
News from the NW Synod 12th July 2017

Newsletter



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1: Moderators Snapshot



BIG DAY OUT! On Saturday over 500 people from our Mersey and North Western Synods gathered again at the Southport Convention Centre, and it hardly seemed 2 years since the last event. The glorious sunshine we experienced also enabled many to enjoy a stroll to the pier and beach. In a very relaxed atmosphere there was plenty of opportunity for people to enjoy catching up with friends, to listen to a variety of speakers reflecting in different ways on the Church in Action, and with time to browse the variety of stalls provided.

So what to “snapshot”? My pictures of the opening worship were poor because to try and take in the sense of the number of us gathered for worship meant that the Mersey Moderator on stage, together with Café Jam band, looked diminutive. There were lots of sticking and gluing going on with the children making a “Church in Action” banner. However, the variety of stalls caught my eye and so here are 2 snapshots this week. In the left picture frame are Alison Greaves (on the right) and the young people. Alison (from Bamford Chapel & Norden URC) recently attended the United Nations for a week to meet its members, and her stand encouraged us to take have very simple personal aims to address issues of Global Goals for sustainable development in the world. In the snapshot on the right Liz Kam (on the left) is chatting about her work as a Church Related Community Worker in Levenshulme and this particular form of ministry within the URC. All in all, a tremendous day together.

In praying please

- give thanks for an amazing joint Synod Big Day Out, and for all those who worked so hard to make it happen
- seek wisdom for the ways in which we, and our congregations, can be the Church in Action in our communities
- remember the Mission & Discipleship Committee (formerly the Future Patterns of Ministry Steering Group) as they meet this Thursday and Friday to prepare for consultations and roadshows with ministers and elders in September working on the shaping of missional partnerships

- ask God to search the hearts of those in your congregation for a fresh call to be heard by some to exercise particular ministries – especially locally around leading worship and eldership, as well as to the national ministries within the URC of Church Related Community Work or Minister of Word and Sacrament patterns of ministry.

2: Chapel Street Community Arts St Phil's Camera Club's exhibition is to launch



on Friday 21st July 11.30am at Salford Central Train Station. The exhibition will showcase new work from a programme of activities focusing on inequality in Salford.

The exhibition, called Mind The Gap, sponsored by Churches Action on Poverty, was highlighted in summer 2017 edition of SPARK, and will be formally opened at the station by the Mayor of Salford, Paul Dennett.

We hope travellers and visitors to Salford will take note and that it will spark questions and discussion. Please do take the chance to visit and view.

Mike Aspinall

3: The Woodward Trust Charity Number 1019820

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 June 28th 2017

Dear Church Official

I am writing on behalf of the above mentioned Trust, which covers the North Western and Mersey Synods of the URC and the Congregational Churches in that geographical area. The

Woodward family set the Trust up many years ago and now it enables us to give relatively small grants to ministers who have served the last ten years of their ministry in a full time capacity in a local church within our area.

We now have 59 retired ministers who receive grants, some of whom have been retired many years when denominational pensions were not as at present. All are grateful for this grant and thank us, some by telephone, as they are unable to correspond by another method.

It is some years since we wrote to each church to ask them to consider including us on their charities, which they donate, grants to. It is to help the ministers who have worked very hard during their active ministry and served the churches for many years. The Annual Report and Accounts are sent out via the Synod material. Please can you seriously consider this appeal? Cheques to The Woodward Trust should be sent to the Treasurer.

Many Thanks

Yours sincerely

Geoff Tolley Chair/Secretary

4: Mission & Discipleship Mentor (Lancashire) During last week the appointment group for the vacancy for the Mission & Discipleship Mentor (Lancashire) post met with three shortlisted candidates, and was delighted to offer the role to Daleen ten Cate.

Daleen will be known already to many within the North Western Synod. She is a member of one of our churches in Blackburn, and for several years has been a student at Northern College.

Daleen will begin this work at the beginning of September, joining colleague mentors Dave Fraser (who works mainly in South Area), Darren Holland (who works mainly in Central Area), Sarah Moore (who works in Cumbria Area), and our consultant, Lawrence Moore.

Please remember Daleen and her family in your prayers as she prepares to serve in this new role.

