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1: Moderators snapshot Last week I attended a meeting of the Greater Manchester Churches Together leaders' meeting at the home of the Bishop of Middleton. The meeting was helpfully led in lectio divina by Bishop John, and in the midst of a full diary it was refreshing to pause in that way (as indeed with the lectionary reading last Sunday, speaking of springs of living water in Rev 21:6). If we lose sight of the Gospel in our own lives it is difficult to see what we as leaders have to offer to the people of God. Within in our Synod I attend a couple of such leaders' meetings which are good opportunities for forging creative partnerships, and just occasionally for having more informal conversations about our ecumenical situations which concern us. Please pray for the leaders of other traditions we have connections with (in the photo are represented the Methodists, Moravians, Salvation Army, URC, Quakers, and Anglicans. Unfortunately neither Methodist Chairs could attend). Particularly pray for Bishop Chris (Bolton) as he retires in May, and for the process that is taking place towards the crown appointment of a new bishop for Bolton. Do pray Sunday by Sunday for those in your communities of other traditions, and particularly for all you can do together to bear witness to Christ Jesus.



2: THE EMMAUS ROAD PRAYER COMMUNITY PLEASE NOTE - The quarterly meeting of the Emmaus Road Prayer Community scheduled to take place this Saturday (30th April) at St. Joseph's Convent has been cancelled. Apologies for any inconvenience.

3: North Western and Northern Synods joint Ministers' Summer School DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!

13th—16th June 2016

BOOKING FORM

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:.....

Telephone:..... Email:

Special dietary requirements:

.....

Other requirements:

.....

I wish to book the following meals and accommodation –

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bed
MONDAY				
TUESDAY				
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY				

Minister's of Both Synod's

Please return this booking form to **Michele Jarman, 6 Mearley Syke, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 1JG by Saturday 30th April 2016 at the latest.**

URC North Western and Northern Synod's

Summer School 2016

Ministers Summer School 2016 will take place at The Windermere Centre from the 13th—16th June.

The theme this year is *“Imagination, Spirituality and Creativity”* and we are delighted to have Graham Sparkes, Kathy White, David Poulton and Kate Gray to lead our sessions. Elizabeth Gray-King has also kindly agreed to help us plan the sessions although sadly she can't actually be with us at summer school.

If you would like to come please return the booking form opposite.

(North Western Synod please see separate form for pastorate treasures')

If you require further information please contact Michele Jarman, Mal Breeze,

Ann Honey or Mary Bellshaw. (Contact details below)

COPY OF BOOKING FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS

Arrivals are from mid-afternoon on Monday 13th and we finish with lunch on Thursday 16th.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bed
MONDAY				
TUESDAY				
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY				

Contact details

- Michele: michelejarmany@hotmail.com (North Western)
 Mal: malbreeze@me.com (North Western)
 Ann: mamhoney@msn.com (Northern)
 Mary: mary.bellshaw@trinitygosforth.org.uk (Northern)

**North Western and Northern Synod’s
 Joint Ministers’ Summer School
 13th—16th June 2016
 URC Windermere Centre**

“Imagination, Spirituality and Creativity”
North Western Synod (Only)

Churches/pastorates are asked to contribute £200 per minister towards the cost of sending their Minister(s) to the 2016 Ministers’ Summer School.

Please give the form below to your Church/pastorate to fill in and send the money to the Synod Office as below.

We have made a payment of £.....towards the cost of the 2016 Minister’s Summer School: *(delete as applicable)*

- Cheque enclosed payable to United Reformed Church (North Western Province) Trust Ltd
- Electronic payment to sort code 01-10-01, account No. 02942763 – please use “SS2014” + minister’s name as payment reference.

Name of Minister/s

Name of Church/Pastorate

Treasurers’ Please return to:

Mr Tony Rutherford
 Finance Officer
 United Reformed Church (North Western Province) Trust Limited
 Franklin Street,
 Patricroft,
 Manchester
 M30 0QZ

If you have any queries contact Michele Jarmany on 012000 442389

Booking forms will be in the Ministers envelope available at Synod (12th March)

4: News from Garstang URC Some of Garstang URC’s ecumenical Quiet Time group enjoying the early Spring sunshine by the floral cross that was adorned by the congregation during the Easter Sunday service. It is a tradition that the cross is brought out and placed at the gates so passers-by can appreciate the wonderful result.



5: Barton Grange Hotel – MINISTERS’ DAY TUESDAY 10TH MAY The Moderator would like to encourage you to put the **Ministers day at Barton Grange Hotel on Tuesday 10 May, 10.0 – 4.0**, in your diary. At the ministers day you will have an opportunity to explore different aspects of deployment and ministry. **Please let Hazel know at admin@nwsynod.org.uk if you will be attending the ministers’ day so that Hazel can order lunch for you, no later than Tuesday 3 May.**

6: Roadshows The roadshows are being run around the Synod Areas (8 meetings in all) with the opportunity for every church to hear more about the deployment issue we have to deal with as a Synod, and how each congregation has something to contribute to the way forward. . Please make sure Elders save the date(s) in their diary: **Can elders let Hazel know at admin@nwsynod.org.uk or 0161 789 5583 who will be attending from their church so that we have a rough idea of numbers.**

Date	Notes
Wed 29 th June	South Area 2 – 4pm Altrincham (Hale) URC 7 – 9pm Gatley URC
Fri 1 st July	Lancashire Area 2-4pm Poulton-le-Fylde URC 7 – 9pm Fulwood URC
Tues 12 th July	Central Area 2 – 4pm St Andrew’s & St George’s 7 – 9pm Hurst Nook, Ashton

Thurs 21 st July	Cumbria 2 – 4pm Cockermouth URC 7 – 9pm Grange-over-sands URC
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