

---

## News from the NW Synod 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

---

- 1: **New Website and Photos of our congregations**
- 2: **Synod Resource for Advent and Christmas**
- 3: **Advent Devotional**
- 4: **Moderator's snapshot**
- 5: **Passion for Bolton**
- 6: **Ramsden Street Barrow in Furness**
- 7: **North Western and Northern Synods joint Ministers' Summer school 13th—16th June 2016**
- 8: **200<sup>th</sup> anniversary Albion Church fellowship timeline main events**
- 9: **News from the Blackburn North & East Pastorate**
- 10: **Safeguarding sessions**

**1: New Website and Photos of our congregations** As you know we have been working on putting together a new website for the Synod which would be useful to people outside the church to understand us a little better and to be a resource for our churches. We have some photos still to put up (and could do with many more!) but wanted to send you the link to solicit feedback.

If you go to <http://newweb.nwsynod.org.uk/> you can have a look. Please note once we are happy with the website we will use our normal address for it so you don't need to advertise this address.

Please give any feedback to Andy Braunston via [clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk)

We need high quality photographs – in digital format – of our congregations for our new Synod website. The website will be less cluttered than our current one, easier to navigate and have photos of our congregations so we can visually see our Synod in all its diversity. Please email a picture of your congregation to Andy Braunston via [clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk) .

**2: Synod Resource for Advent and Christmas** Advent and Christmas are busy times for everyone – with all the preparations, visiting family, and extra services which mark that time of the year it can be very hard to get space to think and reflect on the season. In order to help create some space for reflection we have prepared a devotion for every day of Advent and Christmas. Each devotion will be emailed to those who sign up for them and consist of a hymn or song, a Biblical reading and a reflection. There will be a link so you can listen to the hymn or song on Youtube and the lyrics will be printed too. This series of 39 devotions will start on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November – the first Sunday of Advent – and continue until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany.

They reflect a range of hymns and songs – familiar and unfamiliar and will help to give space to reflect and pray as we journey through this season together.

If you wish to receive them please sign up here <http://eepurl.com/bCEnFb>

**3: Advent Devotional** Sing a new song! Psalm 98, from which these words are taken, speaks of the whole earth greeting the promised Messiah. During Advent, God's people are called to learn new songs and to hear old songs in new ways, both as faithful individuals and as faith communities. The songs of scripture serve as texts for this year's Advent devotional. Each day, readers are invited to read a short passage of scripture, and to reflect on that passage using a brief meditation written by a member of The Young Clergy Women Project, an ecumenical organization supporting female clergy under the age of 40. The authors of this devotional represent a wide array of experiences, denominations, and geographical locations. People of all ages and denominations will be drawn deeper into the Advent season and prepare themselves for the coming of Christ.

It is available for pre-order on amazon costing £2.08 via <http://tinyurl.com/p6tdt6t> or via searching for the book on the amazon website. Unfortunately the Chalice website cannot handle international orders so the easiest way to get hold of the book here is via amazon.

Revd Sarah Moore

**4: Moderator's snapshot** You can see why I never felt the call to become a professional photographer! Every time I leapt up to try and take a photo of the faces of the 3 people on the right of the picture (l to r: the Very Revd Mark Boyling [Dean of Carlisle Cathedral & invited preacher]; Revd Sarah Moore [presiding at the service]; Revd Nick Mark [Minister of St George's URC, Carlisle]) I had to jump back in my seat before Tony (an Elder at St George's URC) took the "official" photographs. The occasion was a marvellous Service of Dedication of the new building for St George's URC (West Walls, Carlisle), including the lectern, font and communion table (all in the picture – just) last Saturday afternoon. Many friends joined in the celebration and it was wonderful to see so many ecumenical guests present – reflecting something of the local church relationships. Please pray for the folk at St George's URC as they explore the new possibilities for mission from this location & for a growing unity with other churches in the area.

