

# NEWS FROM THE NW SYNOD 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 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** are being held in late February and early March.

The dates times and venues of the Roadshows in Lancashire, Central and South Areas are given below;

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

**It would be most helpful to attend a roadshow in your area but if this is not possible it will be ok to attend a roadshow in another area. Roadshows will focus on arrangements for Missional Partnerships in the area in which they are held.**

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

### **South Area Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- Bramhall, Robins Lane off Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall SK7 2PE at 2.0 pm – 4.0 pm
- Macclesfield & Bollington, Park Green, Macclesfield SK11 7NA at 7.0 pm– 9.0 pm

### **Lancashire Area Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

- Darwen Central, Duckworth Street, Darwen BB3 1AT at 2.0 pm – 4.0 pm
- Bispham, Cavendish Road, Bispham FY2 9JR at 7.0 pm – 9.0 pm

### **Central Area Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

- Radcliffe, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe M26 3WQ at 2.0 pm – 4.0 pm
- Alkington, Manchester New road, Middleton Manchester M24 1LB at 7.0 pm – 9.0 pm

## **2: Moderators Snapshot (there will be no snapshot next week)**



On Monday at St Peter's House Chaplaincy, based on Oxford Road in Manchester amidst the university buildings, it was exciting to see the opening of the Milk & Honey Café. I was attending the Chaplaincy Board Meeting and enjoyed a bowl of soup afterwards. If ever you are passing do pop in – a very pleasant environment and friendly welcome awaits you. This is a vital and key part of enabling the chaplaincy centre to engage with some of the 100,000 students and staff of the universities around. The Synod was able to further support the work of the chaplaincy in helping fund the start-up costs/renovation to create the café (together with a grant from the Methodist Circuit) to enable the work to take place and a café manager and chef to be employed. It is envisaged that the café will produce enough income to cover its own share of the costs of offering the chaplaincy service.

One of the key aspects of the café and chaplaincy is providing opportunities for students to volunteer and the café has already had interest from 20 – 30 students. Within the chaplaincy the Warden and Chaplains have already built up a strong team of student chaplaincy assistants. Together with creative ecological work, such as the bee hives on the roof of the building and allotment patches which produce food for use, the chaplaincy is providing space for encountering a wide range of students and staff.

Please pray for:

- all involved in chaplaincy work with our colleges and universities across the Synod as they create positive environments for meeting with students and opportunities for the call of Jesus to be heard.
- those involved in other forms of chaplaincy within the Synod – in hospitals, hospices, shopping centres, rural, or workplaces – as they minister with the love of Christ to the needs of people in a wide variety of situations and stages of life's journey.
- each of our congregations as they continue to seek those creative and caring possibilities as points where the message of God's abundant love in Christ can be expressed in new and fresh ways to touch the lives of those communities where they are rooted.

### 3: South Area Pastoral Committee Invites you to Celebrate our worship life together



South Area Pastoral Committee invitee you to

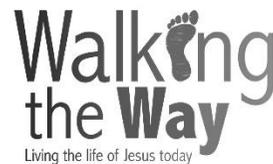
## **CELEBRATE OUR WORSHIP LIFE TOGETHER!**

**24 March, Christ Church South Manchester, Parrs Wood Road,  
Didsbury, M20 6EE**

10.00am - 12.00pm

(Refreshments from 9.30am)

Stay for an informal bring-and-share lunch!



## 4: Ministry Enquirers event, Saturday 24th March



# Is it I, Lord?

Ministry Enquirers' Day  
Saturday 24 March 2018

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](mailto:vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk)

## 5: Event and training 2018 Northern College

### 'Researching Female Faith' Book Launch and Lecture Monday 12th March 2018



LKH is hosting the Manchester launch of the book 'Researching Female Faith: Researching Qualitative Research Methods' at Luther King House. Anne Phillips, formerly Co-Principal of Northern Baptist College, is one of the editors and contributors; and Jan Berry, Principal of Open College, has also written a chapter. The evening will begin with light refreshments and an introduction to the book, followed by a lecture given by Professor Nicola Slee, of the Queens Foundation, Birmingham.

### Research Symposium on Ageing and Spirituality

Thursday 15th March 2018



This seminar is an opportunity to share current or recent research in areas relating to ageing, faith and spirituality, and aims to bring together researchers and reflective practitioners. It will be of interest to academic researchers, chaplains, health professional, and any others who are interested in learning more about faith development and spirituality amongst older people. If you would like to offer a paper or contribution contact Revd Dr Jan Berry (0161 249 2503).

### Conference for Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Thursday 19th - Saturday 21st April 2018



**Northern College's** popular Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Conference for 2018, entitled 'All are Welcome?'. The conference will include practical workshops and sessions based around inclusivity, bible studies and more. There will also be an evening workshop on dementia-friendly worship.

