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## News from the NW Synod 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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**1: Moderator's snapshots** This week Hazel (my PA) celebrated a significant birthday. The picture shows Kerry and Hazel (on the right) with some celebratory flowers. Hazel and Kerry are the two cheerful voices you will often speak to when phoning the Synod Office. Together with the other couple of paid staff they help form the Synod Office (Kath as Trust Secretary and Tony as Finance Officer) and field staff (Leo as CYDO, and Jane as Mission Officer currently off ill) resource which is here to help all our churches. In addition, we are blessed within the Synod to have many volunteers from amongst local church members and ministers who help support our working together as a Synod. Your church may be one of those who has one of your members involved on a pastoral committee or as a property/finance office for your Synod Area. We need to remember that when we talk about "Synod" we are talking about those who have freely offered of their time to help churches and members in different parts of the our North Western Synod.

Please give thanks in your praying

- for the cheerful greeting everyone gets from Kerry and Hazel when they contact the Office
- for the commitment of the staff to help us in specialist areas of Synod life
- for the willingness of church members and ministers who support all our sister congregations within the Synod by being involved on pastoral committees and in particular roles within the Synod or Synod Areas
- for the many gifts God has given his people which can be shared to enrich the life of all the churches within the Synod in their witness to the transforming life of the Kingdom of God

Please pass this e-newsletter on to other Church members in your congregation so that they can be encouraged in their praying for the Synod. Thank you.



**2: Synod Mission Enabler** From the Moderator: As some of you will know we have a joint Mission Enabler post with Northern Synod. Unfortunately our Mission Enabler, Revd Jane Rowell, is on long term sick leave. We continue to wish her well and hold her in our prayers. I am aware that in these circumstances sometimes bits of information don't get through. If within your congregation you have a booking from Jane to come and be involved in an activity or to lead worship at some future date then please can you take this notice as a cancellation of her involvement. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause you in needing to make other arrangements. I am sure that once Jane is well enough fresh opportunities will be made available to work together with her on mission in your community.

**3: The Flag Pastorate joint service** On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May the FLAG Pastorate of Forton, Garstang and Lancaster welcomed Revd Andrew Mills to lead worship at Garstang.



The church was full (despite Andrew's 'early' photo, shown in the synod newsletter!) and the three congregations shared a happy morning of worship, also examining various pictorial depictions of the Trinity, as it was Trinity Sunday. After the service we all moved across to Garstang's lovely church hall to enjoy cups of tea or coffee and a selection of delicious cakes. All in all it was a most enjoyable and memorable experience and a good chance to get to know our Moderator better.



#### 4: News from the FLAG pastorate



This picture is one to complement an article in the June Newsletter of the Garstang and Forton Churches in the Flag Pastorate. The article was entitled "God's Hallowed Acre" and listed at least 30 species of flowers that began blooming in May. As Elder at Forton URC, I was checking work that needed to be done before Forton Field Day on the last Saturday in June. Although as described in "God's Hallowed Acre, the grass is not cut until after the wild flowers have seeded, the area surrounding the Church entrance needs to be trimmed as the Field Day Queen and her attendants assemble here at the start of the procession. We at Forton URC would be delighted for visitors to help count and catalogue the flora on the site of this Grade 2 Listed Church or we invite you

to just come along for a Country Afternoon Tea to see this wild wonderland and as the article in the Newsletter says "sit and reflect in this ancient and hallowed place".

Enquiries to the Church Secretary at Forton URC or by e-mail to [rholden82@btinternet.com](mailto:rholden82@btinternet.com).

**5: MediaCityUK Café Church** Please find a link to our recently made video about what we get up to at Café Church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NwOAOxKYGE&feature=youtu.be>

**6: Death of Revd John Mackereth** It is with sadness that I write to inform you of the death of Revd Andrew John Mackereth who died on 2nd June at home.

John served at Westhoughton 1989 - 95.

He leaves his wife, Margaret and a grown up family.

There will be a private cremation at Charnock Richard followed by a service of Thanksgiving at Chorley URC on Tuesday 14 June at 11.0am.

Best wishes

Hazel

PA to the Moderator & Office Manager

United Reformed Church, North Western Synod (2), Synod Office, Franklin Street, Eccles, Manchester M30 0QZ  
0161 789 5583 [admin@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwsynod.org.uk)