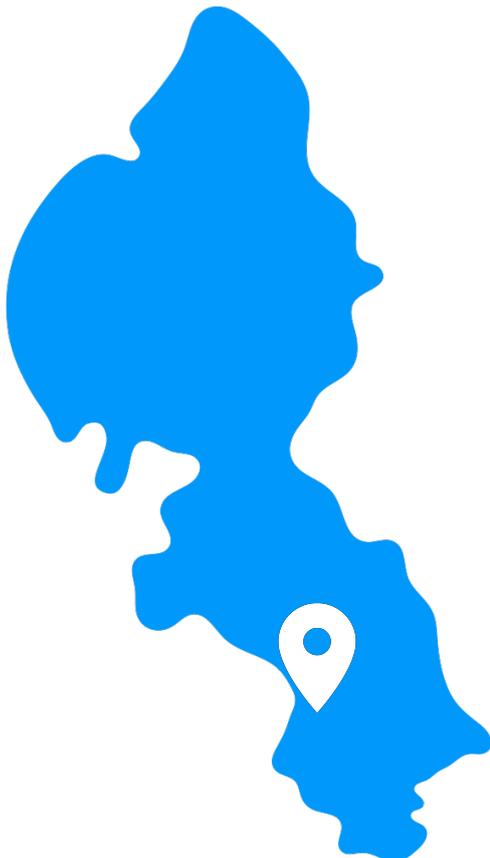




The North Western Synod
of the **United Reformed Church**



Book of Reports for Synod Meeting on
Saturday 13th October 2018, 10:30am

MediaCityUK Church
Oasis Academy

King William Street
Salford Quays
M50 3UQ

Important Information

Apologies	<p>If you cannot attend Synod please send apologies to the Synod Office, in advance of the meeting, as they will not be taken from the floor.</p> <p>E-mail: admin@nwsynod.org.uk Tel: 0161 789 5583</p> <p>If you are unable to attend please ensure that someone from your church or a neighbouring church collects the synod envelope for you.</p>
Attendance Expenses Voting Card	<p>When you register you will receive: name badge, expenses form and voting card (where applicable).</p>
Disabled Parking	<p>There is limited disabled parking available but please let the office know by 11th October if you require one.</p>
Stewards	<p>There will be stewards both inside and outside the church. Please do not hesitate to ask one of them if you require assistance.</p>
Refreshments	<p>Tea and coffee will be served on arrival, at lunch time and at the end of the day. There will be Sausage sandwiches available in the morning.</p> <p>If using satnav, please use the postcode M50 3UQ If you require a map or written directions please contact the synod office</p>
Diaries Prayer Handbooks	<p>We have prayer handbooks and diaries on sale at the Synod meeting and they will be available at lunch time. Diaries are available in green only pocket size £7.00. Prayer Handbooks 2019: Seasons of the spirit is £6.50</p>

Dear Friends

For our October 2018 Synod Meeting we are pleased to be able to be hosted by **MediaCityUK Church** [a partnership between the United Reformed Church and Oasis] and Oasis Academy. Our sincere thanks go to Stuart Nixon and his colleagues Adam Webster, [Oasis Hub and Church Leader] and Stuart Cornes [Anglican Pioneer minister].

During this Synod Meeting our main time of worship will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion, led by Stuart Nixon.

We will be pleased to welcome as our main speaker one of Stuart Nixon's colleagues in Salford, Chris Lane. Chris will lead a session for us on the theme: **Transformation at the Table: How Jesus' meal habits can inform our mission today.**

Chris Lane has spent almost 20 years in inner-city Langworthy, working with a community of Christians to see their Salford estate transformed. Alongside a team, he leads Langworthy Community Church which was born out of the desire to see that transformation become a reality. The story of this journey has been recorded in his book, **Ordinary Miracles – Mess, Meals and Meeting Jesus in Unexpected Places**, copies of which will be on sale at the Synod Meeting. A trustee of Soul Survivor Ministries with an MA in theology, he is a lecturer at St. Mellitus College.

Our agenda will include reports and proposals from those who serve us as members of our Synod committees, and there will be the usual opportunities for us to meet socially before the meeting begins, at lunch-time and afterwards.

We are pleased to be able to display, in the area where we will gather before the Synod Meeting begins and at lunchtime, a World Council of Churches exhibition, **12 Faces of Hope**. This is an exhibition of hope for justice and peace in the Holy Land. It was opened at the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Centre in Geneva in September 2017 as part of a social media campaign called **Seek #JusticeAndPeace in the Holy**

Land in connection with the 50-year mark of the Six Day War and the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. The exhibition is a strong and touching expression of hope for justice and peace by 12 Palestinians and Israelis who are victims of the occupation.

Please do reflect prayerfully on these papers, that we may be well prepared when we gather together to consider the nature of God's call to us within the North Western Synod.

Brian Jolly
Synod Clerk

Agenda

9.30 Arrival and refreshments

10.30 Constitution of the Synod Meeting

Opening worship

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Reports and resolutions 1

News and notices

Worship, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lunch

Chris Lane:

Transformation at the Table: How Jesus' meal habits can inform our mission today

Reports and resolutions 2

Closing worship

Close

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Convener: Andrew Mills, Moderator

Secretary: Brian Jolly, Clerk

1 The members of the Executive Committee are the conveners, or sometimes other representatives, of the various synod committees, together with the Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and the synod representative serving on the Assembly Mission Committee. The committee has met on three occasions since the last synod meeting.

Staffing

Synod Legal, Trust & Property Officer

2 Since the last Synod Meeting Mrs Adelle Hartwell has been appointed as *Legal, Trust and Property Officer*. Adelle began her work in the Synod Office at the beginning of July. We welcome her as a member of synod staff.

Synod Finance Officer

3 Mr Tony Rutherford served as the Synod Finance Officer from 1997 until his retirement at the end of July 2018. We wish Tony well in his retirement.

4 A new Synod Finance Officer, Mr David Wyke, has recently been appointed. David will begin his work in the Synod Office at the beginning of November.

Officer and committee appointments

a Synod Treasurer

5 Rev John Piper retired as Synod Treasurer at the end of the March 2018 Synod Meeting. Unfortunately, John was not able to be present on that occasion, so the good wishes and thanks of the Synod Meeting for his outstanding service over a long period were conveyed to him via his wife, Marilyn, who was present.

6 At the last Synod Meeting the Executive Committee reported that it had hoped to be in a position to nominate a new Synod Treasurer on that occasion, but this had not proved possible. The committee also reported that it anticipated that a suitable candidate would become available within the next few months, and it was agreed that should this be so the Executive Committee would act on behalf of the Synod Meeting in making an appointment. Most members of the Synod Meeting will already be aware that the Executive Committee appointed Mr Mike Hart to this position, and that Mike took up his role at the beginning of May 2018. We welcome Mike to this role.

b Lancashire Area Pastoral Committee

7 On behalf of Lancashire Area Pastoral Committee, the Executive Committee brings the following resolution:

Resolution 1:

Synod appoints:

- i. Margery Pitcher to serve as Area Secretary until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2020.
- ii. Danny Wilson to serve as Lay Preaching Commissioner until, the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2020.
- iii. Gordon Bell to serve as Area Finance Officer until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2022.
- iv. Lynne Lonsdale to serve as a co-opted member until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2022.
- v. Ken Snaith to serve as the Pastoral Review Co-ordinator until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2022.

c Cumbria Area Pastoral Committee

8 At its meeting in June 2018 the Executive Committee responded positively to a request from Cumbria Area Pastoral Committee to act on behalf of the Synod Meeting in appointing Rev Nick Mark as Cumbria Ecumenical Officer with immediate effect until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2021.

GDPR

9 At the March 2018 Synod Meeting the Clerk spoke about new data protection regulations [often referred to as GDPR]. He explained that although advice for local churches was available via the URC website there was some concern over the adequacy and accuracy of this advice, and that this concern was shared by other synods.

10 Because of this concern the Executive Committee commissioned Mike Hart to undertake a specific piece of work to review GDPR requirements for local churches and the Synod and Synod Trust administration, and to provide opportunities, through Roadshows around the Synod, for the dissemination of relevant and helpful guidance to local churches. This work is nearing completion. Roadshows will be held in the new year and notice of dates and venues will be shared with local churches as soon as possible.

Cornerstone Community Church, Sedburgh

11 The Executive Committee has been well briefed by Cumbria Area Pastoral Committee concerning the decision of the URC Church Meeting to close and dissolve the LEP constitution with the Methodist Church, and supportive of the members of the church and the Area Pastoral Committee in their prayerful consideration over the best way forward. [Further reference to this situation is made in the report to this Synod Meeting by the Cumbria Area Pastoral Committee.]