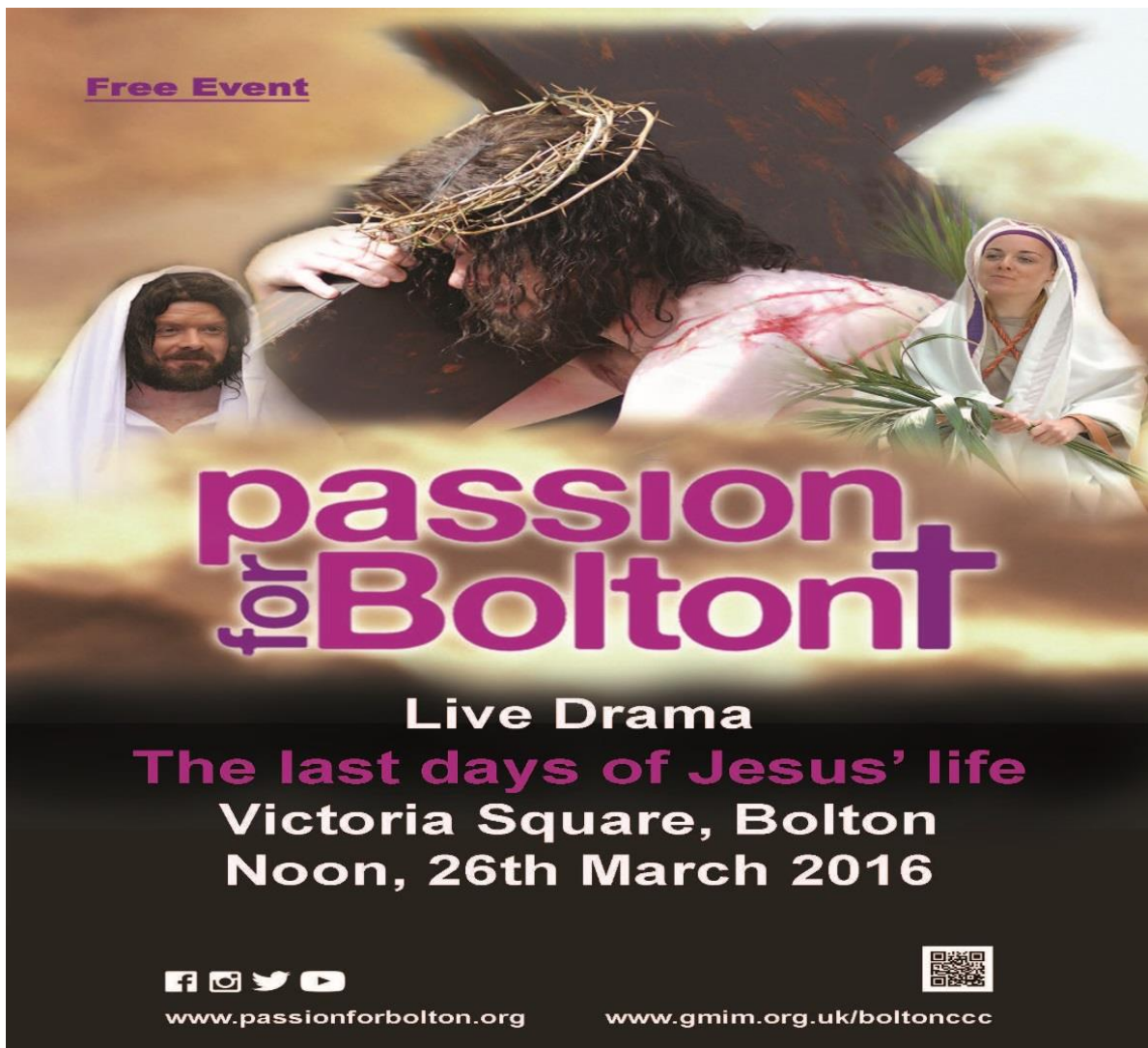


**5: Passion for Bolton** Do you want to be part of the biggest story that Bolton has ever told – Again? 2011 was an amazing production and we want 2016 to be equally special. We are changing the format this time slightly and are excited about including a live choir as part of the drama. We need Disciples, Pharisee's, Romans, people of Jerusalem and probably a donkey or two.

