



NEWS FROM THE NORTH WESTERN SYNOD 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

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## 1: Elswick URC Church Anniversary

We are looking forward to the 370<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the formation of our Church.

This year the Revd. Andrew Lonsdale will lead our celebration which will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30.

Afternoon teas will be available after the service please give me a ring or an email to add your name if you would like to join us in the commemoration of the occasion.

Thanks

Sam Kernohan Tel: 01995 670816 Email: kernohan@hotmail.com

## 2: Children's and Youth News

There's a new Gathered Youth Group meeting at Bamford Chapel in Central Area on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – it would be great to see you there! Why not come along and see what we do, and decide if you'd like something to happen in your area?

# Gathered Youth Group

A new  
gathering for  
young people

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> MAY  
7:00 - 8:30

Bamford Chapel and  
Norden URC  
Norden Rd, Bamford, Rochdale  
OL11 5PQ

*Chat and chill while  
discussing the **BIG**  
issues and the small  
issues*

**Everyone  
is welcome  
- don't be  
shy**

Theme: **New beginnings**

Contact Richard to confirm your place:  
01706 369622 and [richardbradley@cantab.net](mailto:richardbradley@cantab.net)

### 3: The Big Speak Out

After the success of last year's Big Speak Out, we are delighted to announce that 11 to 18 year olds associated with the URC will be able to take part in another TBSO weekend this year, this time in the beautiful Derbyshire village of Repton. Repton School is a beautiful old boarding school which takes over much of the village and we have the use of two boarding houses (with common rooms), the Junior Common Room, the chapel and three of the classrooms for the weekend, with full catering.

From arrival on Friday from 6pm onwards, when you'll settle into your room in one of the two boarding houses and share in a delicious hot meal, there will be times to explore your faith, times to develop skills and talents and think about making your mark, times to hang out with old friends and make new ones, times to play games, watch movies, share in worship, times to take part in workshops, to discuss, to learn, to make music or do craft, and times to chill and relax. What an action packed weekend!

As last year, there will be a Leaders' Gathering running simultaneously for adults who work with children and young people. Persuade a leader to bring you and stay for that as it is an excellent networking opportunity with a chance for training and mutual encouragement in a relaxing atmosphere. Leaders should contact the CYW office for more information.

The Synod will pay the cost of the weekend, all you have to do is get your young people there!

Book online here: <https://urc.org.uk/the-big-speak-out-2019-booking-form>

#### 4: Messy Church Training

Calling all those who do Messy Church – or would like to know more!



## Leaders' Training Session

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 2-4pm

Led by Dawn Savidge, Messy Church Trainer

At Bamford Chapel and Norderm United Reformed Church

Norden Rd, Bamford, Rochdale OL11 5PQ

### **FOCUS: HOW TO MAKE MESSY CHURCH MISSIONAL**

To book your place, email Leo Roberts on  
[cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

Attendance is free of charge  
(donations for refreshments gratefully received!)



**5: Safeguarding Training** A programme of Intermediate Safeguarding Training is being delivered by the Synod Safeguarding Advisor, Julie Rafferty. The training provides detailed insight into the responsibilities and obligations of safeguarding within a church. The training is a recommended requirement for people in the following roles:

- Church Safeguarding Coordinators
- Ministers
- Accredited/ Synod recognised Lay preachers
- Church members with leadership responsibility

Although you may have completed vocational safeguarding training, its recommended that you complete this training as well....

**The training dates are as follows:**

1. Bolton & Salford – Worsley Road (Swinton) – 21<sup>st</sup> May 6-9pm
2. Cheshire East & Derbyshire – Glossop & Tintwisle – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 6-9pm
3. Oldham/Tameside – Hope/Denton – 1st June 10.30-2.30pm **\*\*NEW DATE\*\***
4. Lancashire South – Leyland – 25<sup>th</sup> June 6-9pm
5. Lancashire West – Poulton Le Fylde – 27<sup>th</sup> June 6-9pm
6. Lancashire North – Bolton-Le-Sands 5<sup>th</sup> September 6-9pm
7. Lancashire West – St Annes – 14<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 -2.30pm
8. South Manchester – Chorlton Central – 18<sup>th</sup> September 6-9pm
9. Rochdale, Bury & North Manchester – Bamford & Norden – 28<sup>th</sup> September 9.30-1.30pm

The Intermediate training is being delivered in the missional partnership areas. At least one training session will take place in each missional partnership, possibly two dependant on the size. The training programme is taking place between April and November 2019. People have the choice to attend ANY training session they wish.

Further dates are currently being confirmed for October and November in the other Missional Partnerships and will be released within the forthcoming weeks

**Additional dates in Mersey Synod:**

Wirral – Heswall – 4<sup>th</sup> June 6-9pm  
Liverpool – Caradoc – 6<sup>th</sup> June 6-9pm

If you wish to attend the training, please contact the Synod Office on 0161 789 5583 or [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk) or email the Synod Safeguarding Advisor on [safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk) to book on the training.

Once you are booked onto the training, you will receive confirmation of this and exact details of the training and directions to the location.

Hot & cold drinks will be provided at all venues. For the day sessions, people are recommended to bring their own lunch.

## 6: Service for Peace



*"Peace is what I leave you;  
It is my own peace that I give you."*

*(John 14: v 27)*

On Sunday 7th April 2019, the White Church hosted an Ecumenical Service for Peace led by Reverend Daleen ten Cate which included the dedication of the [Peace Pole](#), recently installed in the grounds of the Church.

Prayers of Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving were read by Ruth Cooper, Janice Downward and Jan Hirst; a litany of the prayer of St Francis of Assisi was read by Yemi Ajibola and Joan Baldwin; and John East, Shameem Sifi and Anamie Sengabo from the Darwen Asylum and Refugee Enterprise (DARE) spoke to the congregation.