12 It is good and fitting that current United Reformed Church members in Sedburgh are being offered an ecumenical welcome by Sedburgh Methodist Church. The Clerk is consulting with the Clerk of the General Assembly over whether it will be possible for these members to take their full part in Sedburgh Methodist Church whilst retaining their membership of the United Reformed Church under new arrangements recently agreed by the General Assembly; and such a positive outcome looks likely.

13 The Synod Meeting is invited to respond to Resolution 2.

Resolution 2: Synod gives thanks to God for the Congregational/United Reformed Church presence in Sedburgh and the western dales for longer than a century and commends to God those from this church who will now worship and play their part in the Methodist Church in Sedburgh.

Macedonia, Failsworth

14 Membership numbers at Macedonia United Reformed Church, Failsworth have declined to the point where it is no longer possible to sustain functioning Elders' or Church Meetings; this means that Macedonia cannot continue to operate as a local church. Notwithstanding this, the fellowship, based in a new building, under the leadership of Rev Sheila Coop, has significant mission opportunities and there is a strong desire to respond to them. Therefore the Synod Executive Committee agreed to explore with Central Area Pastoral Committee and the folk at Macedonia the possibility of the fellowship becoming a Synod Mission Project. [When a Synod Mission Project is formed its governance and operation is the responsibility of the Synod, there being no local church as such.] These explorations concluded that it was appropriate and right for the work at Macedonia, Failsworth to continue, as a Synod Mission Project, and, acting on behalf of the Synod Meeting, the Executive Committee decided to proceed in this way. The full details of this venture have yet to be finalised; they will be included in the report of the Executive Committee to the Synod Meeting in March 2019. The Synod Meeting is invited to respond to Resolution 3.

Resolution 3: Synod gives thanks to God for the life and witness of Macedonia Congegational/United Reformed Church, Failsworth over many years, and prays God's blessing for those who will be directly involved in the Synod Mission Project.

Christ Church, Morecambe

15 Over the past 18 months or more, Christ Church, Morecambe has been of increasing concern to Lancashire Area Pastoral Committee and the Executive Committee. The main concerns have focussed on the governance roles exercised by the Elders' Meeting, the administration of the church's financial affairs, and the church's debts. Following inconclusive discussions with the Elders' Meeting during the autumn of 2017, the Officers of the Synod reported their concerns to the Charity Commission, Action Fraud and the Church Meeting in January 2018. Since then the situation has worsened and the Synod Officers have made a further report to the Charity Commission, and to Lancashire Police who are now carrying out an investigation.

16 With significant and increasing debts and an inability to put in place, through elections to the Elders' Meeting, arrangements for the effective governance of the church, discussions were had with the Church Meeting about the viability of Christ Church. These concluded in a Church Meeting on 5 August 2018 passing a resolution to close the church with immediate effect. At this and earlier Church Meetings representatives of the Synod had offered to explore with Christ Church the possibility of it being adopted by the Synod as a Synod Mission Project; however, members of the congregation, at a meeting with Synod representatives on 13 September, concluded, with deep sadness and reluctance, that they could not provide any leadership or commitment for such a venture, largely because of age, infirmity and other commitments.

17 At the Church Meeting on 5 August, representatives of the Synod Trust gave permission for the church building to be used for Sunday worship until a decision had been made about whether the fellowship could be adopted as a Synod Mission Project. This decision having been made, the final service at Christ Church will be held on Sunday 14 October 2018.

18 In order to provide pastoral care for Christ Church folk in this difficult time of transition, Rev Irene John has agreed to be available to them.

19 At the time of the passing of the closure resolution on 5 August 2018, full responsibility for the administration of the former Christ Church and its property passed to the Synod Trust. The Trust is now considering the future of the buildings.

20 Synod officers continue to support Lancashire Police in their investigation of the financial administration of the church in recent years.

21 The Synod Meeting is invited to respond to Resolution 4.

Resolution 4: Synod gives thanks to God for the life and witness of Christ Church, Morecambe over the past 63 years, and asks God's blessing for those who now have to find a home in another local church.

Scoping of the roles of Synod Clerk and Convener of the Synod Pastoral Committee

22 At its meetings in June and July the Executive Committee received papers from the Synod Moderator concerning the workload of the Synod Clerk and the Convener of the Synod Pastoral Committee. In his paper the Moderator noted:

... that the denomination is in a state of flux with many changes taking place and every indication that we will be coping with yet more developments. Moreover, the synod is facing significant structural change with the introduction of Missional Partnerships and a likely necessary consequent change in the way its committees are organised; and there are an increasing number of instances where serious governance and other problems are arising in local churches. All of these matters necessarily engage the time of both posts and require experienced and competent officers to deal with them.

The current post holders have been fulfilling expanding synod roles at the expense of their existing normal pastorate responsibilities. The volume of work involved at this level of the Synod's work is unsustainable in the present manner and is unfair to the ministers and their pastorates.

As in a local congregation, so for the Synod there are certain roles which are crucial in our effective operation. The role of Synod Clerk is much more than that of an amplified "Church Secretary" role within a congregation. The Clerk fulfils an increasingly complex role in terms of the practical life of the Synod, the processes which best support good governance and our working together within the synod and the denomination, the oversight of employment and

legal issues, and much more. Given this, and the radical changes we are now beginning to implement and others which are on the horizon, it is essential that the occupant of this position has a detailed knowledge of the United Reformed Church and the Synod, is respected across the church, and is able to provide continuity and deal with local churches and synod committees in competent and pastorally sensitive ways.

The role of the Synod Pastoral Committee Convener has necessarily developed over the last 2 years for similar reasons, and, as with the role of the Clerk, this level of work will be sustained as Missional Partnerships are introduced and other changes are faced as we continue to develop the Synod's life and work to support our congregations and encourage them to flourish.

We have been fortunate in the current Synod Clerk and Synod Pastoral Committee Convener to have people who has been willing to be stretched as much as they have in terms of supporting the Synod at this critical time. However, we cannot expect them to continue to sustain all that they have given at the same level indefinitely. We face a crisis moment; yet it is an opportunity to make a positive move to regularise the existing situation and by doing so strengthen the support the synod offers to its churches.

23 With regard to the Clerk's role it was noted that an assessment of the current role indicates that it requires a scoping of at least 75%, and that this has been achievable to date only by the understanding of his pastorate. It was agreed that the workload was not likely to reduce in the foreseeable future, and that it was more likely that it would increase due, for example, to increasing numbers of difficult issues arising within the synod as a result of churches becoming more vulnerable and concerned about the future, and governance and other compliance requirements.

24 Following detailed discussion the Executive Committee agreed unanimously that with effect from September 2018:

- i) Brian Jolly's role as Synod Clerk will be scoped at a minimum of 50% for the duration of his role as Clerk, to conclude, upon his movement or retirement [no later than April 2024];
- ii) the balance of his [100%] scoping will be served in the Missional Partnership in which Altrincham is included;
- iii) the scoping of the Clerk's role will be reviewed before the commissioning of the Missional Partnership to determine whether it would remain appropriate or should be increased [whichever, the balance of his scoping (50% or less), will

continue to be served within the Missional Partnership, maintaining a 100% scoped ministry];

iv) the scoping of the Clerk's role will be further reviewed before he concludes his term of service, to determine future requirements for the post.

25 With regard to the role of the Convener of the Synod Pastoral Committee, it was noted that much of the work currently being undertaken relates to the formation and commissioning of Missional Partnerships, and this work is likely to reduce in 3 years time.

26 Following detailed discussion the Executive Committee agreed unanimously that with effect from September 2018:

i) Marion Tugwood's current role of Convener of the Synod Pastoral Committee will be scoped at 50% until March 2021, and for this period be titled **Missional Partnership Implementation Lead & Convener of the Synod Pastoral Committee**;

ii) the balance of her [100%] scoping will be served in the Missional Partnership in which Macclesfield is included;

iii) the scoping of the synod role will be reviewed before March 2021; if this review concludes that a change in scoping is appropriate beyond March 2021, the balance will continue to be served within the Missional Partnership [maintaining a 100% scoped ministry].

27 The Executive Committee's discussion of these 2 matters included consideration of the following questions:

- Is this a fruitful use of stipendiary ministry?

It was agreed that for the foreseeable future it is absolutely essential that these roles are carried out by experienced ministers who are able to provide deep knowledge and experience of the United Reformed Church and the Synod, pastoral concern and expertise, and the ability to engage helpfully and empathetically with Elders' and Church Meetings.

- Is there another option?

It was agreed that there was not another option at the moment, and the synod needs the current post-holders to fulfil these roles for the foreseeable future; they cannot continue to do so without the implementation of this proposal.