### James Alison Lecture 'Not Bothered with Murder': A reading of Matthew 21 Monday 23rd April 2018



LKH is delighted to welcome James Alison as part of our Open Lecture programme. James is a Catholic theologian, priest and author, whose explorations of the Christian faith have inspired many of us. James has studied, lived and worked in Mexico, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Spain and the United States, as well as his native England. He works as an itinerant preacher, lecturer and retreat giver, and his many writings include 'Jesus the Forgiving Victim', a programme of induction into the Christian Faith for adults.

### Interested in Contemporary Spirituality? Summer School - Led by Glen Marshall, Clare McBeath & Graham Sparkes Monday 25th - Thursday 28th June 2018



Spend four days exploring and assessing the many forms which spirituality takes today in art, film, the urban context and embodied & feminist expressions. The course will run from 9.30am-5.30pm across four days. This summer school is also available as an MA module (Spirituality in Contemporary Culture) for those registered on our post-graduate degree programme.

For further information, and booking, please visit the LKH website <http://lutherkinghouse.org.uk/news-events/>

or phone 0161 249 2504

or email [learning@lkh.co.uk](mailto:learning@lkh.co.uk)

**6: Explore Churches/ URC History Project** Dear Church Secretary,  
I am writing to you on behalf of the URC History Society and with the encouragement of our Assembly Moderator, the Rev. Kevin Watson who was involved in and supportive of this project from its beginning last summer.

I represent the URC as a Trustee of the Churches Visitors and Tourism Association and it is out of that work that a three pronged initiative has arisen supported by the URC History Society. The plan is to: -

- (1) produce a brochure of the most interesting URC and Congregational churches for prospective visitors
- (2) to encourage all our churches who wish to do so to enter their details on the National *Churches* Trust (NCT) *ExploreChurches* website
- (3) to record their church details and history with me with a view to producing a sort of family tree of our Church History.

Even if your church Building is relatively “new” or is of no architectural or apparent historical interest, there are stories that your church has to tell. The people who had the vision to build a congregation and probably later a building – who were they? What inspired them? Who preached the gospel to them and started the chain of belief that led them to do what they did? How did they inspire others? Every church has a story to tell. With the renewed interest in family trees and local history are there people in your locality who would like to know about their family roots? Your baptismal and marriage registers will be of interest and this can be a way of drawing people who never come to church in to your building in to find out about their roots.

With the permission of the NCT I have been using their Questionnaire to record the information – even for those churches who do not wish to appear on their website. **if you are interested in completing the questionnaire please contact the Synod Office on 016 789 5583 alternatively email on [office@nwsynd.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynd.org.uk)**. we will then forward the material to NCT should you wish us to do so. Should you not wish to be involved with the *ExploreChurches* website please mark the front of the completed form “FOR URC USE ONLY”.

You may have received e-mails from me via your Synod Office about this project during the last six months and I am delighted to report that to the end of January 2018, 100 churches had registered to be involved in this project. If your church is one of those, thank you again and I'm sorry to trouble you further. If your church is not yet involved, please may I again encourage you to be a part of this? If you need further information or advice please contact me.

The churches from your Synod who are currently involved are

#### **North West 5-**

**Clitheroe**

**Bewcastle**

**Horwich**

**Grange Over Sands**

**Lytham St. Annes**

do check the NCT website out – it's very interesting

Valerie Jenkins [valeriejenkins@btinternet.com](mailto:valeriejenkins@btinternet.com)

**7: Jihad of Jesus Tour UK** Organised in collaboration with Lancashire District of the Methodist Church; Near Neighbours; Churches Together in Lancashire; Blackburn Interfaith Forum; Light Foundation and Lancashire Forum of Faiths

Relations between Muslims and Christians present a key opportunity to affirm faith and nurture solidarity in our current context while recognising that there are challenges and differences too.

Well-known British activist Julie Siddiqi and popular Greenbelt Festival speaker Dave Andrews will discuss their thoughts and ideas through their experiences over many years in a frank and open conversation that will stimulate rich discussion.

A local response will be given by Bishop Philip North & Imam Saleem Seedat concluding with an interactive panel discussion which will invite our audience to share reflections and ask difficult questions

Food will be served on arrival at 6pm - **registration is essential**. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-jihad-of-jesus-registration>

For further information contact: Lynne Mitchell - 07425169827 or [lynne.mitchell@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:lynne.mitchell@blackburn.anglican.org) or Ali Amla - 07872835318 or [m.aml@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:m.aml@lancaster.ac.uk).

This is part of a national tour - further information will be available soon.

For further information about the Jihad of Jesus, see: <http://www.jihadofjesus.com> "This book pulls no punches. It explains clearly some of the difficult history of violence carried out in the name of Christianity and Islam throughout the centuries. It should be read by all those who want to dedicate themselves to the path of peace."

Andy Pratt Interfaith Advisor to the Bishop of Blackburn & Chair of Lancashire Forum of Faith

Fri 23 March 2018 18:00 – 21:00 GMT  
Blackburn Cathedral  
Cathedral Close  
Blackburn  
BB1 5AA