
News from the NW Synod 14th June 2017

Newsletter



Please remember to book your tickets for the North Western/Mersey Synod Big Day Out **£10** an adult ticket...**children go free!**

- 1: Moderators Snapshot
- 2: Venue Scanner
- 3: Ageing spirituality and dementia keynote speaker: Revd Gaynor Hammond
- 4: A service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Windermere Centre
- 5: Tockholes URC Anniversary Service Sunday 25th June at 2pm come and join us!
- 6: Missional Discipleship and Young People
- 7: Cumbria Christian Aid Diamond Awards

1: Moderators Snapshot



On Monday the small team of Synod officers and staff met at the Synod Office in Patricroft for lunch together (although our CYDO Leo Roberts & Vice Chair of the Trust John Rea, could not be with us). In the image from left to right are:

- John Piper, Synod Treasurer
- Brian Jolly, Synod Clerk
- Dave Fraser, Mission & Discipleship Mentor (South Area)

- Hazel Wall, my PA & Office manager
- Kath Fowler, Legal and Trust Officer
- Kerry Later, Office Secretary
- Darren Holland, Mission & Discipleship Mentor (Central Area)
- Jean Mullineux, Chair of the Synod Trust
- Tim Mountain, Learning & Development Officer (for ministers)
- Tony Rutherford, Financial Officer
- Lawrence Moore, Mission & Discipleship consultant

In meeting with my fellow Moderators I have come to appreciate how blessed we are in North Western Synod with the resources we have to provide a “hub” which can support and encourage all our congregations in a variety of ways. At a time when we all feel challenged about the situation most congregations in the UK are experiencing, both as the URC and also our sister denominations, we need to recall the heart of the Gospel which has been entrusted to us. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae, *“All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.”* We are called into being for a purpose – that others may know the love of God in Jesus Christ. Our working together, and the use of all our resources and people, enables us to respond to the Gospel and engage outwards in each of the communities where our congregations are located. To God be the glory!

Please pray for:

- the work of all our staff as they help our congregations in a variety of specific ways; and for those Synods who are struggling through a lack of resources to support their congregations
- the encouragement of the Gospel for any of our congregations who feel particularly under pressure, that their strength may be renewed (Isaiah 40:29 – 31)
- the development of our focus as a Synod on missional discipleship, and as a denomination with Walking the Way, and the additional resource we have in our Mission & Discipleship Mentors; and pray for the interview process as we seek to appoint a Mentor for the Lancashire Area.

2: Venue Scanner This Company has approached some of our churches, both by letter and email. They are a start-up Company which lists venue facilities on a website. I understand it’s free to list your church and the Company takes a cut from any rent you receive for events organised through the listing. I have discussed this with my colleagues in other Synods and we feel this is more geared towards large venues which could accommodate on-off events such as conferences, parties, lectures etc. The general feeling is that we would prefer to urge churches to engage with their local communities to find ways of filling vacant space which might lead to mission related opportunities. We would also need to consider where the Trust Company would fit in so it is not a straightforward as it sounds.

Therefore, if any churches are considering using VenueScanner to advertise their premises now or in the future, please get in touch with me first so we can discuss it further.

Kath Fowler, Synod Legal & Trust Officer: 07740 112628 or

3: Ageing spirituality and dementia keynote speaker: Revd Gaynor Hammond Saturday 15th July 2017



10.00 am (coffee available from 9.30) to 1.00 pm Packed lunch at 1.00

AGEING SPIRITUALITY AND DEMENTIA
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REVD GAYNOR HAMMOND

**Revidge Fold URC,
Shear Brow, Blackburn
BB1 8DS**

There is no charge but we welcome donations. For more information please ring / email Lena 01254 706206 collena@collena.co.uk

(hands photograph © Revd Dr. L. Husslebee 2015 used with permission.)

Coffee will be available from 9.30 for a 10.00 am start

Please bring a packed lunch if you are staying for lunch

Gaynor will introduce the subject and share her knowledge and experience and there will be time for participation, discussion and sharing.

The session will finish at 1.00 for lunch

Gaynor will be available for further consultation over lunch

Revd Gaynor Hammond

Gaynor Hammond is a Baptist Minister. Her background is in nursing and for seven years she was employed as a Dementia Project Worker for "Faith in Elderly People" Leeds working with church and health care organisations looking at the spiritual needs of people with dementia and how those needs could be met.

She has worked closely with the Christian Council on Ageing, Methodist Homes Care Group and the Chaplaincy Dept of Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

Working collaboratively with members of those organisations she has produced booklets on the subject of Spirituality and Dementia.

She worked with the Baptist Union of Great Britain looking at care of vulnerable adults and helped to produce a booklet "Safe to Belong."

Until she retired she was in post as Regional Tutor for Northern Baptist College and Associate Pastor for South Parade Baptist Church in Leeds

4: A service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Windermere Centre

on July 15th at 3pm at Carver Uniting Church, Windermere

RSVP to Rev'd Lis Mullen revdlis@gmail.com

015304 45456, 07584 466 961

5: Tockholes URC Anniversary Service Sunday 25th June at 2pm

come and join us! The elders and members of Tockholes URC would be delighted if you could join them at their Anniversary Service, celebrating 355 years of worship. The Rev. Brian Jolly is the guest preacher and the Unity Choir will also be taking part. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

6: Missional Discipleship and Young People

Date: 8/9 August

Venue: to be advised

At the synod meeting in March, the idea of missional discipleship was introduced - groups of churches working together in a particular area (either geographical or issue-based - to be more effective with mission.

How might this involve and energise young people?

To explore the concept of missional discipleship with young people Leo Roberts and the 'Mission Mentors' are arranging an overnight meeting for young people (Year 11+) to investigate how they can be involved in changing the ways our local churches work.

The places are fully funded - so the young people you send need only to get to the venue, everything else (accommodation and food) will be provided.

We are looking at 3 young people (and one adult - optional!) from each area.

If you have a young person in your church who would be interested in exploring missional development, please contact Leo on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk.

7: Cumbria Christian Aid Diamond Awards

Thank you, and well done to Anne Handley (Kendal URC), Kate Stout (Whitehaven URC) and Anne Dick (Whitehaven URC), all of whom received awards at the Cumbria Christian Aid Diamond Awards evening on 13th June for their service to Christian Aid over many years. Also pictured is Nick Mark, URC minister in the North Cumbria Pastorate and at Penrith URC. The second photo is Anne, Kate, and Anne with the other award winners.