Synod Committee Structure

28 The Executive Committee requested the Clerk to prepare a paper which reviewed the current Synod committee structure in the light of the difficulties sometimes faced by Area Pastoral Committees and some other committees in filling vacancies and meeting all their responsibilities, and the impact of the introduction of Missional Partnerships. In discussing the paper prepared by the Clerk, the committee agreed to defer its further consideration until June 2019.

Matters referred by General Assembly for consideration by Synods

29 When the General Assembly decides it wishes to make changes to the Basis of Union or the Structure of the United Reformed Church, it is required to consult Synod Meetings. The General Assembly meeting in Nottingham in July 2018 resolved to: make an addition to Schedule B of the Basis of Union, which sets out the promises to be made by elders of the church; and make changes to the Structure of the United Reformed Church concerning the membership of the General Assembly.

30 Following this Synod Meeting the Clerk will notify all members of the Synod Meeting of the proposed changes to the Basis of Union and the Structure of the United Reformed Church. Members of the Synod Meeting will be asked to respond to the Clerk by 31 December 2018 should they wish to object to any of the proposed changes, in which case the particular matter/s raised will be debated at the March 2019 Synod Meeting. Should no objections be raised by 31 December 2018 the Clerk will notify the General Secretary that the North Western Synod accepts the changes to the Basis of Union and the Structure proposed by the General Assembly.

The Mission and Discipleship Committee

31 The Synod Executive Committee has received reports from the Mission & Discipleship Committee at each of its meetings.

32 The Executive concurred with the decision of the M&D Committee to support the work of the Mission and Discipleship Mentors with local churches, the worship of our local churches, and the devotional lives of members of our congregations by commissioning a new translation of Mark's gospel by Lawrence Moore, our Mission &

Discipleship Consultant. This has now been made available to every member of every congregation in the synod. This translation also supports the worship material, based on Mark's gospel, which the M&D team have prepared for a 52 Sunday cycle and published on-line over the past year. This worship material is available for worship leaders and others and can be accessed via the synod website.

33 The Executive Committee has also been supportive of the decision of the M&D Committee to initiate a review of Children's and Youth Work in the Synod, which will be undertaken in 2019.

34 Members of the Synod Meeting may find it helpful to be reminded that the Mission & Discipleship Committee serves us by overseeing the work of the Mission & Discipleship Mentors and the Children & Youth Development Officer, as they help to promote and facilitate mission and discipleship in the local churches of the synod and provide guidance and support to Ministers, Elders, and others.

Synod e-Newsletter

35 Members of the Synod Meeting who read the Synod e-Newsletter will already know that the Executive Committee has agreed to move from a weekly to a twice-monthly issue of the newsletter. We are also looking to improve the style, clarity and attractiveness of the newsletter over the next few months.

District Council membership

36 The Synod is required to maintain a District Council which may occasionally need to be convened to undertake particular business. To date it has not been necessary to convene the District Council, but we are grateful to those who, when this body was formed some years ago, agreed to serve on it.

37 The membership of the District Council is now out of date. Some named as members have died; others have moved out of the synod. The Executive Committee has asked the Clerk to review the membership of the District Council and to bring a proposal for a revised membership.

Synod Meetings in 2019

38 Synod Meetings in 2019 will be held on Saturday 16 March and Saturday 12 October. Synod members will be notified of the venues for these meetings as soon as they are confirmed.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Convener of Resources Committee and

Chair of Trust Management Committee: Jean Mullineux

Synod Treasurer: Mike Hart

Company Secretary: Brian Jolly

Membership and Responsibilities of Committees

1 The Resources Committee and continues to act on behalf of the Synod on matters of property and finance.

2 The Trust Company is the Trustee of each of the buildings of local churches in the Synod including the Church, Church buildings and Manses. The Elders meeting of the local Church acts under delegated authority of the Trust.

3 The Elders meeting of each local church is the Trustees of the funds and assets of the local Church but not its buildings.

4 The Trust Company is the Trustee for all the Synod's assets.

5 The Trust Management Committee acts on behalf of the Trust Company.

6 The membership of the Synod Resources Committee and the Trust Management Committee is the same and their meetings are held concurrently.

Synod Treasurer

7 At the beginning of May we welcomed Mr Mike Hart as the Synod Treasurer. Mike can be contacted through the Synod Office Telephone 0161 789 5583 or by email at treasurer@nwsynod.org.uk

Legal, Trust and Property Officer

8 In July we welcomed Mrs Adelle Hartwell into post as the new Legal Trust and Property Officer. Adelle can be contacted through the Synod Office Telephone 0161 789 5583 or by email at trust@nwsynod.org.uk

Finance matters

Staffing

9 Tony Rutherford, the Synod's Finance Officer since 1997, retired at the end of July. We give thanks for Tony's long service to the churches of the Synod and wish him well in his retirement.

10 We are pleased to report the appointment of a new Synod Finance Officer. Mr David Wyke will take up this role in November 2018.

11 We are grateful to Helen Hogg, the Finance Officer for Northern Synod, for covering the day to day aspects of the role on a part time basis until David Wyke joins us, and to Northern Synod, for their help in this interim period.

Annual Report and Accounts 2017 (Last Year)

12 Appendix 1 to this report (page 24 onwards) is the summary of the Annual Report and Accounts for the United Reformed Church (North Western Province) Trust Ltd for 2017. These were agreed by the Trust Management Committee at its Annual General Meeting in July. The Trust's accounts include the income and expenditure relating to the work of the Synod.

13 The audited and published accounts of the Trust have to be presented in the format required by the Charity Commission, by relevant legislation, and in accordance with current financial reporting standards applicable to charities. Members of Synod may be relieved to be reminded that the legal responsibility for the Trust accounts` resides with the Trust Management Committee.

14 The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on page 25 shows the income and expenditure for the year and a comparison to 2016. This shows that Synod's operating costs for the year were £952,000 with total income of £841,700. It is important to recognise that a significant proportion of the income in the year came from one-off items such as the sales of closed church buildings and manses. These cannot be assumed in the planning for future years. The Balance Sheet on the following page, shows that the Trust had reserves of almost £7.6m at the end of the year. One of the key issues in future financial planning will be the need to strike a balance between maintain those reserves to provide an income stream from investments to support our work; and using those reserves directly to invest in developing the mission and ministry of the

United Reformed Church in the province; as was agreed previously for the Missional Discipleship team.

Resolution 5: Synod notes the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2017

Forecast Income and Expenditure for 2018 (This Year)

15 Appendix 2 to this report shows the Management Accounts for the Synod and Trust for the first 6 months of the current financial year. These show small variances overall on both Income and Expenditure from the agreed budget. The most significant variation in operating expenses being on salaries reflecting particularly the vacancy in the first part of the year for the Trust, Legal and Property Officer. On page 28 the Manse Fund income reflects the sale of a redundant manse earlier in the year.

16 Overall the figures show a reduction in reserves of £179,000 in the first part of the year, roughly half of the budgeted figure.

Resolution 6: Synod notes the Management Accounts for the first six months of 2018

Budget for 2019 (Next Year) and beyond

17 Work is underway through the Synod Resources Committee to develop the Synod Budget for 2019. The overall strategy reflects the decisions previously taken by Synod to draw on reserves to support investment in the Mission and Ministry of local churches. An initial budget for the next three years is included in Appendix 3. This is based on a simple continuation of current plans and priorities. At this stage no assumptions have been made about proceeds from property sales beyond those already known to Synod. These have had a significant effect on the financial figures in recent years.

18 My predecessor's report to Synod 12 months ago, articulated this approach and I would support his assertion that whilst this represents a risk, it is a risk that is worth taking if we are to be able to deliver our plans and priorities for mission in local churches. As the appendix illustrates based on these plans, the overall reserves would have reduced by about a quarter by the end of 2021 to about £5.8m.

19 The detailed plans will be subject to careful scrutiny by the Synod Resources Committee over the next couple of months before being finalised.

Resolution 7: Synod receives the draft budgets for the period 2019 to 2021

Mission and Ministry Fund 2019

20 My thanks to local Church Treasurers who responded to the request over the summer for information to help in the calculation of M&M contributions for 2019. I am hoping to provide the details of the calculations to individual churches in the next month.

21 The overall contribution will be based on the approach agreed by the Synod Meeting in October 2017:

“Synod agrees that the future targets for the total annual amount to be raised by this Synod for the Ministry and Mission Fund should be calculated as follows:

For 2019 and beyond, the annual target should be calculated as the target for the previous year adjusted by the percentage change in membership numbers plus 3%.”

22 Clearly within this overall approach the amounts for each local church will increase or decrease dependent on their own situation and particularly any changes in their membership numbers or capital balances.

