

Newsletter



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1: Black History Month 2017



blackhistory.gm@gmail.com

<http://blackhistorygm.org/>

@BlackhistoryGm

Invitation to the launch of the **October Arts Festival**

Black History Month 2017
Tuesday 26 September

Drinks offered at **6pm**
Performance at **7pm**
Manchester Cathedral

We cordially offer this launch invitation to the **October Arts Festival** representing Greater Manchester's diverse Black communities' history and culture

This year, more than ever, Black History Month Greater Manchester (BHMGM) aims to represent our racial unity across the region

- Hosted by **National Black Arts Alliance**
- Supported by **the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Education Trust** representing the BHMGM venue partners

The Revd Canon Dr. David Holgate, on behalf of Dean Rogers Govender, welcomes all people of all denominations and none

2: URC Exploring Vocations Day - 4 November 2017

Please see the attached Ad for the upcoming URC Exploring Vocations Day to be held on Saturday 4 November 2017 from 10:00am to 16:00pm at Westminster College, Cambridge. www.westminster.cam.ac.uk

A full programme and additional details will follow in due course.



The
United
Reformed
Church

Is it I, Lord?

Ministry Enquirers' Day
Saturday 4 November 2017
10am-4pm
Westminster College, Cambridge



- 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

3: Join the *ExploreChurches* Web Site and Record Your Church Story!

You may not have heard of the Churches Visitors and Tourism Association – but it's a national Charity involved in encouraging churches to open their doors and welcome the stranger in! I represent the URC on the Board of Trustees and one of my colleagues is Sarah Crossland of the National Churches Trust (NCT). She has set up a website to encourage visitors called **Explore Churches**. So we've hatched up this whizzo scheme to encourage United Reformed Churches to take part. All that is required is to complete the NCT questionnaire which I have circulated via Synod Offices to every URC. and **SEND IT TO ME** to pass on to Sarah.

To my delight the Congregational Church have also decided to take part. We're going to attempt to make a publicity splash by uploading information about all our churches on the same day and as the centenary of the ordination of the Rev. Constance Coltman is coming up on September 17th, that day will be an auspicious day to do just that.

Of course any church who wants to be involved and can't meet that deadline – no problem! That church can be added later.

And...as you all know, when you start something like this, one thing leads to another. A lot of churches don't feel that they have a place on an *ExploreChurches* website as their building is too "ordinary". But even the smallest church has a history. At some point in time someone had a vision that led to the foundation of YOUR congregation.

The Northern Synod website has a brief history of the origins of our denomination - which as you know dates back to the first stirrings of the Reformation in the 14th. century -and then lists of some of the churches in the area with a short history of their inception and development. The story of how your congregation began and its growth and change is part of the fascinating history of our denomination. How great if we could add some succinct information about each of our churches to each of our Synod websites. That's now part 2 of this project! Please get someone from **YOUR** church to complete the NCT questionnaire, with a **BRIEF** account of the history of your fellowship – which will undoubtedly date back further than your present premises and then **SEND IT TO ME**

My plan, when I've collated the information is to supply each Synod with a chronological list of all the churches in their area using those histories. As there 14,26 churches in the URC using the questionnaire means the the information is in a common format and therefore much easier to extract the information from.

It's amazing the number of people from other denominations who are completely unaware of the long history of Independent churches and many who think that the URC is some upstart parvenu! Please let's try to find ways of putting that misconception straight.

This is a daunting task, but if everyone responds digitally it should be do-able! If you really cannot use e-mail, please could you get someone to print a hard copy of the questionnaire and fill it in. My contact details are below. It would be great to have such a celebration of Independence Church History in place before 2020 – the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers.

Valerie Jenkins, 8, Alton Grove, Heaton, Bradford. BD9 5QL. valeriejenkins@btinternet.com

4: Rejoice and Sing Melody edition

There are 80 surplus copies of the melody edition of *Rejoice and Sing*. If any church can make use of them please contact Hazel in the Synod Office on 0161 789 5583 or admin@nwsynod.org.uk.

