

NEWS FROM THE NW SYNOD 28TH MARCH 2018



The newsletter will be taking a break over Easter and will be back on 18th April ☺

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1: General Assembly 6-9 July 2018 This is a final call to anyone interested in representing the North Western Synod at the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in Nottingham in July. There are several places for ministers/CRCWs and several places for elders yet to be filled. Please be in touch with the Synod Office as soon as possible if you would like to attend. And please share these details with elders in the churches you serve.

2: North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church Legal, Trust and Property Officer Salary Scale £31,000 - £34,000 This is an exciting opportunity for a highly competent & personable administrator with legal, trust or property background, who enjoys working both alone and with others.

The post holder will work closely with synod officers & professional advisors. Duties will include committee work, and occasional visits to churches to offer advice.

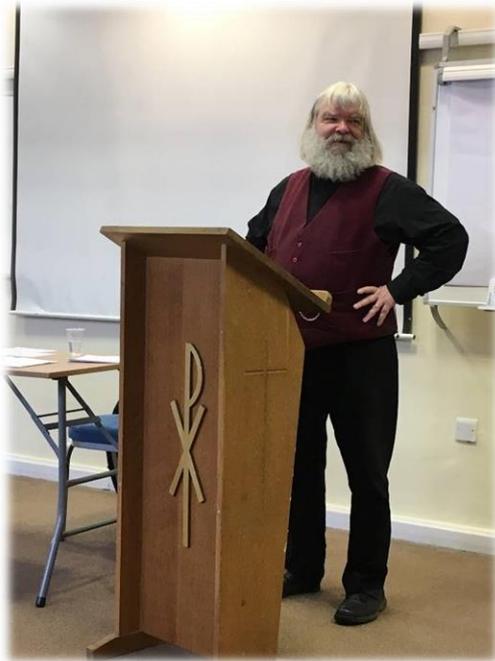
Applicants must demonstrate excellence in people skills, self-motivation, teamwork, written and oral communication, organisational ability and time management; and a willingness to work within the Christian ethos of the United Reformed Church.

The post is based in the Synod Office in Eccles, Greater Manchester. Regular travel will be expected including site visits to churches, manses and sites within the North Western Synod as required.

Further information (job description) and application form available from the Synod Office - 0161 789 5583 or admin@nwsynod.org.uk.

Deadline for applications is Monday 16 April 2018.
Interviews including presentations will be held on 8 & 9 May.

3: Moderator's snapshot



After attending Mission Council last week, in High Leigh, I was able to attend the 24-hour retreat for Northern Church Leaders at Hinsley Hall in Leeds. It proved to be an extremely reflective opportunity with input from the Revd Dr Malcolm Guite, a poet theologian, Bye-Fellow and Anglican Chaplain at Girton College in the University of Cambridge.

As you journey in this Holy Week, through the Passion towards Easter Sunday, I would offer you one of Malcolm's sonnets set for the start of this week and simply called "Palm Sunday":

PALM SUNDAY

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

Web links:-

Malcolm Guite: <https://malcolmquite.wordpress.com> (a sonnet for each day in Holy Week)

Linda Richardson: <http://lindarichardson.net/> (to see a series of paintings to accompany Malcolm's sonnets)

I pray this Easter that you, and all within our congregations in the Synod, may know in a fresh way the joy of resurrection hope and the work of God in Christ through us who "graciously gives us all good things" (Romans 8:32).

4: Christian Aid Week 2018



Photos: Christian Aid / Matt Gonzalez-Noda

Vilia was left homeless by the earthquake in 2010. As she walked the streets following the disaster, she no longer recognised her home or neighbourhood, and was surrounded by falling wires and crumbling houses. Devastatingly, she never found her mother.

Bereaved and homeless, for Vilia, her husband and their seven children, life became a struggle. She didn't even have a safe place to sleep.

Vilia is not alone. Eight years after the devastating earthquake that hit the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, an estimated 38,000 people are still displaced. Despite the resilience and strength of its inhabitants, the country has struggled to recover as they continue to face relentless earthquakes, storms and hurricanes, with many people living in precarious houses or in temporary shelter.

Hurricane Matthew, in November 2016, wreaked further havoc across the south of the country, destroying up to 90% of some areas. Haiti narrowly escaped disaster when Hurricane Irma swept across the Caribbean in 2017, and it's only a matter of time before the next hurricane strikes. Each time a crisis hits, people lose their dwellings and livelihoods, making it increasingly hard for them to rebuild.

Our local partner, KORAL, helps local people prepare for disasters. In the aftermath of the earthquake, they reached out to Vilia and built her and her family a new home, that was safe, stable and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters.

Ahead of Hurricane Matthew KORAL were able to warn local communities, helping evacuate around 5,000 families and saving many lives. In the immediate aftermath Christian Aid and KORAL distributed urgently-needed shelter kits, hygiene kits, food seeds and cash transfers. We also build disaster-resistant homes to give people safe, secure places to live. Of the dozens of new houses we built before the hurricane hit, only one lost its roof in the disaster.

And Vilia's home was able to shelter 54 people over several days.

Yet, we have more houses to build for families, like Vilia's, to provide them with a safe place to weather the next disaster.

Just £25 could buy a hygiene kit to prevent disease after a disaster; £5 could buy a jar of seeds so someone like Marcelin can grow beans to feed his family; and £210 could pay to train a local builder in Haiti to build a safe, secure home for families in need.

This Christian Aid Week, we are inviting people to come together to support the thousands of people in Haiti, who regularly experience some of the worst natural disasters on earth.

Today, more than 40 million people across the globe are forced from their homes, and yet remain within their own country. They outnumber refugees, people who flee across an international border, two to one.

In countries like Haiti, where repeated natural disasters have resulted in thousands of people being forced to flee their homes, often not able to return for years.

This Christian Aid Week, you can help to change the lives of people forced to lose or leave their homes due to disasters and conflict by donating online at www.caweek.org calling 08080 006 006, or texting 'GIVE' to 70040 to give £5.

Ruth Platt
Lancashire Regional Co-ordinator
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5: Social Responsibility Officer Vacancy for Churches Together in Cumbria We seek to appoint a Social Responsibility Officer to support the work of the Social Responsibility Forum. Awareness of, and experience in addressing, current social issues from a Christian perspective are essential. There is an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a practicing Christian in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010

This post is for 20 hours a week and for 12 months. It is home-based, with some travel to meetings.

Salary: £13.25 per hour

For job description, person specification, and application form please

visit <http://www.churchestogethercumbria.co.uk/vacancies/1307-social-responsibility-officer-for-churches-together-in-cumbria.html>

For enquiries about the post email dpitkeathly@churchofscotland.org.uk

Closing date 16 April 2018

6: Live Lent Let Your Light Shine Salvation Army, Catholics, Anglican's and URC's meeting together in Burnley to study the Church of England's Lenten resource - Live Lent Let Your Light Shine - a six-week discipleship journey through the Gospel of John, exploring what it means to be a witness. The sessions were followed by an ecumenical lunch at the Roman Catholic church hall.

Burnley & Nelson United Reformed Church will host the ecumenical Maundy Thursday service.

