
News from the NW Synod 19 August 2015

- 1: **Season of Invitation training**
- 2: **Dates for your Diary: Winter School for Ministers (NSM and SM) and Local Leaders**
- 3: **Revd John Edward Parry 1923-2015**
- 4: **Revd Fred Hill**
- 5: **Revd David AL Jenkins Thanksgiving Service.**
- 6: **NW Synod Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Conference**

1: URC North West Synod is providing a local training event to help churches make the most of their Season of Invitation, on: Thursday 24th September at 7-30pm
The training will take place at: **The United Reformed Church of St Andrew & St George, Bolton, BL1 2BX.**

Michael Harvey (co-founder of Back to Church Sunday) will provide interactive and relevant training, which will be useful for ministers and any churchgoers interested in making the most of opportunities to invite people to church.

Across the 2 hour workshop, you will

- Learn how to produce a unique mission field for your church at any given time
- Be given tools to identify distorted thinking in your church
- Discover the creative power of fear
- Receive a number of emotional mental and physical approaches for developing a culture of invitation
- Learn best practice from Season of Invitation

Please Book Your Place on the A Season of Invitation training at <https://urcnorthwesterntraining.eventbrite.co.uk>. The training sessions are free to attend, **and the first 10 churches** to register for the initiative will receive a free **Traidcraft Invitation Pack**

2: Dates for your Diary: Winter School for Ministers (NSM and SM) and Local Leaders at the Windermere Centre Friday 29th - Sunday 31st January 2016.

Sessions will include Bible studies from Luke's gospel led by Lawrence Moore and some sessions on ageing and spirituality. (Financial support available from EM3 grants for ministers and Synod help for Local Leaders)

3: Revd John Edward Parry 1923-2015

The Parry and Tait families are sad to announce the death of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather Revd Dr John Parry, lately of Buckingham House Care Home, Gerrards Cross, UK. He passed away peacefully at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough on 9th August 2015 after a short illness.

At the same time we give thanks for a long life well lived and we invite friends and acquaintances to join the family on Thursday 27th August

- in a service of thanksgiving at St Andrews United Reformed Church, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross on Thursday 27th August at 1pm.
- and afterwards for a reception at 2.30pm at The Bull Hotel, Oxford Road Gerrards Cross.

In lieu of flowers we request that donations to may be made to Leonard Cheshire Disability Homes to support their work in Zambia.

We would be grateful if you could do what you can to inform those who knew our father in the URC, especially in Kirkham URC, Lancashire and Trinity URC, Stafford, and through newsletters and Reform magazine.

Thank you
Rex Parry
Judith and Stuart Tait
Chris Parry

My apologies that this sad news has been a little delayed, today is my first in the office since the week before last.

Sue Russell

PA to the Moderator and Synod Clerk, URC Thames North Synod

4: Revd Fred Hill. With sadness but with thanksgiving to God for his life and ministry we report the death of Revd Fred Hill on his 102nd birthday on Monday 10th August.

His funeral will take place at Gosport URC Bury Road, on Thursday 20th August at 1pm. All are welcome.

For further details please contact Revd Paul Bedford on 01329 234401.

Deborah Walker

Synod Secretary and Moderator's PA

5: Revd David AL Jenkins Thanksgiving Service. We now have details of the Thanksgiving Service for the life of the Revd David Jenkins: A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Palmers Green URC on Tuesday 1st September at 3 p.m.

Palmers Green URC, Fox Lane, London N13 4AL

6: NW Synod Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Conference weekend 16th - 18th October, 2015 Windermere Centre (Lake Road, Windermere LA 23 2BY) 'Four Funerals and a Wedding'

A warm invitation is extended to Lay Preachers to come to the above event. [Again we hope to be joined by members of Worship Groups, and others who lead worship within their own congregations on a less formal basis.](#)

Revd Dr Rosalind Selby has offered to run sessions on Funerals and Weddings, as more and more we as Lay Preachers are asked to conduct these services. I will be providing parallel sessions on All Age Worship and Luke's Gospel for those who only lead Worship. Lawrence has agreed to lead a couple of sessions for Bible Study and preaching ideas.

I will be sending a programme for the weekend a little nearer the time.

The Centre accommodation is en-suite, and the cost for the weekend is £130 (claimable by Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers through the normal procedure). Please send the booking form below, by **14th September**, with non-returnable deposit of **£30 per person**, made payable to "**United Reformed Church, North Western Province**", **to myself, as per the letterhead**. Your application will be acknowledged with a receipt, and please ask for directions if required.

Please bring particulars of any colleague or colleagues deceased since last year's Conference, so that we may make an appropriate remembrance.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's Conference.

BOOKING FORM to: Carol Sutcliffe, 22 Delamere Road, Gatley, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 4PH
Tel: 0161 282 8063 e-mail: c.sutcliffe22@ntlworld.com

Please reserve me/us a place at this Conference (16th – 18th October)
My/our preference would be for a single/double occupancy room (please delete whichever does not apply)
Would you be prepared to share a room?
Details of any special diet required
Do you require Ground Floor accommodation?
I/we enclose non-returnable deposit of £30 per person

NAME (S)

ADDRESS Synod Area

..... Tel No

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E-mail address

Please tick if you are happy for your contact details to be passed on for car-sharing purposes