

The next Synod Meeting will be held at Bamford Chapel URC on 25th March 2017.

- 1: **Moderators Snapshot**
- 2: ***Bread of Life* here at Carver Uniting Church Windermere**
- 3: **Young People at Synod**
- 4: **The CYDO Grand Tour**

1: **Moderators Snapshot** The gathering this week of all the ministers in Cumbria for 24 hours (including some of our ecumenical colleagues from the Methodist Church and Church of Scotland) took place in the Windermere Centre – where we were looked after wonderfully by the staff. The ministers encouraged me to take a “selfie” – not something I normally do and at which I am not very proficient. Six attempts later produced a picture almost in focus and without anyone appearing to be decapitated! This snapshot is the result. Unfortunately, the keynote speaker and facilitator for our sessions had already had to rush to catch a train – so the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith (Moderator of Southern Synod) is not in the picture.

Our sessions focused on the conversations which have been taking place between the URC and the Anglicans. The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith has been the URC Co-Chair of these “Church of England - United Reformed Church Informal Conversations” with the Rt Revd James Newcome (Bishop of Carlisle) as the other co-chair. In view of the ecumenical project underway within Cumbria the sessions produced lively discussion around a topic which is a “live” issue for every URC in Cumbria.

Please pray for

- the continuing development of conversations between the URC and the Anglicans, especially around the issue of sharing ministries
- the continued work within Cumbria to provide a model for the whole of the UK of the way in which our denominations can work together in a way which makes a significant difference for the mission of God’s Kingdom and our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- the Cumbria Ecumenical Pilgrimage taking place over the next fortnight to the Holy Land with almost 80 pilgrims from all four traditions (Anglican, URC, Methodist, Salvation Army) participating. We are seeking prayer for this sign of our unity – and next week I will point you towards the blog if you wish to follow our progress (I am co-leading with the Rt Revd James Newcome – Bishop of Carlisle – and the Revd Richard Teal – Methodist District Chair). Thank you for your prayers.



2: **Bread of Life here at Carver Uniting Church Windermere**



We are delighted to announce that on **19th April 7pm** Springs Dance Company will be performing *Bread of Life* here at **Carver Uniting Church Windermere**

Springs Dance Company is:

- committed to making excellent dance that is relevant and accessible
- has a highly praised education programme.
- provides relevant and inspiring performance events that

are richly expressive of the Christian faith and values.

Bread of Life:

- is an uplifting response to the invitation 'Come and eat'
- explores a message at the heart of the Christian tradition of the Communion/Eucharist in a thought-provoking and innovative way
- is a visual and timeless expression of Jesus' continual presence and his desire to be with us
- is a mesmerising reminder that the invitation came from him and offers an expression of a community with him and each other.
- offers the audience more than just a feast for the eyes
- full of powerful imagery

Bread of Life has been described as:

'A danced, joyous and living expression of Jesus and his friends'

'So moving...absolutely blown away'

'The dance has left a lasting impression on me'

'Full of powerful imagery for communion and our relationship with Jesus'

The show will be 50minutes long and followed by a post-show discussion with the cast. The event is created for an adult audience in particular but will be enjoyed by all the family, especially older children, and is for those new to dance as well as the already initiated.

Springs Dance Company are coming to inspire us, to breathe life into the church and, along with us here at would love to see you invite friends, family and your community to share this outreach further.

3: Young People at Synod *"There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced or the preferably unheard"* – Arundhati Roy.

Is it right that the voice of young people should be heard when the Synod is making decisions about its, and their church's, future?

If you agree that it is important that young people are given the opportunity to express their views then you can help them to do this by bringing them with you to the next synod meeting (March 25th, Bamford Chapel).

They will have the opportunity to discuss some of the issues being addressed by the synod in a way that is appropriate to them with Leo Roberts (Children and Youth Development Officer) and also feed their thoughts back to the synod meeting.

Please contact Leo to let him know that you are bringing some young people (they will need to provide their own lunch) so that he can ensure there are enough resources available.

Don't let the young people in your church feel that they are 'voiceless'.

4: The CYDO Grand Tour Leo still has a few evenings/mornings over the next few weeks available for invitations to visit your church youth, children or toddler group. Please contact him on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk