

NEWS FROM THE NW SYNOD 11TH JULY 2018



No Moderators Snapshot

- 1: **Fairtrade**
- 2: **Getting In GEAR with Holy Habits**
- 3: **URC Music Network launches as a resource for the whole United Reformed Church**
- 4: **News from Forton URC**
- 5: **FREE Organ Concert by Mike Town**
- 6: **News from Ramsden Street URC**

1: **Fairtrade** helps more than 1.65 million farmers and workers across the world.

Shared Interest uses money from investors in the UK to help Fairtrade businesses grow and so reach even more people.

This has many benefits, including helping children into school, and making health care more available.

Would you like to hear about Shared Interest, the businesses they help, the difference they make to people's lives and how you may help?

Bill Hutchings, Shared Interest Ambassador, is available to talk to groups or have a stall at events.

You can contact him at bill.hutchings@blueyonder.co.uk.

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2: Getting In GEAR with Holy Habits The Group for Evangelism and Renewal are keen to encourage local congregations to engage with discipleship and mission through Walking the Way. They are focusing on Holy Habits, based on Andrew Roberts excellent book, over the next few editions of their magazine, In GEAR. The summer edition just published explores the theme of Gladness and Generosity - If you would like a copy please email the GEAR Secretary Sheila Coop at secretary@gear.org.uk

This can also be read on line at <https://app.box.com/s/oqegcx1wgan7ptb1rtrnIntvtvohlee5>

You may also like to look at issues for prayer at: www.praytheway.org.uk

3: URC Music Network launches as a resource for the whole United Reformed Church

Recognising that music is such an important part of the worship life of our Churches, the URC Music Network has been developed to reflect the ways in which music making, worship leading and worship styles have developed over the past few years.

URC Music Network exists to be a platform for discussion about music, sharing and reviewing worship resources, encouraging music making, and offering new music and texts. It is for musicians, worship leaders, ministers, accompanists, and those interested in music in worship - all with the opportunity to contribute to and share in the conversations on Facebook and Twitter and through a new website (www.urcmusic.org.uk).

Those interested in music can subscribe to a monthly eNewsletter, where a reflection, events and reviews are sent direct to an email inbox (sign up is via the website). Those wanting to share good news experiences, publicise events, review resources, or offer materials for the website are invited to contact urcmusicwebsite@gmail.com with details.

4: News from Forton URC Revd. Irene, Minister of the present 3 Church Flag Pastorate, suggested "Open Church" before we heard about Missional Discipleship. So we gave it a try! Until this July, probably our best Open Church was last December in terms of numbers and a party atmosphere. However, June 2018 saw about 14 of us making pottery baskets and that was pretty amazing. Then for July 4th, just gone, we thought let's invite the 5 other Churches we are coming together with. The result was amazing.! Not only did some of the 5 Churches respond, but so did people already in our Pastorate, who don't always come to our Open Church. Moreover, friends in our local community arrived, some bringing Celebration Cake! Lastly, when we had taken down our Open Church banner, a couple on holiday nearby, saw the door still open and asked if they could come into Church.

The next Open Church at FORTON URC, School Lane, Forton PR3 OAS will be September 5th. 2018.

5: FREE Organ Concert by Mike Town

(Donations in aid of Organ fund)

Friday July 20, 12.15pm



Whitehaven URC

6: News from Ramsden Street URC During Wednesday's assembly we were delighted to

welcome Heather and Anne from Ramsden Street United Reformed Church. We have always had fantastic links with the church including our choir regularly singing there and the Church allowing our year 4 children to take part in their yearly 'Flashbacks' projects.



As a result of these close links the Church very kindly applied for a grant from the 'Speaking Volumes Christian Book Promotion Trust'. The bid was successful and Heather and Anne came to our assembly to present the books which will be a fabulous addition to our library. We are extremely grateful for the books and we know the children will enjoy reading them and taking on board all of the messages inside them.

Thanks again!