Financial Arrangements for Missional Partnerships

23 Initial discussions have taken place with the Synod Executive Committee and Synod Resources Committee about the best approach to meet Plan for Partnership costs (Minister’s Expenses, Housing Costs etc.), which are currently paid directly by local churches or pastorates, when Missional Partnerships are formed.

24 The arrangements need to be equitable and consistent across the Synod and to be simple to administer, both in terms of collecting the contributions from local churches and meeting the shared costs. These will be subject to consultation with local churches over the next few months, but the initial discussions have suggested an approach that could include the following features:

- That the contributions from local churches are calculated on a similar basis to the current M&M calculation and collected as part of the M&M contribution

- That Minister's expenses and other Plan for Partnership costs (including Council Tax, Water Rates) are paid by Synod and met from the additional contributions from local churches
- That funding for other shared costs, e.g. partnership events, etc. is met locally and that one church within each partnership is asked to act as the banker to the partnership (i.e. no separate bank account is set-up for each partnership)

25 As Manses would all be provided through the Synod Manse Scheme, this provision and associated maintenance costs would be funded from the Manse Scheme.

26 This approach would ensure consistency across and within partnerships and minimise the administrative burden on local churches.

Resolution 8: Synod notes the developing approach to the financial arrangements for Missional Partnerships and that a consultation will be undertaken with local churches before the next Synod Meeting

Synod Manse Scheme

27 Work has progressed in implementing the decision of the last Synod Meeting to create the Synod Manse Scheme.

28 We are grateful that by the deadline of the 30th September 2018, almost all of the churches which hold manses (or shares in manses) have agreed to transfer their manses to the scheme. A number of churches with Manse Funds have also agreed to transfer these into the scheme.

29 Discussions to date have highlighted a number of cases where there are different understandings between local churches and the Synod's records about the existence of Manse Funds. Further work will be undertaken over the next few months to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the position, and to encourage remaining churches to transfer their Manse Fund to support the Synod Manse Scheme.

30 The resolutions passed by Synod in March 2018 agreed that:
"These proposals will only be implemented if they are affordable by the Synod. That requires that all or almost all of the "manses" not being used to house ministers or church related community workers are transferred into the Synod Manse Scheme and sold. This affordability will be decided by the Trust Management Committee."

31 The Trust Management Committee has begun to assess the affordability of the scheme, and as part of that process has commissioned valuations of all the properties in accordance with the obligation placed on charity trustees to demonstrate best value in the event of any disposal. It is likely, therefore, to be early 2019 before it is able to make a final decision on affordability and to confirm the implementation of the scheme agreed by Synod in March 2018.

32 The Trust Management Committee is mindful that almost all local churches with manse properties have agreed to join the scheme but are continuing to incur costs until the new scheme can be implemented. The Management Committee is committed to working with local churches to expedite the disposal of any redundant manses. However, until the manse is sold or the new scheme is implemented, local churches remain responsible for all their obligations for the management and maintenance of the local manse.

33 The 35% grant for local churches provided for in the resolutions agreed by the last Synod Meeting will only become available once the assessment of viability has

been completed, and the scheme is fully operational. The funds will initially be invested by Synod and will be available to churches to draw down, consistent with existing Synod policies regarding the need for prior agreement for significant items of expenditure.

Resolution 9: Synod offers thanks for local churches which have already shown their support for the Synod Manse Scheme.

Resolution 10: Synod notes that the Trust Management Committee has commenced work to assess the viability of the Synod Manse Scheme in line with the resolutions passed by the Synod Meeting in March 2018, and to progress the valuation of all the manses held by local churches.

Appendix 1

Company Number: 1571090

Charity Number: 511689

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE) TRUST
LIMITED**

Incorporating the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2017

The United Reformed Church (North Western Province) Trust Limited

Company No. 1571090

Charity No. 511689

Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ended 31st December 2017

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations:	2.1.1	116,830	80	270		117,180	147,747
Investments:							
Investment income	2.1.4	88,978		1,434	9,037	99,449	124,479
Bank and deposit interest	2.1.4	5,486	(3,171)	1,745	675	4,735	4,101
Incoming resources from charitable activities:							
Charitable activities	2.1.2	3,532	160			3,692	9,725
Other operating incoming resources:							
Rent and loan interest	2.1.3		14,838	1,932		16,770	14,280
Total Operating Income		214,826	11,907	5,381	9,712	241,826	300,332
Other incoming resources:							
Cash & Investments Transferred from Closed Churches	2.1.5	12,089				12,089	5,945
Transfers from Local Churches to Manse Fund	2.1.5		282,720			282,720	259,203
Properties Transferred from Closed Churches	15	145,342				145,342	
Transfers from External Funds	2.1.5			133,011		133,011	
Profit/(Loss) on Disposal of Properties	4	31,547	(4,809)			26,738	
Other Income	2.1.5	10				10	180
Total Income:		403,814	289,818	138,392	9,712	841,736	565,660
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising Funds:	2.2.1	9,587		132	785	10,504	19,056
Charitable Activities:	2.2.2						
Grants & Donations		125,815	1,313	73,290		200,418	126,038
Training		(41)	102,576			102,535	111,082
Special Category Ministers		47,389				47,389	47,121
Office Salaries - Charitable Activities		65,718		11,409		77,127	85,181
Property Costs		16,705	126,679	4,956		148,340	51,854
Mission		166,566				166,566	13,345
Area Support		5,303				5,303	6,447
Synod Events		5,093				5,093	(1)
Other Charitable Expenditure		12,637	58	3,451		16,146	5,069
Governance costs	2.2.3	171,390	56	1,253		172,699	144,486
Total Operating Resources Expended		626,162	230,682	94,491	785	952,120	609,678
Net Income/(Expenditure) on Operating Account		(411,336)	(218,775)	(89,110)	8,927	(710,294)	(309,346)
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Transfers		(222,348)	59,136	43,901	8,927	(110,384)	(44,018)
Net Transfers between Funds		(89,141)	41,970	56,101	(8,930)	0	
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(311,489)	101,106	100,002	(3)	(110,384)	(44,018)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):							
Investments - Realised	12	48,957				48,957	18,855
Investments - Unrealised	12	45,555		1,452	10,357	57,364	209,888
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Property Revaluation	11		114,312			114,312	107,843
Net movement in funds		(216,977)	215,418	101,454	10,354	110,249	292,568
Total Funds Brought Forward 1st January 2017		5,538,858	1,185,992	354,627	408,176	7,487,653	7,195,085
Total Funds Carried Forward 31st December 2017		5,321,881	1,401,410	456,081	418,530	7,597,902	7,487,653

The United Reformed Church (North Western Province) Trust Limited

Company No. 1571090

Charity No. 511689

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2017

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
Fixed Assets:							
Tangible Assets	11	7,828	3,117,222			3,125,050	3,401,301
Investments	12	3,291,865		55,422	364,155	3,711,442	3,682,580
Programme Related Investments	13	(1)		62,958		62,957	111,562
		<u>3,299,692</u>	<u>3,117,222</u>	<u>118,380</u>	<u>364,155</u>	<u>6,899,449</u>	<u>7,195,443</u>
Current Assets:							
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	14	49,412	239,374	959		289,745	27,450
Properties for disposal	15	295,342				295,342	
Cash and Short Term Deposits		2,177,461	(1,947,505)	382,174	54,375	666,505	681,216
		<u>2,522,215</u>	<u>(1,708,131)</u>	<u>383,133</u>	<u>54,375</u>	<u>1,251,592</u>	<u>708,666</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(500,026)	(7,681)	(45,432)		(553,139)	(416,454)
Net Current Assets		<u>2,022,189</u>	<u>(1,715,812)</u>	<u>337,701</u>	<u>54,375</u>	<u>698,453</u>	<u>292,212</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>5,321,881</u>	<u>1,401,410</u>	<u>456,081</u>	<u>418,530</u>	<u>7,597,902</u>	<u>7,487,655</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year						0	
Total Assets		<u>5,321,881</u>	<u>1,401,410</u>	<u>456,081</u>	<u>418,530</u>	<u>7,597,902</u>	<u>7,487,655</u>
Funds:							
Unrestricted Income Funds:							
General	18	5,321,881				5,321,881	5,538,858
Designated	18		1,401,410			1,401,410	1,185,992
Total		<u>5,321,881</u>	<u>1,401,410</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,723,291</u>	<u>6,724,850</u>
Restricted Income Funds	18			456,081		456,081	354,627
Endowment Funds	18				418,530	418,530	408,178
Total Funds		<u>5,321,881</u>	<u>1,401,410</u>	<u>456,081</u>	<u>418,530</u>	<u>7,597,902</u>	<u>7,487,655</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trust Management Committee on 19th July 2018 and signed on its behalf by

