
News from the NW Synod 8th February 2017

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1: Moderators Snapshot



Last week I attended a URC national consultation on Local Ecumenical Projects, and with a focus on the new framework document that is being produced to support our LEPs. Every Synod was represented (with Sarah Moore and Nick Mark also being present from our Cumbria Synod Area, so North Western Synod was well represented) and the 24 hours provided a good forum for considering different aspects of our ecumenical working. Much of our consideration about the way we work ecumenically indicated that we need materials that help us to work flexibly, supported more locally (ie with oversight provided by Synods rather than the Churches Together in England forum), in a much “lighter” way, and in particular with non-traditional denominations or churches. Please pray for:

- the engagement in mission of all our congregations working with local churches from other traditions in the local community
- and give thanks for the ecumenical project in Cumbria leading to mission communities across Cumbria with shared ministry across all Methodist, Anglican, URC, and Salvation Army congregations
- the closer working regionally with other denominations, for example the South West Cumbria United Area between the URC and Methodist churches
- our work with newer expressions of church and stronger partnerships with a wide variety of old and new traditions
- those working nationally to create the frameworks which will be flexible and “light” to help us in working well with our local church neighbours as together we make Jesus known
- the ecumenical initiative for prayer in 2017 between Ascension Day and Pentecost (see www.thykingdomcome.global for information and resources)

2: SYNOD Prayer Resources A letter/email is going out this week to all ministers, CRCWs, church secretaries and lay preachers concerning part of our Synod prayer strategy.

The pack of resources and ideas for a “Prayer Event” in your church(es) has been put together by the Synod Retreats & Prayer Group. We hope that this “Prayer Event” across the Synod will take place at the beginning of Lent – from Ash Wednesday on 1st March to the following Sunday 5th March.

These resources are not meant to be prescriptive – and are offered to support you in imagining what you might try to do locally. If you have not received a copy of these resources and would like to do so please will you contact the Synod Office so that we can make these widely available. Thank you. Andrew (Moderator)

3: Revd Eileen Sambrooks funeral with be on 14th February at Bare Methodist Church at 1.15pm and the onto Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium for 2.45pm.

4: Annual Safeguarding Returns Many thanks to all the churches who have sent back their Annual Safeguarding Returns (Appendix H)

There is still time for those who are gathering information to complete the return (available at <http://urc.org.uk/images/safeguarding/SafeguardingDocuments/GP4-Appendix-H.pdf>) and send it to the Synod office.

This will give the synod, and the denomination, a better picture of what issues local churches are facing and how the synod can support them.

5: The Grand Tour Having spent much of the last 18 months delivering safeguarding training around the synod, the synod's Children and Youth Development Officer, Leo Roberts, is looking to 'reconnect' with youth and children's groups in local churches. Rather than drop in unannounced, he is hoping that local churches will invite him to visit – maybe even to run an activity for your group. He is hoping to meet with volunteers, workers, children and young people, to help support the work with children and young people in local churches. He says: "It isn't about OFSTEDing! It's about rekindling relationships that have weakened as safeguarding has taken me away from the face-to-face work and, of course, developing new relationships with churches, volunteers and young people in particular."

You can contact Leo on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk – he's waiting to hear from you!

6: Revd David Robertson I am sorry to inform you of the death of Revd David Robertson on 3 February David served at: Diss 1987-90; Woodley & Hatherlow 1990-93; and Trinity, Fishermead, Milton Keynes 1993-98.

David Robertson's funeral will be on Monday 13th at 1.00pm at Beetham Crematorium (Fishwick funeral parlour) for his committal Followed by a service of thanksgiving at Kendal URC at 2.00pm
Brian Jolly (Clerk) North Western Synod

7: Ministry Enquirers' Day



Is it I, Lord?

Ministry Enquirers' Day
Saturday 18 March 2017

10am – 4pm

Luther King House, Manchester



- Explore opportunities for service through the United Reformed Church
 - Ask the questions that are on your mind and heart
- Hear from people engaged in a variety of lay and ordained ministries
 - Listen for the voice of God as we worship and pray together

For full details contact:

Vivienne Williams

T: 020 7916 8649 E: vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk

8: National URC Feasts and Festivals Day Out at Warwick Castle on Saturday 20 May 2017.

Plans are going very well indeed for the upcoming national URC day out at Warwick Castle. We have the perfect venue for this Feasts and Festivals celebration, one of our most historic castles, renowned for its heritage, fun and celebration, bringing history alive in a way that is accessible and engaging for all generations.

We have an exciting and ever-growing list of speakers, including John Proctor, our General Secretary, Neil Thorogood, Principal of Westminster College, Paul Northup of the Greenbelt Festival, representatives from the Christian Aid Collective, representatives from Messy Church and Wayne Hawkins of CWM to name but a few.

In marking, amongst other things, the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, 100 years since the ordination of Constance Coltman, 45 years since the URC came into existence and 25 years since Commitment for Life began, we will continue this very rich tradition as we offer thanks for the life of the URC, reflect on the Church's service to God and ponder where things will go from here.

Church Secretaries will have received more information and booking forms and people can also contact the Feasts and Festivals Desk on 020 7916 8637 or e-mail feastsandfestivals@urc.org.uk for more information.

