

## NEWS FROM THE NORTH WESTERN SYNOD

18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

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New contact email address for Mike Aspinall (Synod Property Consultant):  
[propertyconsultant@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:propertyconsultant@nwsynod.org.uk)

## 1: 90th Birthday Celebrations

Congratulations to organist Geoffrey Ogden, on reaching his 90th birthday in July.

Lots of family and friends joined him to celebrate, enjoying tea and cake at home with his wife Margaret.

Geoff started playing the piano aged 7, and the organ aged 9.

He took on the role of organist for children's services at York St Congregational Church at the age of 10, and became the full time organist at York St aged 12, playing for 2 services on Sundays and choir practice.



When York St Church closed because of dry rot in 1969, the congregation joined with Captain Fold, becoming a few years later Heywood URC, Geoff continued to play for the services. He also served as Elder and Treasurer of Heywood URC until it closed in 2003.

In 1975 he was asked by Rev Jeff Yates to take on the role of organist at Bamford Chapel URC. Neither he or Heywood wanted to lose Geoff, so then he played for 3 services every Sunday, 2 at Bamford and one at Heywood. as well as hundreds of weddings, funerals, and weekly choir practices.

A gifted musician he also was the accompanist for Heywood Operatic Society, Saddleworth Male Voice Choir, United Christian Singers, Ramsbottom Choral Society and many soloists. For 80 years Geoff's dedication and commitment to music, to his faith and church life have been by any standards truly remarkable.

We thank him and wish him a very happy birthday.

# Churches & the Climate Emergency



**Greater Manchester Churches  
Together Annual Assembly 2019**

**Guest Speaker:  
Ruth Valerio of Tearfund**

**Featuring:  
Kate Gray - URC  
John Hughes - Diocese of Manchester  
Steve Burrowes - CAFOD**

**Date: 30 September 2019  
Time: 5pm– 9pm  
(AGM 5pm, Tea 5.30pm, Service & Keynote Speaker 6.15pm)  
Place: Salford Cathedral Centre, Salford M3 6DP  
Please book your free ticket online through Eventbrite**

### **3: Revd Gwen Thomas**

I am sorry to inform you of the death of Revd Gwen Thomas on Friday 13 September.

Gwen served at:

CWM Zambia 1966 – 74

Trinity Brownhill Blackburn 1985 – 88

Wavertree Liverpool 1989 – 96

Birkdale 1997 2004.

Funeral arrangements are not yet available; they will be circulated when they are received.

Brian Jolly

Clerk, North Western Synod

### **4: Children's and children's leaders event at October Synod meeting in Windermere**

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Leo Roberts (CYDO) is planning an even for children and their leaders to explore the new Friends On Faith Adventures material produced by the United Reformed Church.

It is important that you BOOK YOUR PLACES IN ADVANCE by emailing Leo on [cydo@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@nwsynod.org.uk)

The session will be held at Our Lady of Windermere RC Church (a 5 minute walk from Windermere URC)

### **5: Could you make prayer flags at your church? – GCOTR report for Manchester – Green Christian**

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/could-you-make-prayer-flags-at-your-church-gcotr-report-for-manchester/>

### **6: Sat 7th March - Renewal and Rebellion conference at The River Centre**

Important 2020 date for your church diary!!!

Sat 7th March - Renewal and Rebellion conference at The River Centre, Derby with speaker Ed Milliband. Booking open! Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation national conference.

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference2020/>