5: My name is Sam Wright, Partnership Officer at The Message Trust in

Sharston. The Message Trust is totally committed to the local church. Our sole purpose is to reach unchurched young people with the Gospel and connect them to local churches like you for long-term discipleship. We exist to serve the local church, strengthen its arm and see it flourish.

As part of this each year we aim to send out inspiring speakers to visit as many churches as possible to share some exciting testimonies from our prisons, schools and community teams. Our hope is to encourage you and your church in your own mission and outreach as we share the vision God has given us.

We are seeing hundreds of young people each month respond to the Gospel message, turning their lives around, making better choices and growing in their faith. In February 2016 we began an exciting mission which aims to see 200,000 young people become disciples in the next five years. We'd really love to come and share a bit about our vision, mission and how you and your congregation can get involved.

What we can offer

- A 20-40 minute slot in a Sunday morning service, comprised of an inspiring sermon about our biblical response towards tackling the issues with the youth culture in the UK. This will also include the latest Message video.
- A 15-20 minute slot in a Sunday morning service, comprised of the latest Message video and a brief talk explaining how The Message vision is a direct expression of God's heart for the hardest to reach young people. .

Below are some examples of the types of video we show as part of our presentation which will help you gain a clearer understanding of who we are and the work we do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3TPTUb3yJo>

6: Belated THANK YOU:

Before the summer we joined with Mersey Synod to have our joint Big Day Out at the Southport Convention Centre. An enormous amount of preparation and support on the day made this event possible. On behalf of the Synod we say a big "THANK YOU" to all those who gave of their time and energy to make this a success for all who came and enjoyed the day. Good weather was a bonus!

Andrew Mills

7: Revd John Berryman

Dear friends

With the hope of resurrection to eternal life, I write to let you that I have been advised that The Revd John Berryman, a retired minister, died peacefully on Friday 18th August.

John served at Hartlepool, Brigg & Barton on Humber, Brigg, as industrial Chaplain and at Bradford on Avon & Holt before retiring to Faversham in Kent. John is survived by his wife June and daughters Sarah and Joane.

John's funeral will take place on the 6th of September at 1.20pm at Charing Crematorium, Kent.
Yours in Christ
Southern Synod Clerk

8: **Revd Donald (Don) Powis**

We have learned with sadness that The Revd Donald (Don) Powis died on Sunday 20th August.

Hi funeral will be on Monday 11th September at 11:00am at Kirkcaldy Crematorium, Rosemount Avenue, Kirkcaldy, KY2 6HQ

Don served in Bethesda, Manchester & Oldham; Gledhow Road, Leeds; Shawlands, Glasgow and Christ Church Manchester.

Yours sincerely
Patsi

Patricia Dickie, PA to Moderator and Synod Clerk

United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland, 113 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 2RU

Tel: 0141 248 5382; Fax: 0141 222 2981 email: pdickie@urcscotland.org.uk <http://www.urcscotland.org.uk> Scottish Charity Reference Number SC011907

9: **Revd Ronald Blick**

On behalf of the Synod Clerk, it is with deep regret that we advise you of the death on Monday, 21st August of the Reverend Ronald Blick, retired minister living in Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Ron's ministries were at Shepherds Bush 1975-86; Argyle Morley & Staple Hill, Bristol 1986-99; & Horfield 1995-99; Lavington, Appledore, Bideford & Northam 1999-2005.

The funeral service will be held at 11.00am on Friday, 1st Sept at Bradford on Avon Cemetery Chapel. All are welcome.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his daughters at this sad time.

Kind regards,

Hilary Bradshaw

PA to the Moderator

The United Reformed Church, South Western Synod Office, The Manse, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6RU. Tel: 01823 275470 Email: admin@urcsouthwest.org.uk Synod website: www.urcsouthwest.org.uk

10: **Revd David Gordon Robinson**

I am sorry to inform you of the death of Revd David Gordon Robinson on 28 August 2017.

David served at: Dennistoun Wardlaw, Glasgow 1958 – 63; Barrhead 1963 – 70; St Anne's-on-Sea 1970 – 92; Trinity Church Centre, Barrow-in-Furness 1992 – 98.

Funeral arrangements are not yet available; they will be circulated when they are received.

Brian Jolly

Clerk - North Western Synod