
News from the NW Synod 16th November 2016

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1: Moderators Snapshot This week I had the privilege of undertaking some training at the Windermere Centre along with seven others, including 2 other Moderators and the denomination's Church and Society coordinator. The training was led by Jane Baird and Helen Bird from Church House, taking us through many issues concerned with HR (Human Resources). Along with many other areas of Church life we are properly needing to pay greater attention to the society around us and exercising responsible care and support for those who offer service within the life of the church, either a employees or in a volunteer capacity.

Please pray for:

- the staff at Church House who are acting as a hub which sustains core issues within our common life
- those from Church House, our Resource Centres for Learning, and the Synod who provide us with training and equipping in many areas that affect the way in which we minister and help us to fulfil the commission of Christ within our local communities
- those involved in the consultation process concerning the future of the Windermere Centre (leading up to any decisions to be taken at the May 2017 meeting of Mission Council)
- the Revd Dr Tim Mountain, our newly appointed Learning and Development Officer (a jointly shared role with Northern College) as he begins to find his way around the Synod and as he gets to know us and how we tick.



2: Daily Devotions A new series of Daily Devotions will be sent out by email from the First Sunday of Advent. These are being compiled by Andy Braunston and have been written by writers from across the URC. Each day a reading, short reflection and prayer will be sent to those people who sign up for them. The series will continue for everyday of the year. You can sign up for them by going to this address: <http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions>

3: Vacancy: Convenor of the Synod Pastoral Committee The Synod needs to appoint a new Convenor for the Synod Pastoral Committee (following the appointment of Brian Jolly as Synod Clerk).

Who might fulfil this role? Please give this matter your prayerful consideration.

The job description for the post is below.

If you have in mind someone who you believe has the necessary experience and gifts, and you would like to nominate them, please contact the Synod Clerk by email giving the name of the person you wish to nominate together with a short statement explaining why you consider the nominee suitable for the post. Nominations may be made with, or without, the consent of the nominee.

If you believe you have the necessary experience and gifts and wish to make a self-nomination, please contact the Synod Clerk by email with a short statement explaining why you consider you are suitable for the post.

If, before making a nomination, you wish to discuss the details of the job description, please contact the Synod Clerk in the first instance.

The closing date for nominations for this post is Friday 25 November.

The Synod Clerk can be contacted by email: clerk@nwsynod.org.uk

The Synod Executive will appoint a Nominating Group to consider the nominations. This group, having considered all nominations and accompanying statements, will produce a shortlist and meet with those on that list. If so minded, the group will nominate, to the Synod Executive Committee, one person to fill the vacancy. If the Executive Committee supports the nomination it will transmit it to the next Synod Meeting for decision. If the Nominating Group cannot make a nomination, or the Synod Executive Committee does not support the nomination of the Nominating Group, the Synod Clerk will be asked to re-advertise the vacancy.

Synod Pastoral Committee Convenor - job description

- 1) Agree dates for meetings of the committee with members (the committee usually meets 4 times annually)
- 2) Prepare and circulate agendas for committee meetings, consulting with members and others as appropriate, and ensure that relevant papers are circulated beforehand
- 3) Chair meetings of the committee
(Minutes of the meetings are normally prepared by one of the members)
- 4) Review the draft minutes and circulate them to members
- 5) Attend to tasks as requested by the committee
- 6) Ensure that others members attend to tasks as requested by the committee
- 7) Prepare and present reports of the work of the committee for the synod meeting
- 8) Serve as a member of the synod meeting
- 9) Attend to tasks as requested by the synod meeting
- 10) Liaise with, support and advise convenors of area pastoral committees as appropriate

- 11) Serve as a member of the area pastoral committees, and attend these meetings when possible/necessary (there are 4 area pastoral committees, each of which meets, 4 - 6 times annually)
- 12) Serve as a member of the synod executive committee (the committee usually meets 4 times annually)
- 13) Prepare and present reports of the work of the committee for the synod executive committee
- 14) Attend to tasks as requested by the synod executive committee
- 15) Represent the synod executive committee to the committee
- 16) Liaise with, support and advise the synod moderator as appropriate

4: Vacancies: Convenors for Lancashire, Central and South Area Pastoral

Committees The Synod needs to appoint new Convenors for Lancashire, Central and South Area Pastoral Committees (with effect from March 2017).

Who might fulfil these role? Please give this matter your prayerful consideration.

A generic job description for these posts is below. (These may be tweaked slightly to fit the particular circumstances of an Area).

If you have in mind someone who you believe has the necessary experience and gifts, and you would like to nominate them, please contact the Synod Clerk by email giving the name of the person you wish to nominate together with a short statement explaining why you consider the nominee suitable for the post. Nominations may be made with, or without, the consent of the nominee.

If you believe you have the necessary experience and gifts and wish to make a self-nomination, please contact the Synod Clerk by email with a short statement explaining why you consider you are suitable for the post.

If, before making a nomination, you wish to discuss the details of the job description, please contact the Synod Clerk in the first instance.

The closing date for nominations for these posts is Friday 2 December.

The Synod Clerk can be contacted by email: clerk@nwsynod.org.uk

For each post the Synod Executive will appoint a Nominating Group to consider the nominations. The Nominating Group, having considered all nominations and accompanying statements for the post, will produce a shortlist. The Nominating Group will meet with those on the shortlist and, if so minded,

nominate to the Synod Executive Committee one person to fill the vacancy. If the Executive Committee supports the nomination it will transmit it to the next Synod Meeting for decision. If the Nominating Group cannot make a nomination, or the Synod Executive Committee does not support the nomination of the Nominating Group, the Synod Clerk will be asked to re-advertise the vacancy.