Rehearsals will start on Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> and will be primarily every Friday and Tuesday after that until the production on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2016.

All meetings and rehearsals will be held in our new home at St. Edmunds Church Hall, on the corner of St Edmund Street and Blundell Street, Bolton BL1 2JR. at 7.30pm. The hall has a car park that is free after 6pm and is just across Deansgate from the Bus Station.





So if you have a "Passion For Jesus" and a "Passion For Bolton" or just want to be part of the biggest dramatic production ever in Bolton Town Centre then come along.


A promotional poster for the live drama 'Passion for Bolton'. The top half features a photograph of a man with a crown of thorns and a bloody back, with two women in white robes, one holding a palm branch. The text 'Free Event' is in the top left. The title 'passion for Bolton' is in large purple font. Below it, 'Live Drama' is in white, followed by 'The last days of Jesus' life' in purple, 'Victoria Square, Bolton' in white, and 'Noon, 26th March 2016' in white. At the bottom, there are social media icons, a QR code, and two website URLs: www.passionforbolton.org and www.gmim.org.uk/boltonccc.

**Free Event**

**passion  
for Bolton**

**Live Drama**  
**The last days of Jesus' life**  
**Victoria Square, Bolton**  
**Noon, 26th March 2016**

[www.passionforbolton.org](http://www.passionforbolton.org)  [www.gmim.org.uk/boltonccc](http://www.gmim.org.uk/boltonccc)

**6: Ramsden Street Barrow in Furness** We have enjoyed a wonderful Centenary year with events each month. Our final event was our Centenary Celebration Service which was held on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. Revd Ron Wilson conducted the service and the four Elders had prepared and presented a history of the church from Churches of Christ days up to the present. Everyone stayed for refreshments and enjoyed the Celebration cakes afterwards. Also in this our Centenary year we have been blessed by three infant baptisms and two new members by transfer.

**7: North Western and Northern Synods joint Ministers' Summer school 13th—16th June 2016**

**BOOKING FORM**

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code:.....

Telephone:..... Email: .....

Special dietary requirements: .....

.....

Other requirements: .....

.....

I wish to book the following meals and accommodation –

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bed
MONDAY				
TUESDAY				
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY				

**Minister's of Both Synods**

Please return this booking form to **Michele Jarman, 6 Mearley Syke, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 1JG** by **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the latest.**

**URC North Western and Northern Synods**

**Summer School 2016**

Ministers Summer School 2016 will take place at The Windermere Centre from the 13th—16th June.

The theme this year is *“Imagination, Spirituality and Creativity”* and we are delighted to have Graham

Sparkes, Kathy White, David Poulton and Kate Gray to lead our sessions. Elizabeth Gray-King has also kindly agreed to help us plan the sessions although sadly she can't actually be with us at summer school.

If you would like to come please return the booking form opposite. (*North Western Synod please see separate form for pastorate treasures'*)

*If you require further information please contact Michele Jarmany, Mal Breeze,*

*Ann Honey or Mary Bellshaw. (Contact details below)*

**COPY OF BOOKING FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS**

Arrivals are from mid-afternoon on Monday 13th and we finish with lunch on Thursday 16th.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bed
MONDAY				
TUESDAY				
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY				

Contact details

Michele: [michelejarmany@hotmail.com](mailto:michelejarmany@hotmail.com) (North Western)

Mal: [malbreeze@me.com](mailto:malbreeze@me.com) (North Western)

Ann: [mamhoney@msn.com](mailto:mamhoney@msn.com) (Northern)

Mary: [mary.bellshaw@trinitygosforth.org.uk](mailto:mary.bellshaw@trinitygosforth.org.uk) (Northern)