Mr M T Hart
Synod Treasurer

Mrs J C Mullineux
Chair

The United Reformed Church (North Western Province) Trust Limited

Company No. 1571090

Charity No. 511689

Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended 31st December 2017

	Notes	2017	2016
Cash flow from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) in operating activities	A	<u>(524,956)</u>	<u>(135,466)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income and rents		119,022	139,581
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		268,490	87
Purchase of fixed assets		(5,261)	(194,161)
Purchase of investments		(30,344)	
Proceeds from sale of investments		107,794	50,000
Repayment of programme related loans		50,544	19,072
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>510,245</u>	<u>14,579</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(14,711)	(120,887)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	B	681,216	802,103
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	B	<u>666,505</u>	<u>681,216</u>
Notes to the statement of cash flows:			
(A) Reconciliation of net income/expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)			
		110,249	292,568
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges		4,072	3,075
(Gains)/Losses on investments		(106,321)	(228,743)
Investment income and rents		(119,022)	(139,581)
Loan interest received		(1,932)	(3,279)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets		(26,738)	
Fixed assets reclassified as current assets		150,000	
Unrealised loss/(gain) on property revaluation		(114,312)	(107,843)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(262,295)	(13,247)
(Increase)/decrease in other current assets		(295,342)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		136,685	61,584
Net cash provided by/(used in) by operating activities		<u>(524,956)</u>	<u>(135,466)</u>
(B) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>666,505</u>	<u>681,216</u>

Appendix 2

URC North Western Synod

Management Accounts for the 6 Months to 30th June 2018**Summary of Operating Income & Expenditure**

	Actual £	Budget £	Variance £	%
Income:				
Investment income/interest	52,946	49,500	3,446	7.0%
Loan interest	468	445	23	5.2%
Rental income	9,228	6,150	3,078	50.0%
Donations & legacies	355	150	205	136.7%
Grants received		(250)	250	(100.0%)
Synod stakes	49,230	49,000	230	0.5%
Participants' contributions to training courses			0	0.0%
Inter-Synod resource sharing			0	0.0%
Sundry income	206	850	(644)	(75.8%)
Total Income	112,433	105,845	6,588	6.2%
Expenditure:				
Administration:				
Salaries	68,605	95,243	(26,638)	(28.0%)
Synod Office	26,214	23,232	2,982	12.8%
Area Support	2,078	2,850	(772)	(27.1%)
Travel and subsistence expenses	10,228	8,218	2,010	24.5%
Professional Charges:				
Audit	3,593	3,600	(7)	(0.2%)
Legal	3,753	3,515	238	6.8%
Investment management fees	3,567	3,998	(431)	(10.8%)
Other	780		780	0.0%
Miscellaneous	2,248	1,250	998	79.8%
Insurances	957	2,345	(1,388)	(59.2%)
Total Administration:	122,023	144,251	(22,228)	(15.4%)
External Grants:				
Resource Sharing Contributions			0	0.0%
University chaplaincy	25,000	25,000	0	0.0%
Ecumenical Subscriptions	3,877	3,250	627	19.3%
Welfare	2,510	1,250	1,260	100.8%
Other	1,300	625	675	108.0%
Training:				
General	29	510	(481)	(94.3%)
Ministers & CRCW	18,269	19,291	(1,022)	(5.3%)
Elders & Members		1,750	(1,750)	(100.0%)
Children & Young People	30,821	31,316	(495)	(1.6%)
Special Category Ministers:				
Cumbria	11,494	11,215	279	2.5%
Chorlton	5,347	4,528	819	18.1%
Salford	2,472	2,273	199	8.8%
Oldham	4,019	3,875	144	3.7%
Property:				
Buildings	6,070	2,778	3,292	118.5%
Graveyards	6,562	4,250	2,312	54.4%
Manse fund	14,869	20,644	(5,775)	(28.0%)
Mission	110,797	105,465	5,332	5.1%
Sundry designated/restricted funds			0	0.0%
Total Operating Expenditure	365,459	382,271	(16,812)	(4.4%)
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit):	(253,026)	(276,426)	23,400	(8.5%)

URC North Western Synod

Management Accounts for the 6 Months to 30th June 2018
Summary of Income & Expenditure

	Actual £	Budget £	Variance £	%
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit):	(253,026)	(276,426)	23,400	(8.5%)
Receipts from closed churches				0.0%
Cash/investments transferred to manse fund	248,871	124,436	124,435	100.0%
Funds transferred from external trusts				0.0%
Property transferred from closed churches				0.0%
Less: Costs incurred for closed churches	(3,577)	(29,500)	25,923	(87.9%)
Less: Property grants to churches		(28,750)	28,750	(100.0%)
Less: Mission grants to churches	(100)	(25,000)	24,900	(99.6%)
Less: Contribution to M&M fund	(45,000)	(55,000)	10,000	(18.2%)
Less: Contribution to Lay Pension Fund	(60,180)	(60,200)	20	(0.0%)
Net Income/(Expenditure):	(113,012)	(350,440)	237,428	(67.8%)
Gains & Losses on Investments:				
Investments - realised				
Investments - unrealised	(66,894)		(66,894)	
Investments - from closed churches at valuation				
Disposal of fixed assets - realised		135,000	(135,000)	
Property revaluation - unrealised		(135,000)	135,000	
Total Gains & Losses on Investments	(66,894)	0	(66,894)	
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Funds	(179,906)	(350,440)	170,534	
Balance at 31st December 2017	7,597,906	7,597,906		
Balance at 30th June 2018	7,418,000	7,247,466	170,534	

Appendix 3

URC North Western Synod

Budget: Income & Expenditure Analysis

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
		Actual	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget
Income/ Exp	Management Accounts Category						
Expenditure	OP08 Grants: Other	500					
	OP12 Other income	(1,600)	(2,337)		(4,000)		(2,400)
	OP14 Salaries & honoraria	158,128	163,029	159,260	184,935	188,632	192,406
	OP15 Synod office	42,164	48,527	46,693	48,335	48,518	48,703
	OP16 Area Support	5,389	4,602	4,128	4,100	4,170	4,250
	OP18 Expenses: Synod committees	2,152	3,944	5,323	5,280	5,280	5,280
	OP19 Expenses: Synod officers	8,750	6,100	6,600	4,100	4,100	4,100
	OP20 Expenses: Synod meetings	1,776	2,031	3,259	3,290	3,320	3,350
	OP22 Professional: Audit	7,380	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,500	7,500
	OP23 Professional: Legal	8,130	21,059	7,503	7,500	7,500	7,500
	OP24 Professional: Investment management	15,911	8,255	6,736	7,126	7,126	7,126
	OP25 Professional: Other	1,149	2,988	1,560	1,570	1,580	1,590
	OP26 Miscellaneous	2,952	2,456	4,242	4,250	4,250	4,250
	OP27 Insurances	8,006	6,708	3,400	4,986	5,085	5,187
	OP31 External Grants: University chaplaincy	13,500	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	OP32 External Grants: Ecumenical subscriptions	6,179	3,888	7,754	7,950	8,150	8,350
	OP33 External Grants: Welfare	5,447	21,106	4,460	1,750	1,750	1,750
	OP34 External Grants: Other	1,250	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
	OP36 Training: General	1,004	440				
	OP37 Training: Ministers & CRCW	28,431	42,582	39,005	43,767	44,234	44,711
	OP38 Training: Elders & Members	6,773	1,667	5,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	OP39 Training: Children & Young People	61,728	58,617	61,827	62,987	64,186	65,408
	OP41 SCM: Cumbria	21,015	22,183	23,014	10,657	10,760	10,865
	OP42 SCM: Chorlton	8,467	9,647	10,696	10,874	11,054	11,237
	OP43 SCM: Salford	4,672	4,619	5,018	5,161	5,231	5,302
	OP44 SCM: Oldham	5,812	5,265	7,672	8,852	8,852	8,852
	OP46 Property: Buildings	4,301	7,687	4,243	3,400	3,400	3,400
	OP47 Property: Graveyards	5,867	11,400	9,638	6,250	6,350	6,550
	OP49 Mission	23,192	156,651	218,943	214,859	213,663	221,328
	XX28 Net funds received from closed churches	4,560	25,871	71,788	13,000	13,000	13,000
	XX30 Grants to churches	95,728	127,381	105,443	105,500	105,500	105,500
	XX32 M&M Support		20,264	90,000			
	XX38 Contributions to pension funds			60,180			
	OP50 Sundry designated/restricted funds		1,188				
Expenditure Total		558,713	822,518	1,008,085	826,179	835,691	847,595
Income	OP01 Investment income	(135,436)	(106,479)	(110,472)	(111,142)	(111,142)	(111,142)
	OP02 Loan interest	(3,275)	(1,931)	(936)	(936)	(936)	(936)
	OP03 Rental income	(718)					
	OP04 Donations and legacies	(51,082)	(6,140)	(429)	(100)	(100)	(100)
	OP06 Grants: Training	(1,025)	(80)	(60)			
	OP07 Grants: University chaplaincy		(12,500)	(12,500)	(12,500)	(12,500)	(12,500)
	OP09 Synod stakes	(95,640)	(98,460)	(98,460)	(98,000)	(98,000)	(98,000)
	OP10 Participants' contributions to training courses	(7,704)	(160)				
	OP12 Other income	(581)	(1,203)	(572)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
	OP39 Training: Children & Young People						
	XX28 Net funds received from closed churches	(5,945)	(12,090)	(80,000)			
	XX34 Investments - realised	(18,855)	(48,956)				
	XX36 Disposal of fixed assets - realised		(31,547)				
	XX31 Property transferred from closed churches		(145,342)	(456,000)	(225,000)		
	XX39 Transfers from external trusts		(133,011)				
Income Total		(320,261)	(597,899)	(759,429)	(448,678)	(223,678)	(223,678)
Grand Total		238,452	224,619	248,656	377,501	612,013	623,917