Abiola Ajibola and Mary Irokansi sang, Aftab Mughal (for the YMCA) delivered a reading and Norah Lynam of Amnesty International spoke about "Just Another Migrant Boat".

The congregation afterwards filed out of the Church building and gathered round the Peace Pole for the Dedication, Prayers of Intercession and the lighting of candles.

Our visitors were then given refreshment in the Dawson Hall.



**7: The Significance of Church Buildings for Society in Britain Today' - contact Valerie Jenkins - [valeriejay712@gmail.com](mailto:valeriejay712@gmail.com)**

The Churches Visitor and Tourism Association organises an annual Conference in different parts of the country and this year the venue is Manchester. As organiser Valerie Jenkins is looking for local URC people who would be willing to talk about their work in outreach to their local communities. This year the focus of the conference is the part a Church Building plays in identifying a Christian presence and how we might make use of that as a means of mission.

Below is an excerpt from a letter from Canon John Brown, the Chairman of CVTA setting out his ideas for the day - **October 19th 2019** . If you know anyone who would be prepared to speak for 5-10mins on their own church setting, please contact Valerie.

I was prompted by this title by the response of the people of Paris and indeed of France, an ostensibly secular state, to the tragic event happening to Notre Dame during Holy Week. From reports in the media, Notre Dame has a significance way beyond those who worship in it; almost whatever the cost the conclusion is it must be restored.

My thesis is that every Church Building in Britain has a significance for someone! We have no idea who, when, or how often, but entries in Churches which are regularly open and have Visitors Books indicate people come in sometimes from 'the 4 corners of the earth!' The question I am inviting presenters and delegates to address is 'What is the significance of Church Buildings? For whom? When and Why?' I have often had debate with folk from the Non -Conformist churches who maintain that few of their Church Buildings are attractive. I have consistently countered by saying that CVTA is not interested in a Church Buildings' architecture, historical heritage, furnishings, etc. - other organisations focus on these - our concern is with the significance of Church Buildings simply for being where they are and telling people symbolically that 'God is in the Midst.' Last year on the walking tour of churches in central Worcester, we came across a Methodist Church hemmed in by shops and businesses and seemingly offering another shop-front vista. The only thing to distinguish it from the other commercial premises around was that it had a cross on the main window and the words 'Methodist Church' above a small entrance way. I was only sorry that the building was shut despite there being a constant stream of passers-by. We wanted to go in but couldn't!! I later complained to the Minister!!

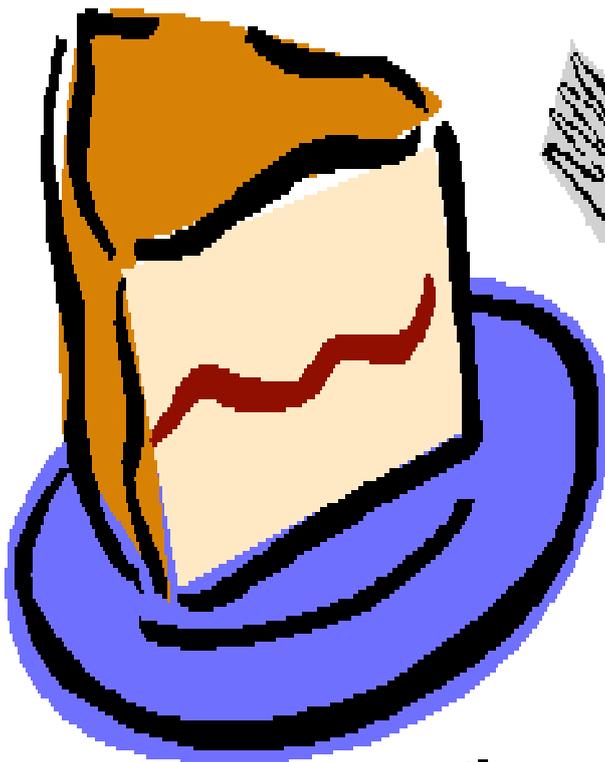
Manchester is a centre of multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-faith residents and visitors. My hope is that some of the speakers will make note of this in their presentations. Church Buildings are there not only for English people of Christian Faith but for those of other nationalities, other Faiths and no Faith. CVTA's message is that Church Buildings must be open 24 / 7 / 52, - or at least as much as possible - not least because places of worship of other Faiths nearly always are not!

Would I be right to think that on the whole the URC does not think in terms of the significance of its buildings as such in mission, they are merely places where the faithful gather?

Sorry to go on but I want you to understand my thinking and passion for the openness of Church Buildings and their significance in mission.

Canon John Brown

**8: Teddy Bears' Picnic at Trinity Church Centre** On Wednesday 8th May, we at Trinity Church Centre Barrow-in-Furness hosted a Teddy Bears' Picnic for the Infant Department of one of our local schools. 56 children and about 10 staff came along. The children were all excited and each brought a teddy bear, though some looked like other animals, even a dinosaur! The staff brought their teddies too! There were picnic blankets set out in one of the transepts where they listened to the story of a man who had no friends until he met Jesus- Zacchaeus! They decorated cakes with jelly teddies then ate them with along with a drink of juice. They had a Teddy hunt around the church, coloured some bear masks and decorated a fancy hat. This is all part of a growing connection we have with this school, born out of our annual schools' Bible stories exhibition, which has been going on for the last four years. The staff and children want to this to continue and will come again in the summer term. Quite hard work but well worthwhile.



Invite you to a  
Coffee morning!

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
10.30 to 12.00

In aid of MIND

Entry by donation

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available free of charge.

MIND representatives will have a stall and all donations on the day will go to MIND