Brian Jolly
Synod Clerk

5: Saturday 15th July 2017 ageing spirituality and dementia keynote speaker: Revd Gaynor Hammond



10.00 am (coffee available from 9.30) to 1.00 pm Packed lunch at 1.00

**Revidge Fold URC,
Shear Brow, Blackburn
BB1 8DS**

(hands photograph © Revd Dr. L. Husslebee 2015 used with permission.)

There is no charge but we welcome donations. For more information please ring / email Lena 01254 706206 collena@collena.co.uk

Coffee will be available from 9.30 for a 10.00 am start

Please bring a packed lunch if you are staying for lunch

Gaynor will introduce the subject and share her knowledge and experience and there will be time for participation, discussion and sharing.

The session will finish at 1.00 for lunch
Gaynor will be available for further consultation over lunch

Revd Gaynor Hammond

Gaynor Hammond is a Baptist Minister. Her background is in nursing and for seven years she was employed as a Dementia Project Worker for "Faith in Elderly People" Leeds working with church and health care organisations looking at the spiritual needs of people with dementia and how those needs could be met.

She has worked closely with the Christian Council on Ageing, Methodist Homes Care Group and the Chaplaincy Dept of Leeds Teaching Hospitals. Working collaboratively with members of those organisations she has produced booklets on the subject of Spirituality and Dementia.

She worked with the Baptist Union of Great Britain looking at care of vulnerable adults and helped to produce a booklet "Safe to Belong."
Until she retired she was in post as Regional Tutor for Northern Baptist College and Associate Pastor for South Parade Baptist Church in Leeds.

6: Death of the Revd William Taylor We have learned with sadness that Revd William J L Taylor died on 30th April, 2017.

Funeral Service will be held at 12.00 pm on Wednesday 10th May at Comrie Parish Church, Burrell Street, Comrie, PH6 2JP, then Comrie Cemetery.

7: Death of the Revd Griselda Langdon We have learned with sadness that Revd Griselda Langdon died on the 4th June. Her funeral was 7th July – her 96th birthday.

She served at:

Tilehurst & Spencer's Wood Reading 86-87

Radipole Weymouth 87-93

We do not yet know if she has any family alive (her husband died in 2011).

8: Mission Discipleship for Young People There are still places available for this 24-hour conference on Tuesday 8th (3pm) /Wednesday 9th August (3pm).

All costs are paid for – and the venue has been arranged: [Abbot Hall in Cumbria](#).

We can accept delegates from any Area of North Western Synod. You must be 16-25 years old and interested in shaping the future of your church.

To book a place, or places, or get further details, please contact Leo Roberts on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk.

If you have young people in your church who would benefit from this opportunity, please encourage them to apply and support them in attending.

9: Synod Grant and Loan applications and Major Works

To All Ministers Secretary's and Treasurers

Dear Friends

Grant and Loan applications

As many of you will be aware grants and loans are available for the upkeep, repair, improvement and extension of church buildings, the provision and erection of church and manse buildings of the United Reformed Church, these may be from the Synod or Church House London.

To apply for a grant or loan the procedures set out in the policy documents on the Synod Web site must be followed these can be found via the following link <http://www.nwsynod.org.uk/e-building-works#5-grants-and-loans> .

It is essential that Churches plan ahead to ensure they meet the sequence of meetings required for approval the first point of contact should be the area property office or secretary who will be able to provide advice and support.

Major Works

In addition, I take this opportunity to remind you that for any Major Works Area Pastoral Committee and Synod Resources/Trust Committee approval is required.

The advice of the relevant Official (usually the Area Secretary) should be sought for any works, especially those shown below, that will substantially alter the character, appearance or value of the building': all work requiring statutory planning permission; an extension however small; the cost of the alterations/building is greater than the annual income of the church; any work the cost of which exceeds £12,000.

Failure to follow the guidelines and ask for direction from Area may lead to a delay in decisions being made and hold up important works. If work is of an urgent nature, please contact in the first place the area secretary or the Synod property officer via the Synod office.

I hope you will find this information helpful

Best wishes

Jean Mullineux

Synod Resources Committee Convenor

Chairperson - The United Reformed Church (North Western Province) Trust Limited