

NEWS FROM THE NW SYNOD 13TH DECEMBER 2017



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- 1: Moderators Snapshot



The snapshot this week was taken in the “Jewel in Salford’s Crown”, Ordsall Hall. If you are in the area this historic Grade 1 listed hall and gardens is well worth a visit, with free entry and a small tea shop area to enjoy. On Monday evening a quartet from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra provided a delightful programme ranging from Mozart’s Divertimento in F major to Leroy Anderson’s Blue Tango, and of course including several festive items. A moment to relax.

I had intended a different snapshot but only remembered on my way home from Barton in Lancashire from a meeting with our Ecumenical Officers from each of the Synod Areas. It was an opportunity to share what is going on across the Synod ecumenically, identify the continuing focus we have as a denomination in working ecumenically, and to explore some of the issues and difficulties that we are experiencing.

Please pray for:

- our Ecumenical Officers as they support our mission and partnership across a range of ecumenical congregations within the Synod
- the regional Ecumenical Officers, and others nationally, who are working to enable us to connect more visibly, demonstrating the work of the Kingdom and the Joy of this season in our communities
- each of our local congregations as they are encouraged and supported in exploring deeper partnerships with congregations from our sister denominations or independent churches.

2: General Assembly 2018 The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church will next meet from Friday 6 July to Monday 9 July 2018.

Ministers and Elders wishing to express an interest in representing North Western Synod are asked to be in touch with the Synod Clerk (brianjolly322@btinternet.com) before Friday 5 January 2018.

3: Revd Tom Owen The Revd Tom Owen sadly died on 10th December.

Tom’s ministries had been at Tetbury, Hawkesbury & Didmarton (1952-57), Melksham (1957-64) and in the Landsker Group (1974-92). He lived in retirement in Haverfordwest.

Please remember his family and friends. Further details of funeral arrangements, when made, can be obtained from the National Synod of Wales Office (see below).

Adrian Bulley

Synod Clerk

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4: 18-25 years old? WCC Stewards Programme Are you aged 18-25? Interested in learning more about the worldwide Church? Ready for an international adventure with fellow young people from across the globe?

The World Council of Churches (WCC) Stewards Programme aims to bring together a dynamic and diverse group of 20 young people from all over the world from 5-23 June 2018 to serve at the WCC Central Committee meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

English is the working language of the programme, and patience, ability to work with people from other countries and cultures, as well as a willingness to work together as a team, are key skills for participants to demonstrate.

As applications require letters of recommendation from the URC and an ecumenical body, it is important to submit applications to the URC's Children's and Youth Work Office **by Monday 22 January 2018** to ensure these can be processed.

More information, and an application form, can be found at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/wcc-invites-applications-to-central-committee-stewards-programme>