Synod Property Consultant

Mike Aspinall

Self –Assessment Questionnaires

34 Thank you to all churches who have submitted the SAQ's for 2018. We have had a better response this year, but still not achieved 100%.

The SAQ's for 2019 are now available - could you please complete and return to Synod Office by end of March 2019.

Quinquennial surveys

35 The oversight of church buildings is important to ensure the fabric of the building is maintained. We have had a large number of churches requiring Quinquennial Surveys this year and the majority have been completed although there are still some outstanding.

36 Thank you to those who have completed, please ensure you look carefully at the recommendation of the report and action accordingly.

37 For those who have not yet organised their survey (if due) please do so without further delay.

38 If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Synod Policy Document

39 Work will continue on the Synod Policy Document to ensure it is updated as new legislation and new Synod Policies are formulated.

40 Every Church Secretary should have a copy of this document. It is available online at <http://www.nwsynod.org.uk/resources/policy-documents>

General

41 If you have any queries on matters relating to church properties, grounds and graveyards, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may not have all the answers immediately but I will endeavour to find an answer whatever the query.

MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Convener: Martyn Coe

Members of Ministries Committee:

1 Rev Martyn Coe (Convener); Rev Dr Tim Mountain (Learning & Development Officer); Rev Dr Lesley Husselbee (Candidate Secretary), Mr Malcolm Breeze (CRCW), Rev Brian Acty (Ministries Advocate), Rev Dr Rosalind Selby (Representative of Northern College); Rev Alistair Smeaton, Rev Irene John (co-opted Members); Rev Andrew Mills, Rev Brian Jolly, Mrs Jean Mullinuex, Mr Mike Hart (ex-officio)

2 Having started its work in the spring, the committee first of all checked that actions required from previous committees has been completed.

3 The synod strategy, rightly, requires Missional Partnerships and local churches to grow local leadership. Working with the Synod Pastoral Committee we have been exploring ways of helping those who offer their time and skills to the church to receive the support they need.

4 Lay preachers are the backbone of our regular public worship and we thank God for all who lead in this way. Funds are available from the National Church to support ongoing learning by Nationally Accredited Preachers. We encourage all who are eligible to find ways of using the £200 which is available to them each year. We are working towards a similar scheme to support Synod recognised preachers. We are looking to hold some gatherings for preachers and worship leaders for mutual support and learning together.

5 With the northerly synods we are looking at other ways' leadership is developed and encouraged and hope to have some new schemes in place shortly. As Missional Partnerships develop local church leaders and local pastors will be developing in, at least some, partnerships.

6 Stepwise is on the horizon and with others in the synod we will be hoping local churches and individuals engage with this scheme, we will also be working with the national secretary for education and learning to make sure that Stepwise provides a robust foundation yet remains flexible enough to recognise prior learning and support the work of the Missional Partnerships.

7 The committee is supported by Lesley Husselbee and Tim Mountain in supporting and visiting our Ministerial Students. The denomination remains in need of Ministers of Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers, and we encourage churches to explore if there are any in their midst who may be hearing a call to ministry, both stipendiary and self-supporting.

SAFEGUARDING REFERENCE GROUP

Synod Safeguarding Advisor: Julie Rafferty

Membership

1 Rev Andrew Mills (Co-ordinator), Jean Bennett, Lorna Griffiths, Julie Rafferty (Synod Safeguarding Advisor), Jacky Embrey (Mersey Synod Moderator), Leo Roberts CYDO, Steven Mitchell (CYDO Mersey), Rev Tim Presswood (Baptist representative) Ros Ellison (minute taker)

Remit of the committee

2 The committee meets on a quarterly basis and provides reassurance to the North Western Synod that safeguarding matters are dealt with in accordance with URC Safeguarding Policy.

3 The committee acts as a confidential reference and supportive body to the safeguarding teams for the North Western and Mersey Synods.

4 The committee makes recommendations in relation to safeguarding policies & procedure and training.

Safeguarding Update

5 The Synod accepts that churches are generally recognising their responsibilities to safeguarding in respect of children and adults at risk, but appreciate they need greater support to ensure that their churches are fully compliant.

6 *Safeguarding returns* - 52% of the Safeguarding Returns Forms were returned to the synod office this year which is an improvement on last year's response. The annual returns will be sent out within the next month, so we encourage churches to complete them and return to the Synod Safeguarding Advisor as soon as possible. This form is still a good source of information to assist with managing safeguarding needs within the Synod.

7 *Safer Recruitment* - Although churches are routinely completing online DBS checks for paid workers and volunteers, the process of safer recruitment also includes job descriptions, references and interviews, which needs to become more routine around the synod. The Synod Safeguarding Advisor is going to assist churches through training and visits to ensure the correct process is put in place.

- 8 *Training* - The basic awareness and Intermediate training programmes have now been developed.
- 9 **Basic Awareness** training is aimed at all volunteers with little or no responsibility within churches. The synod is seeking the help of suitably qualified volunteers to assist in delivering the training within churches in their own area.
- 10 **Intermediate** training is aimed at Ministers, Church Safeguarding Coordinators, Accredited/ Synod recognised Lay preachers and people with some leadership responsibility.
- 11 Intermediate training will start before the end of the year and all training dates and locations will be available on the website and circulated through the synod newsletters
- 12 Training delivery will be organised in Missional Partnerships. This will maximise attendance, avoid excessive travelling for people and encourage networking amongst churches.
- 13 *Safeguarding concerns/ cases* - Within the last four months, Julie has dealt with several safeguarding queries and concerns from churches within the Synod, two of which have related to specific safeguarding cases which has necessitated referral to other agencies.
- 14 Churches are encouraged to contact Julie Rafferty with safeguarding queries and concerns at safeguarding@nwsynod.org.uk or on 07964-981262

CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Candidates Secretary: Lesley Husselbee

Candidates for Ministry

- 1 Two candidates have been commended by NW Synod to attend the November 2018 Assessment Conference.
- 2 Four others are candidating for Ministry.

NW Synod Students in Training for Ministry

a. Northern College Manchester

- i. **Kate Hunt** SM (St Anne's) year 1
- ii. **Carol Sutcliffe** NSM (Heald Green)
- iii. **Jonathan Hill** SM Year 2 (Chorlton Central).
- iv. **Katherine (Katy) Ollerenshaw** CRCW Year 2 (Edgeley, Stockport)
- v. **Alma Fritchley** NSM Year 2 of 2 (Chorlton Central)
- vi. **Lee Battle** SM Year 3 (Wilbraham St Ninian's)
- vii. **Sarah Fitton** SM Year 3 (Bamford Chapel)
- viii. **Cath Atkinson** SM Year 4 (Burnley)

b. Westminster College, Cambridge*

- i. **Alex Clare-Young** SM Year 3 (St Peter's)

NW Students who have been called or ordained

Andrew Mudharara (Darwen) Northern College, to a pastorate in East Midlands Synod

Alison Smith SM Year 5 (Cheadle Hulme) Westminster College, to a pastorate in Southern Synod

Jenny Travis (Stockport) Northern College, to a pastorate in Mersey Synod

Thursdays in Black

#ThursdaysInBlack is a World Council of Churches campaign against rape and gender based violence.

'Thursdays in Black' was launched by churches in Zambia and in the Caribbean a number of years ago and supported by the World Council of Churches. It was relaunched at the most recent WCC Central Committee meeting with people belonging to member denominations encouraged to support it.

