

NEWS FROM THE NW SYNOD 24TH JANUARY 2018



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1: Synod Roadshows to be held at the end of February / beginning of March 2018

A further round of **Synod Roadshows** at which the elders of our churches can further consider our strategies for sharing in **Missional Discipleship and Missional Partnerships** will be held in late February and early March.

The dates and times of the Roadshows in Lancashire, Central and South Areas are given below; details of the venues for these Roadshows will be made available within the next week or so.

Please share these dates and times with the elders of your churches.

It will be important for every church to be well represented at one or both of the Roadshows in your Area.

Roadshows will be held from 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm:

- on **Wednesday 28th February** in **Lancashire Area**
- on **Thursday 1st March** in **Central Area**
- on **Friday 2nd March** in **South Area**

The date for Roadshows in **Cumbria** has yet to be agreed, and will be circulated as soon as possible.

2: Moderators Snapshot



On Saturday a special service was held in the building of Trinity Lancaster Church as they marked the closure of their building, an occasion tinged with sadness for those all the years of ministry (just short of 250 years) exercised through that setting yet also an event positively looking forward to the next stage in their journey united with the Bowerham congregation.

Please pray for

- the united congregation in Lancaster as they are led forward in the next steps of their journey of discipleship together, and in their mission to the community in which they are set
- the northerly Synods meeting as they/we meet in Newcastle at the moment, with particular focus on what we share in the area of ministries, local leadership, IT and children & youth work – for fruitful areas of cooperation and discernment
- our ecumenical opportunities to be grasped at every level, and that at the close of this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we may all continue to pray with Jesus (The Gospel of John, chapter 17) for the oneness which helps the world see him more clearly.

3: Big Sing at St Peters House (cancelled) unfortunately the Big Sing at St Peters House has been cancelled due to illness. we certainly hope that later in the year we can all again for an IONA event at ST PETERS CHUCH for a BIG SING.

4: Burnley and Nelson United Reformed Church Welcome Churches Working Together in Burnley at the annual Christian Aid Lunch on the Sunday within the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.



5: The Lighthouse Community Church Helen Millichamp (church secretary at Bethel United Reformed Church, Preesall) with Peter Atkinson (Methodist, at Knott End Methodist Church) with Methodist Church minister, Rev'd Paul Critchley after signing the Constitution to become a Single LEP named The Lighthouse Community Church.



6: URC Youth Assembly 2018 North Western Synod had a good representation at Youth Assembly this year – including, of course Dan Morrel who was the moderator! It was a great weekend with workshops, discussions, games, late night activities... worship was led by Revd Stuart Radcliffe (late of this parish!) and the keynote speaker was Lawrence Moore who introduced the concept of 'Jesus-Shaped Churches, filled with Jesus-shaped people making a Jesus-shaped difference'. All participants at Youth Assembly were given a copy of the youth booklet written by Lawrence and Leo Roberts (with graphics by Revd Mike Walsh) – a really good input by North Western Synod all round!

Bekki Radcliffe began her two-year stint as North Western Synod Youth Representative to the Youth Executive and she is keen to visit youth groups and churches to share how young people can become involved in the wider church. If you would like to get in touch with Bekki, please contact her on

Rebekah.zoe.radcliffe@gmail.com



7: The Big Speak Out Nottingham, Friday, July 6th – Sunday, July 8th. Although URC Youth is for 11-25 year olds, Youth Assembly is only open to those in Year 10 or above – so there are many young people who are unable to attend. To address this imbalance, the United Reformed Church is organising The Big Speak Out. It will run at the same time as General Assembly – and will engage with general Assembly. It is being organised by Pilots on behalf of URC Youth and will be a weekend of fun, faith, friendship fellowship and finding a voice for 11-18s. More details in the coming weeks – but start thinking about how your young people can get involved now!



8: Youth Camps A number of Synods hold annual youth camps. Apart from the annual Pilots camp, North Western synod hasn't done this in recent years (mostly because there isn't a tent big and comfy enough for Leo). However, there are two camps which young people from North Western synod can get involved with and they are well planned, well resourced – and very affordable!

The first is CROSSFIRE - a camp for young people aged 12+ years (year 7 upwards) brought to you by GEAR and URC Youth. It's a fun weekend of talks, small group sessions, sung worship led by the Crossfire worship band and fantastic cooked food. Expect a great weekend of learning more about Jesus, fun activities and meeting new people.



Friday 25th to Monday 28th May 2018
Stathern Lodge, Leicestershire, LE14 4EX

Crossfire is open to Yr7 and above and costs £30 (early booking price)

You don't even need your own tent – tent hire is available!

If you'd like to know more, and to watch a short video of last year's highlights, go to

<https://crossfirecamp.org.uk/crossfire-camp-2018/>

The other camp needs no introduction – it's Greenbelt!

9: The Greenbelt festival



The Greenbelt festival has been running for many years and gets bigger and better each year. The cost for the whole weekend is only £50 for U18s, £75 for 18-25 year olds. These are the 'early bird' prices – it's more expensive the longer you leave it to book!

Programme details and booking forms are available from <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>

There really is something for everyone at Greenbelt – comedy, music, speakers, games, activities...

Would you be interested in creating a North Western 'mini-camp' at Greenbelt? We could co-ordinate pitching our tents in the same area!

If you're interested, contact Leo Roberts on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk