

# NEWS FROM THE NW SYNOD 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018



**Synod next meets on Saturday 13 October 2018 at Oasis, Salford**

- 1: **Appointment of a new Synod Treasurer for North Western Synod**
- 2: **Moderators snapshot**
- 3: **Five-Fold Celebration at Wilbraham St Ninian's in Chorlton, Manchester**
- 4: **Yorkshire Dales trip with DARE – Lambing**
- 5: **Jazz at Clitheroe United Reformed Church May Bank Holiday Weekend**
- 6: **Hearing Children's Voices**
- 7: **Hearing Young People's voices**
- 8: **Upper Swaledale Photographic Exhibition**

**Obituaries**

## 1: Appointment of a new Synod Treasurer for North Western Synod

I am delighted to inform you that the Executive Committee of the North Western Synod, acting on behalf of the Synod Meeting, has appointed **Mr Mike Hart** to the position of Synod Treasurer with effect from 1 May 2018, for an initial period which will end at the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2021.

Mike is a qualified accountant with a long career in local authorities and more recently schools. He is a non-serving elder at Garstang United Reformed Church where he was Church Treasurer for 10 years; at present he serves as treasurer of the FLAG pastorate. Mike is a trustee of two faith-based charities in Lancashire working on social justice issues. Mike grew up in Bolton and still is an active supporter of Bolton Wanderers. He is married with two grown-up daughters, who share his passion for football.

Mike will use [treasurer@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nwsynod.org.uk) as his synod email address; but local church treasurers should continue to use their Area Finance Officer as the first point of contact.

We welcome Mike to this important position, which includes service as a Director of the Synod Trust. Please support Mike with your prayers, and with warm greetings when you meet him.

Brian Jolly  
Synod Clerk

## 2: Moderators snapshot Preaching at Marton URC in Blackpool last Sunday gave me the

opportunity to see the progress that has been made on the development of the front of their building. The work done has provided a tremendous space for welcoming people in, combined with a small kitchen and several disabled toilets. The space is warm, welcoming (as are the congregation) and through the glass has an openness towards the community (snapshot).

One of the most significant challenges facing many of our congregations in the North Western Synod (and the UK generally) is the nature of buildings that we have inherited from a historic way of “doing” church. Buildings which become a millstone and result in us

simply acting as caretakers no longer function as a tool for helping us engage in mission in relevant ways to our communities.

Please pray for:

- the vision to grasp the new ways of “being” church that enable us to grow in discipleship and engage in vibrant ways with those in our communities
- the energy and enthusiasm needed within each congregation to explore fresh ways of using our premises/sites to reach out to those beyond our walls
- the denominations’ ministers as they gather next week at Yarnfield Conference Centre (Staffordshire) for a once in 40 years opportunity, exploring Walking the Way as the core of our “being” as 1,400 congregations in the UK.



**3: Five-Fold Celebration at Wilbraham St Ninian's in Chorlton, Manchester** Last weekend was a very busy weekend for our church.

On Saturday afternoon, around 100 people came together to celebrate the marriage of one of our elders, George, to his partner André, followed by a lovely light-tea reception in the Church Hall. The service was conducted by the Revd Susan Armitage.

On Sunday afternoon, almost 80 people came together for a special service, where one person was baptised, 15 people came into membership (see photo), and 6 elders were rededicated to service. We were also delighted to celebrate the 8<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our church's youngest members! Thank you to our interim Minister, the Revd Alan Poolton, for leading these rites.

In the words of Wesley's great hymn, chosen by George and André for their wedding: "Love Divine, all loves excelling; joy of heaven to earth come down." Last weekend has indeed been joyful! Thank you to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes to allow these celebrations to be a blessing to so many.



**4: Yorkshire Dales trip with DARE – Lambing** Enjoy the happiness and smiling faces - of the residents of Blackburn with Darwen now a City of Sanctuary



"Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes." [Isaiah 40:11](#)

We were filmed by the BBC North regional to support the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - to watch see BBC 1 local North (Leeds) 6.30pm on Monday - TV stars.



## 5: Jazz at Clitheroe United Reformed Church May Bank Holiday Weekend



**The Ribble Valley Jazz Festival** takes place on the Bank Holiday Weekend 3rd to 7th May, and Clitheroe United Reformed Church will be the venue for a number of gigs.

Two church events that are part of the festival are:

**Saturday 5th May** starting at 10am, the regular **'first Saturday in the month' cafe**, when *Team URC* serve its popular bacon butties and home made cakes, including at 1.30 to 3pm **NORVOL Jazz Jam! providing jazz in the cafe**. This has been a popular part of the festival for the past two years with NORVOL accompanying any jazz instrumentalists who wish to come along and join in.

On **Sunday at 10.30am Jazz Fest Service at Clitheroe URC**. This is a new and exciting venture to bring the jazz festival goes and the church together in worship.

You are warmly invited to the church and to take in the festival atmosphere, which includes street bands as well as top line sessions. A full programme is available on the festival web site <https://www.rvjazzfestival.co.uk/rvijf-online>

**6: Hearing Children's Voices** As a core element in the review of URC children's and youth work in 2018, we are looking at the Charter for Children in the Church and the extent to which this has been realised in the life of our churches across the country.

An essential part of our information gathering obviously needs to come from the children themselves and we want to enable children from 0 to 11 to have a voice in our review.

For this reason we are asking every church working with children in this age range, regardless of how many children are in the church, to include some activities into your normal weekly programme so that as many children as possible are included.

If you would like to ensure that the voices of children in YOUR church are heard, please contact Leo at [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk) and he will send you a pack with all the information about how to run the activities (and the necessary resources to do so).

This is a great opportunity for your children to have their say – don't let them miss out!

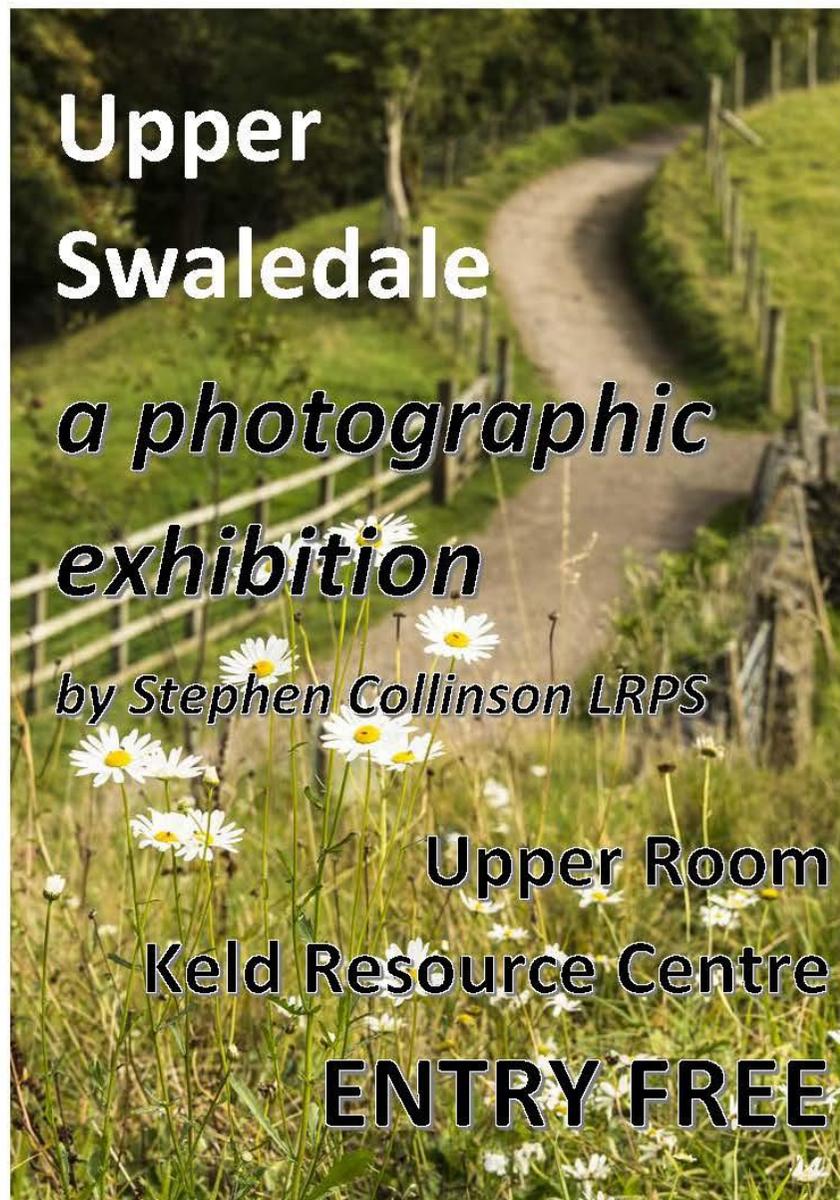
**7: Hearing Young People's voices** Working with our colleagues in Mersey Synod, North Western Synod is developing a project in which young people can have their say about things which affect them. It is a video project, made up of short clips of young people answering 2 simple questions:

1. If there was one thing you could change about the world, what would it be?
2. What one change would you like to see in your community?

*Young people will not be identified by name or location – it is just 'talking heads'*

If you have young people in your church (9-18 years old) who would like to take part, here's what you do:

- a) Film in landscape mode (ie have your phone turned on its side.)
- b) Film in a quiet place. Camera mics aren't great.
- c) Film head and shoulders of interviewee. One young person in shot.
- d) Have them look directly at camera.
- e) Hold camera as still as you can or put it on tripod.
- f) Don't worry about asking the questions in the recording – we can edit that out 😊
- g) Send the clips to [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)



**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> & Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May  
2018**

*11.00am – 5.00pm*

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> & Sun 27<sup>th</sup> May  
2018**

*12.30pm – 5.00pm*

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

*11.00am – 5.00pm*

## Obituaries

### **Revd Douglas Tunbridge**

East Midlands Synod

We regret to inform you that the REVD DOUGLAS TUNBRIDGE, retired minister in Louth Lincolnshire, passed away peacefully on Monday 9 April. Douglas's ministries were: Louth and Alford 1966-76; Louth, Alford & Horncastle 1976-78; Westgate, Peterborough & Yaxley 1978-80; Westgate, Peterborough 1980-88; Corby 1989-91.

The funeral service will be taking place in the Parish Church of Louth St James at 12.30pm on Thursday 10th May, followed by a committal at Alford Crematorium. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.

### **Reverend Philip Bruce Stewart**

Thames North Synod

With sadness, I inform you that the Reverend Philip Bruce Stewart died on 16 April 2018.

His Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday 1 May, 1:00 pm, at:

Union Church  
Northiam  
London  
N12 7ET

Philip was ordained as a Non Stipendiary Minister in 1986 and served in the Central and North London District (and its successors) with pastoral charge for Cockfosters URC 1986-2003 and Totteridge Union 2003-09. Upon retirement he continued to lead worship and offer pastoral ministry, and also served as Interim Moderator. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia, two sons, two daughters and grandchildren. "Lord, let your servant depart in peace, according to your promise."