Thursdays in Black is a simple concept whereby individuals commit to wearing black, mostly black, something black, or at least the campaign badge on Thursdays to raise awareness of gender based and sexual violence. The idea is that you wear black and the badge as a means of initiating conversations with other people about the issue. A further step is to post about the campaign on social media with the #ThursdaysInBlack hashtag.

More information is available about the campaign on the [WCC website](#) and also a further article explaining how wearing black and participating the campaign [makes a difference](#).

It is important that this isn't seen and understood as being solely a women's issue but rather as one that has the potential to affect all people. In the UK it is estimated that 1 in 4 women, and between 1 in 6 and 1 in 8 men will experienced domestic abuse in some form during their lifetime.

The churches of the North Western Synod are invited to consider if they would consider supporting this campaign. The cost to participate is minimal. It would be necessary to get some of the badges for people to wear and leaflets produced that explain the basis of the campaign. The hardest part of the campaign is remembering to wear something black on a Thursday! I have found that people do ask me about the campaign when wearing black and the badge, and that usually they are interested and pleased to hear that the eradication of gender based violence is an issue that the Church and Christian people are interested in. I have also found that individuals are interested in supporting the campaign themselves. Thursdays in Black is also a practical way of supporting and furthering work done by a number of agencies around the Synod and beyond around awareness of domestic abuse in the Christian community. Particular examples include the 'Press Red' campaign in Greater Manchester and the research sponsored by Churches Together in Cumbria around the incidence of domestic abuse within church communities.

Links to the WCC website explaining more about the campaign are below.

Sarah Moore

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/thursdays-in-black>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/what-difference-does-dressing-in-black-make>

Synod Pastoral Committee Report

Committee members:

1 Rev Dr Marion Tugwood (Convener), Rev Sarah Moore (Cumbria Area), Rev Nigel Adkinson (Central Area), Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe (South Area), Mr Michael Pickles (Lancashire Area), Rev Dr Don Firth (Committee Member)

2 The Committee has focussed on the creation of Missional Partnerships across the Synod, offering further roadshows to discuss how these will be structured and the process for the calling of ministry. We continue to seek people to convene Missional Partnerships, and are working on appropriate training for these conveners. In every Area the process of developing Steering Groups is taking place. We trust that people will feel called to the New Opportunities for Ministry that are now available within the Synod.

3 The Committee has liaised with both the Mission and Discipleship Committee and the Ministries Committee as there are shared areas of interest with these Synod Committees. We are currently reflecting on how LEPs relate to Missional Partnerships especially as partner denominations are also wrestling with the issue of deployment of Stipendiary ministry. We have worked closely with the Mission Mentors as they enthuse and encourage congregations in Missional Discipleship.

4 The convener, along with the Synod Clerk has visited serving ministers in the South of the Synod to discuss the effects of Missional Partnerships on their current Pastorates and to discern with them the ways in which they wish their ministry to continue. A roadshow has been delivered to the Cumbria area taking into account the ways in which Missional partnerships will overlap and complement the ecumenical Mission Communities that have already been established in that part of the Synod.

5 Members of the committee have been involved in offering support to particular churches who have requested this. The convener has visited a number of elders and church meetings to advise on the Synod Manse scheme.

6 As convener, I am grateful to the Area Committee Conveners, and their committee members, for their local knowledge and care of congregations.

CUMBRIA AREA PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Convener: Sarah Moore

Personnel

1 Rev Ron Wilson retired from over 20 years' service in South West Cumbria United Area at the end of April. Ron and his wife Denise have retired within the Cumbria Area.

2 Rev Zena Smith, Methodist Probationer minister, began work in South West Cumbria United Area on 1st September 2018. Zena has pastoral responsibility for Dalton Community Church along with some Methodist congregations in SWCUa and is resident in the URC manse in Dalton in Furness.

3 Rev Margaret Mumford, a retired minister living in Grange over Sands, celebrated 40 years of ordained ministry in the summer. A card was sent offering the greetings of the Area.

God for All

4 The God for All Implementation Group has begun to meet. Nick Andrews is representing the United Reformed Church on this group for the time being. This group is chaired by the Rt Rev Robert Freeman pending the arrival of the Rev Dr Emma Ineson as new Bishop of Penrith.

5 Cumbria Christian Learning (CCL) is currently undergoing a period of substantial change and transition particularly noted by the resignations of two significant members of staff. The CCL and Reach teams are expected to merge and along with the implementation group a new 'God for All Support Team' is being developed with the brief of practically implementing the ecumenical strategy. A series of worships for Mission Communities entitled 'Moving Forward' has been developed by Reach and CCL staff with the aim of developing local relationships for mission.

6 A county Fresh Expressions Conference is taking place at Stoney Beck Inn near Penrith on Saturday 10th November starting at with refreshments available from 9.18 for a 10am start. Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/book/event?eid=2808&>

7 A further roadshow opportunity for Mission Communities is planned to take place in the spring of 2019. Watch out for further details.

Missional Partnership

8 It has been agreed by the Synod Pastoral Committee and Area Pastoral Committee that the Cumbria Area will form a single Missional Partnership in order to enable local congregations to concentrate forming ecumenical Mission Communities.

Churches

- Dalton - progress is now being made regarding the completion of the Sharing Agreement with the Methodist Church
- Trinity Church Centre, Barrow in Furness - the building is owned by the Methodist Church. The congregation is considering selling part of their site. Grant funding is being sought to extend the Community Worker's contract for a further two years.
- Kendal - a service of thanksgiving for the chapel building and hall behind took place on Sunday 12th August. Progress is moving forward in respect of the redevelopment of the front portion of the site and the congregation will be worshipping temporarily at Abbot Hall Community Centre while the work is taking place
- Cornerstone Community Church, Sedbergh - the URC Church Meeting has resolved to close and dissolve the LEP constitution with the Methodists. Cornerstone will continue as a congregation of the Sedbergh Methodist Circuit and the Western Dales Mission Community. A service of thanksgiving is planned to take place on Saturday 6th October. It is always a sadness when a congregation closes but this decision marks the end of a Congregational/URC presence in the western dales that has existed for well over a century.

•

Churches Together in Cumbria

9 A comprehensive review of the work of Churches Together in Cumbria took place between the autumn of 2017 and spring of 2018 facilitated by the Rev Dr David Cornick and Ms Jenny Bond from Churches Together in England. The report was very supportive of the ecumenical work taking place in the county; a summary of the report and link to the report can be found on the CTE website at <https://tinyurl.com/y8em3cfy>

10 CTiC has appointed Shelagh Goldie to the post of Social Responsibility Development Officer and Yvonne Povey to the post of Dementia Project Officer. Shelagh commenced her employment at the beginning of June 2018 and Yvonne at the beginning of September 2018.

11 The Cumbria Churches 3rd annual Dementia Conference will take place on Saturday 17th November 2018 for CTiC's project 'Making Every Church in Cumbria Dementia-Friendly by 2020'. 9.30am-3.30pm at Carver Uniting Church, Windermere

LANCASHIRE AREA PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Convener: Michael Pickles

Area Pastoral Committee

1 Changes in the membership of the Committee since the March Synod, with which this Synod Meeting will be invited to concur:

Mrs Lynne Lonsdale as a co-opted Member, to serve to March 2022;

Mr Ken Snaith, Pastoral Review Co-ordinator, to serve a further term to March 2022;

Mr Danny Wilson as Lay Preaching Commissioner, and to retain a watching brief for property matters, to serve to March 2020;

Miss Margery Pitcher, Area Secretary, to serve a further year to March 2020;

Mr Gordon Bell as Finance Officer, to serve to March 2022.

2 The Area Pastoral Committee currently comprises:

Dr Michael Pickles (Convener), Miss Margery Pitcher (Secretary), Mr Gordon Bell (Finance Officer), Rev Liz Jewitt (Ecumenical Officer), Mr Ken Snaith (Pastoral Review Co-ordinator), Mr Danny Wilson (Lay Preaching Commissioner), Mrs Lynn Lonsdale (Co-opted Member), Rev Michele Jarmany (Co-opted Member), Synod Officers *ex officio*.

3 Rev Pamela Ward has completed 6 ½ years as Finance Officer. We are most grateful for the efficient and meticulous way in which she has carried through her duties, but also for the wider expertise, wisdom, advice and pastoral concern that she was brought to our discussions and the life of the Area. We wish her well in the ministry and witness in which she continues to be involved.

Ministerial and Pastoral

4 We give thanks for the life of ministry of Rev Antony Tomlinson, and especially for his service at Marton and St George's 1976-86 and at Trinity Lancaster 1986-2000.