Area Pastoral Committee Convenor - job description

- 17) Agree dates for meetings of the committee with members (the committee usually meets 6 times annually)
- 18) Prepare and circulate agendas for committee meetings, consulting with members and others as appropriate, and ensure that relevant papers are circulated beforehand
- 19) Chair meetings of the committee
(Minutes of the meetings are normally prepared by one of the members)
- 20) Review the draft minutes and circulate them to members
- 21) Attend to tasks as requested by the committee, including visits to local churches and liaison with synod officers and other synod committees
- 22) Ensure that others members attend to tasks as requested by the committee
- 23) Prepare and present reports of the work of the committee for the synod pastoral committee and the synod meeting
- 24) Serve as a member of the synod pastoral committee (which normally meets 4 times annually) and the synod meeting (in the spring and autumn)
- 25) Attend to tasks as requested by the synod pastoral committee and the synod meeting
- 26) Liaise with, support and advise the synod moderator as appropriate
- 27) Offer leadership to the committee in its fulfilment of its functions and responsibilities
- 28) Share with other officers in 'officer action', as appropriate and necessary, between committee meetings

5: The organ at Silloth URC, St Andrews This organ was originally a House organ, made for the mansion at Helensburgh known as "Cairndhu". This was designed by the architect William Leiper, in the style of a French Chateau in 1871 and had a celebrated room with its ceiling in the then fashionable Japanese style. Unfortunately, after having been an hotel and then an old peoples' home, this building is currently boarded up and "at risk".

The house was built for John Ure, a prosperous Glasgow miller who served as Lord Provost of Glasgow, laying the foundation stone of the City Chambers in 1883. The second son became Solicitor General for Scotland (1905-09) and became Baron Strathclyde in 1914. If the name Ure sounds familiar, it could be

because a grand daughter, Mary Ure, was a film and stage star.

The House was requisitioned by the Royal Navy in 1940 and then sold after the war. We assume that the organ was taken out of the house around this time.

St Andrews Presbyterian Church was looking for a replacement organ and they were thinking in terms of a reed organ but then one of the Elders, Mr Harr, received a phone call from his brother in Edinburgh to say that there was a pipe organ for sale from Lord Strathclyde's mansion in Helensburgh. The cost including transport and installation would be about £400. A deputation went to view the organ and the next reference in the minutes is for September 1946 when a letter of thanks was to be sent to Messers Ingrams (organ builders of Edinburgh) the thank them for the satisfactory way in which the installation of the organ had been done. The organ was dedicated on 11th November 1946 by Rev Purvis Boyes.

The church fitted an electric blower to the organ, which means it was probably hand-blown at Cairndhu. We think the organ was made by the Bradford firm of Connacher and the sound quality of the organ when played by an expert can, without too much imagination, take us back to its original setting, a room probably of similar size to St Andrews church, which has treasured and cared for it since 1946. The beautiful case of the organ is typical of a house organ, where the organ is a piece of furniture as well as a musical instrument. Almost certainly the architect, William Leiper, designed the case to fit in with his house.



**St Andrew's
United Reformed Church
Silloth**

Advent Organ Recital

By Ian Hare

Retiring collection

in aid of organ

refurbishment

Refreshments available

in the interval

Saturday November 26 2016

At 7.30pm

6: Reading the Christmas Story today. Angels, a virgin, a manger and a star?!

Can we believe the Christmas story in the 21st century?

Or do we throw the wonder of this baby out with, if not the bathwater, the straw from the stable (which isn't in the gospel anyway)?

Come to engage with Rev Rosalind Selby, principal of Northern College, as she discusses the relevance of the Christmas story for us today.

Thursday 1st December, 7-30 for 7-45 start.

Tickets £2, for sale on the door or

E mail atermie@yahoo.com

Providence U R C, Mellor Road, New Mills,

SK22 4DP

Rosalind Selby is a URC minister and Principal of Northern College, Manchester. She is the author of *The Comical Doctrine*, which asks questions about the truth of Biblical narratives, and is a tutor of Biblical Studies at Northern College.

7: Community Mission Facilitator As part of the shared mission endeavor in Cumbria, the Salvation Army is currently recruiting for a Community Mission Facilitator in Barrow in Furness. A job profile and job pack are found at https://webrecruitment.salvationarmy.org.uk/ce0024li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC107GF.open?VACANCY_ID%3d9881806Jrq&WVID=1734341jyu&LANG=USA. The closing date is 27 November.

8: DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT Daily Devotions from the United Reformed Church will be sent out by email every day from the First Sunday of Advent. A team of writers from different places and perspectives in the URC are reflecting on a reading and offering a short prayer each day for us to use in our own journeys of discipleship. During the first week of Advent we are going to be reflecting on the passages in St Luke's Gospel about John the Baptist's birth (and the prophecies of it), the Annunciation and the Magnificat. We then move on to look at the women in the Messianic line. We explore the social context of these women who were defined by their ability to find life despite the deathly patriarchal mores of their times. In the third week of Advent we look at the prophecies of the New Age to come and, in the final week we look at the O Antiphons - which we know now as the haunting hymn O Come O Come Emmanuel.

In order to sign up please simply go to: <http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions> and complete the form.