Kennedy, Jean Kirby, June Coulson and Alison Scott are pictured with Rev'd Rajendra Massilamani following a service at St Johns.

