



NEWS FROM THE NORTH WESTERN SYNOD 6TH MARCH 2019

Newsletter

- 1: [Ministry Enquirers' Day - Saturday 06 April 2019](#)
- 2: [News from Forton URC - Open Church](#)
- 3: [Report from Assembly Mission Committee](#)
- 4: [Dementia Awareness Training](#)
- 5: [Intermediate Safeguarding Training dates so far ...](#)

1: Ministry Enquirers' Day - Saturday 06 April 2019

Saturday 06 April 2019, 10am – 4pm , Luther King House, Manchester www.lutherkinghouse.co.uk

As always, lunch (free of charge) will be provided for participants on the day but expenses for their travel should be refunded via their respective Synods.

Details of the Autumn 2019 Ministry Enquirers' Day will be shared with you in due course.

Practical enquiries about this event should be directed to **Vivienne Williams**
Secretary for Ministries 020 7916 8649 | ministries.pa@urc.org.uk | www.urc.org.uk



Is it I, Lord?

Ministry Enquirers' Day

Saturday 6 April 2019

10am – 4pm

Luther King House, Manchester



- Explore opportunities for service through the United Reformed Church
- Ask the questions that are on your mind and heart
- Hear from people engaged in a variety of lay and ordained ministries
 - Listen for the voice of God as we worship and pray together

For full details contact:

Vivienne Williams

T: 020 7916 8649 E: vivienne.williams@urc.org.uk

2: News from Forton URC - Open Church

The unusual warm weather has caused a riot in our small churchyard. A riot of colour that is. The Crocus has bloomed in spectacular fashion. These along with the Wild Daffodils are a wonderful display and are a joy to behold.



Our **Open Church Wednesday's** re-start on **March 6th** from 2pm to 3.30pm.

- The first one of the year is called Canaletto – A Venetian Artist by Dr Brenda Fox.
- The second on **April 3rd** is music by the Garstang Ukulele Band from 2pm

3: Report from Assembly Mission Committee

I am now NW Synod's representative on Assembly Mission Committee. Here are some of the issues which were discussed at the meeting last month. Please note in particular the Living Lent Challenge www.livinglent.org.

Angela Bogg
angela.bogg@btopenworld.com.

Legacies of Slavery: Mission Committee received a report on how to respond to Council for World Mission's work **on Legacies of Slavery**. The committee agreed to establish a small working group to take this work forward, with a view to working with local churches and synods, and to bringing recommendations to the Assembly in 2020.

Environmental Task Group and Environmental Policy 2016: Mission Committee agreed to recommend to Mission Council that the 2016 Environmental Policy, as adopted by General Assembly, be updated to reflect the recognition that in light of the most recent science around climate change, our ambitions to reduce carbon emissions must be accelerated.

Taiwan Ecumenical Forum The General Secretary reported on a meeting in November of the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum which is a consultation with international partners to provide the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan with advice and support as it sustains its witness around a number of difficult public and justice issues. The Forum highlighted Taiwan's concern to exercise its own democratic choices in the face of increasing pressure from China. The committee also heard how much the PCT values the partnership with the URC and the NW Synod's link with Chiayi Presbytery was mentioned as being very important.

Combating Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism: Mission Committee discussed a report on Combating Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism and agreed to encourage the development of some educational work around this.

Brexit A report on Responding to Brexit and highlighting various ways in which the Church can play a positive role was discussed, including being welcoming communities, truth telling (speaking up and speaking out for those who will be hit the hardest by Brexit), looking beyond our borders and by reanimating a vision for the UK.

Mission in a Rural Context: Mission Committee asks for prayer for farmers in particular, as they fear the effects Brexit will have on their livelihood. The National Rural Officer, Revd Elizabeth Clark, is looking for

models of joint pastorates in rural areas. If you can help, please contact Elizabeth on elizabethc@germinate.net.

Church and Society/Joint Public Issues Team: Campaigns and other news

a. **Living Lent Challenge:** You are invited to become part of the 'Living Lent' community over the 40 days of Lent and to make significant, personal commitments to changing your lifestyle for the climate. Find out more and sign up at www.livinglent.org.

b. **Meet your MP:** Churches are encouraged to consider meeting with their MPs, or inviting them to a church event. Resources and support are available through the **Meet Your MP** initiative: see www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/MeetYourMP

c. **Share stories** of how local churches are involved in creating a welcoming environment.

d. Please use the Church and Society staff, Simeon Mitchell (*Secretary for Church and Society*) and Roo Stewart, as a resource and would welcome being invited to speak or lead workshops at synod meetings, training days etc.

Ecumenical Relations: Next year it will be 30 years since the Berlin Wall came down. To mark this fact there will be a major celebration in the Church of the Palatinate in November 2019, to which a party of up to 20 people from the URC has been invited.

Resources to be noted:

- Racial Justice Sunday Resource 2019 are still available online and can be used any Sunday <https://urc.org.uk/news/2292-resources-ready-for-racial-justice-sunday>

- Rural Isolation and Loneliness Toolkit: <http://germinate.net/mission//rural-isolation-and-loneliness-toolkit/>

- Download the Fresh Expressions Godsend App for further pioneering information and help (available for iPhone and Android)

- Rural Mission Sunday is on 14 July. Download resources <https://germinate.net/mission/rural-mission-sunday/>

- Accessible Welcome is a new resource from Germinate: Arthur Rank Centre. It is a toolkit designed to help rural churches work towards ensuring that their church – both the building and their worship – is accessible to all, and can be downloaded here <https://germinate.net/mission/accessible-welcome/> or ordered from info@germinate.net

4: Dementia Awareness Training

Good news, twenty-five members from churches around the East Partnership in the Lancashire Area came together along with community members to learn about Dementia and became Dementia Friends... in addition they have been able to sign up for membership of Blackburn with Darwen Dementia Action Alliance... We are looking forward to the 9th April, where members in the South Partnership will be trained. Event hosted and lead by Elders from Leyland URC.



5: Intermediate Safeguarding Training dates so far ...

Intermediate Safeguarding Training for:

- Church Safeguarding Coordinators
 - Ministers
 - Accredited/ Synod recognised Lay preachers
 - Church members with leadership responsibility
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1. West Lancashire – Wigan Trinity URC – Thursday 2nd May 6-9pm
 2. East Lancashire – Burnley & Nelson URC – Wednesday 15th May 6-9pm
 3. South Lancashire – Leyland URC – Tuesday 19th March 6-9pm
 4. Cumbria – Penrith URC – Tuesday 9th April 2-4.30pm

Please contact the Synod Office on 0161 789 5583 or office@nwsynod.or.uk to book on the training.

Further training dates in other missional partnerships will be released within the next week

Julie Rafferty