**8: 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary Albion Church fellowship timeline main events**

**Saturday 12 December 2015** – 11:00am official launch by Angela Rayner MP Toe Tappers & Tiny Toes and The Songsters

**December 2015**

**Christmas Tree Festival**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**                      2pm to 8pm      Choirs at 2pm & 3.30pm

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>**                    11am to 5pm    Opening 11am Christmas Fair , Choir at 1pm

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**                      2pm to 5pm      2pm Willow Wood Light up a life service

**January 2016**

**Saturday 30 January** - Gordon Stewart Huddersfield Town Organist (TIME)

**May 2016**

**Saturday 7 May** Afternoon Tea 2.30pm-4.30pm Albion

## **June 2016**

10-12 June 2016

### **Flower Festival – theme Lord for the Years**

**Friday 10th** 10:30am Opening Worship

**Friday 10th** 10:30am to 8.00pm

**Saturday 11th** 10:30am to 8.00pm

**Sunday 12th** 2.00pm to 5.00pm

**Sunday morning service** at 10:30am with Revd Tony Burnham

**Sunday Evening Songs of Praise service at 6.30pm** with flower displays being auctioned/distributed afterwards and bought with donations.

### **Saturday 25 June 2016**

Ashton Masonic Hall at 6.00pm with music from Christopher Howard.

Three course meal & entertainment £22 Adults £10 children

## **September 2016**

**Saturday 10 September** – Heritage Day, 10am to 4pm

**Saturday 10 September** Saddleworth Male Voice Choir

**Sunday 11 September** – Joint Worship – with Lawrence Moore

### **9: News from the Blackburn North & East Pastorate** Theo Power

Please pray for little Theo Power whose family attend Trinity church. Theo is five years old and since being diagnosed in July with neuroblastoma – an extremely aggressive form of cancer with survival rates of between 35 and 50 per cent, Theo has undergone chemotherapy and this week is having tests to see if it has been successful.

If that is the case he will have an operation on December 1 to remove what's left of the primary tumour and take away his adrenal gland, followed by more chemotherapy. After that he will undergo stem cell treatment and immunotherapy. Altogether the family need to raise £250,000 for further treatment in America.

Our churches and many people in our congregations have already contributed. Just Google Theo Power for further information and to donate on line.

Love and prayers that a cure may be possible. God Bless you Theo.

### **FAMILY QUIZ FOR THEO**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Westbury Gardens URC

7.00 – 9.00pm

Adults £3.50, under 16s £1.75

Including refreshments

## **ROSENDALE SCOUTS BRASS BAND CONCERT**

Saturday 30th January

Revidge Fold URC

7.00pm

Adults £5, under 16s £3

Cakes and Beverages at the interval

**10: Safeguarding Sessions** Leo Roberts (Children and Youth Development Officer) has arranged a number of workshops for churches to familiarise themselves with the new safeguarding material published by the United Reformed Church. The sessions last approximately 2.5 hours. Leo says *“It is the responsibility of the Synod to make safeguarding training available and accessible. It is the responsibility of local churches to ensure that they avail themselves of it; and the legal, and possibly financial, consequences of NOT doing so are potentially severe should an incident occur. So PLEASE try and ensure that Elders and workers are aware of sessions”*

More workshops will be announced as venues offer themselves. If your church would like to offer itself as a venue for the area, please contact Leo on [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

<b>Area</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	
Central	26/11/15	7:15pm	Charlestown URC	
Lancashire	1/12/15	7:15pm	Bolton-le-Sands URC	
Central	3/12/15	2pm	Radcliffe URC	<b>FULL</b>
Central	3/12/15	7pm	Radcliffe URC	
Central	20/01/16	7:15pm	Littleborough URC	
Central	21/01/2016	7:15pm	Hurst Nook URC	
South	25/01/16	7pm	St Mark's, Wythenshawe	

**It is important that you book in to a session** so that Leo can ensure he has enough resources for each session. Please email him (using the email address above).

**Future dates to look out for:**

**Ministers Winters School - Friday 29th - Sunday 31st Jan2016 at Windermere Centre**

**Ministers Summer School - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Windermere Centre**