5 Our congratulations and prayerful support for Derek Estill, Church Secretary at Westbury Gardens and a former Chair of the Lancashire APC, on His installation as Moderator of General Assembly 2018-20 alongside Rev Nigel Uden.

6 Rev Lena Talbot retired in August after 16 years of ministry in Preston and Blackburn. Our good wishes for a more relaxed life.

7 Tom Birch has stood down after many years of local leadership at Fleetwood.

8 During the past six months there have been Pastoral Visits to St Anne's On the-Sea, Alexandra, St George's, Lighthouse Community Church, Darwen Bolton Road, Fairhaven, Leyland, Penwortham. There has been a series of ongoing Synod and Area visits to Christ Church, Morecambe.

Missional Discipleship

9 Daleen ten Cate has now been working as Mission & Discipleship Mentor With the Lancashire Area for just over a year and has developed and led a full programme of events and development sessions: the Discipleship Cycle, Worship styles, Sacraments. She has also visited the churches of the Area at least once, for an event, to share in Elders and Church Meeting, or to lead worship. Many churches have engaged with the weekly worship material following Mark's Gospel and the related resources.

Missional Partnerships

10 There has been some initial groundwork with Lay Preachers and retired Ministers as a starting point for shaping their role within the Missional Partnerships.

11 More churches are in the process of setting up new mission activities, especially around dementia and eco issues and open church, café style, and which could develop into opportunities of sharing within and across the partnerships.

12 Much work continues within the Synod Pastoral Committee and the Mission & Discipleship Committee on the missional underpinning and practical framework of the Partnerships, to be implemented at local level.

13 An event has been arranged in each Missional Partnership, from late September and through October, at which each church is invited to give a presentation on mission activities and vision, and which offers an opportunity for an informal social gathering.

14 Rev Darren Holland has been appointed as Steering Group Convener for The Lancashire West Partnership.

Church Life

15 After practical and prayerful consideration, the fellowships at **St George's, Alexandra** and **Read** decided to close and members have moved to other local churches. Thanksgiving services were held for Alexandra and St George's on 21 July and for Read on 2 September. **Christ Church, Morecambe** has also resolved to close – the final service will be on 14 October. We give thanks for the life and witness of these fellowships and continue to support the members as they now serve in different places.

16 **Marton** had a successful event to mark the opening of their new space And refurbishment.

17 **Blackburn & Darwen** churches were closely involved with the lunchbox project during the school holidays. 25 families in Darwen received boxes.

18 **Barrow School** (Voluntary Controlled) is in the process of appointing a new Headteacher. Much work is being done to explain and establish the Christian, and specifically URC, ethos of the school.

19 **Clitheroe** was host to a Jazz festival.

20 The pre-school at **Darwen Bolton Road** has closed but a child minding service has now taken over the daytime use of the buildings, which offers the church a renewed basis for its mission and outreach.

21 **Trinity Lower Darwen** hosted one of the Gathered Youth Groups in September.

22 **Leyland** is hosting the CORE Skills for Family Ministry course for the Lancashire Area.

23 There has been a change in Methodist ministry at **Christ Church, Longridge** as the Circuit reduces from 7 to 5 ministers. Rev Ray Borg has moved and is succeeded by Rev Jane Wild.

24 The Lay Preachers Fellowship of those based on the Fylde and around Preston continues to meet regularly. A warm welcome to other lay preachers who would wish to join them.

Property matters

25 A number of churches are undertaking significant repair and refurbishment work as part of their good stewardship of their buildings.

26 With manses now placed in the Synod scheme, a review is underway to identify the best siting of houses for present and future ministers.

27 **Chorley** is now looking again at the potential of developing their present site as The Hollinshead Centre.

28 **Forton** formally opened their indoor toilet facilities at Easter, which turned out to be very timely as the building housing the original suffered severe storm damage shortly afterwards.

29 **Ecumenical matters**

The Lighthouse Community Church (Bethel Preesall URC and Knott End Methodist LEP) is meeting and worshipping together and now working on the Sharing Agreement.

30 We pray for the whole life and witness of the Area and the many and varied ministries we exercise, as we seek together to understand how we can best fulfil and practise our calling as today's disciples of Jesus.

CENTRAL AREA PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Convener: Nigel Adkinson

Committee Membership:

1 Revs: Nigel Adkinson (Convener) Mike Aspinall (Property Officer) Richard Bradley, (Ecumenical Officer) Ruth Wollaston, Andrew Mills (Synod Moderator) Marion Tugwood (Convener of Synod Pastoral Committee) Darren Holland (Mission Mentor) Neil Carter (Finance Officer) Alison Dalton, (CRCW) Jed Garside Wendy Smith (Secretary & Lay Preaching Commissioner)

Missional Partnerships

2 The main focus of the work of the committee in the last six months has been to support the formation of the three central area missional partnerships with the help of Rev Darren Holland (Mission Mentor) The formation of Partnership Steering Groups is now the focus for moving plans forward.

3 The partnerships in Central Area are:
Bolton & Salford Partnership
Bury Rochdale and North Manchester Partnership
Tameside and Oldham Partnership

4 All three partnerships await the formation of their respective Steering Groups, however in the meantime they are working on local church profiles that will form an overall partnership profile for prospective ministers to consider in due course.

5 Synod Pastoral Committee agreed that the Bolton and Salford Partnership will be offered the first new ministerial opportunity and with this in mind Christopher Whitehead has been appointed Steering Group Coordinator. He is currently in the process of consulting ministers and churches with a view to an initial meeting of the Steering Group taking place in late October early November.

6 The two other partnerships have met with representatives of each local church and are working on local church profiles.
All churches have been asked to nominate a serving Elder to represent them on their Partnership Steering Group.

7 Steering Group terms of reference and the process for calling stipendiary ministry to the partnerships has been agreed by the Synod Pastoral Committee and will be given to Steering Group Conveners to share with the Steering Group at their formation.

8 We pray for God's blessing and guidance on this continuing journey.

“Building Bridges Project” at Tonge Moor

9 This project is reaching its conclusion following a ten year CRCW ministry, offered initially by Pat Oliver and latterly by Alison Dalton. Synod and Area Pastoral Committees are in discussion with the Building Bridges Steering Group to consider how best to evaluate this significant piece of work, to honour those who have served the community through Christian outreach and to assist the church in possible future areas of mission they may feel able to take forward, as a result of the project’s work

10 We ask God’s blessing upon Alison and her ministry as she begins the process shortly of discerning a further call in her CRCW ministry.

Bolton Town Centre Chaplaincy

11 Area Pastoral Committee agreed that it was appropriate to continue to support this work and in recognition of this have recommended that a further £2,500 be given to this project for the next twelve months.

“Macedonia Mission Project”

12 It has become increasingly evident over the last few months that Macedonia URC at Failsworth is not currently able to meet its governance requirements as a local church due to lack of members. In effect it is unable to convene a Church Meeting or elect an Eldership.

13 To support the work and outreach that continues to take place at Macedonia and to help develop its mission potential, Synod Executive agreed that the church should become a Synod Mission Project. Its governance will revert to the Synod and a budget for mission will be agreed in conjunction with the project.

14 A Management Group will be formed consisting of the Minister, local members of the church fellowship and Synod representatives.

15 Synod Executive on behalf of the Synod has agreed the following will represent Synod on the Management Group: Rev Sheila Coop, Rev John Piper, Wendy Smith and Judith Haughton.

Work of the Area Mission Mentor

16 Rev Darren Holland continues to work across central area churches, helping to focus on missional discipleship as the underlying strategy for the development of missional partnerships. From Sacrament Workshops, to bible study, supporting and helping churches to develop a strategy for mission and working with Elderships and Church Meetings to work on church profiles, Darren would be delighted to hear from you. He will work alongside you to help you discern a way forward for mission. If you have not already done so, please contact him for help and support.

17 Darren has recently been appointed to convene one of the Lancashire Area Missional Partnership Steering Groups.

Ecumenical Matters

18 Rev Richard Bradley continues to link with all LEP's in Central Area and is planning a programme of discussions regarding the development of Missional Partnerships. Richard has been liaising most recently along with Rev Ruth Wollaston and Anglican colleagues regarding matters concerning the future use of the building at Trinity Cheetham Hill.

19 Richard continues to maintain links with Greater Manchester Churches Together and with other Ecumenical Officers across the Synod.

People and Central Area Churches

20 Rev Sheila Coop continues to serve as Interim Moderator at Beulah (Hollinwood) Baptist Church as they seek to call further Baptist ministry there.

Westhoughton URC

21 Concurrence has recently been given to the sale of Westhoughton URC and the matter is now before the Synod Resources Committee to progress the matter further. The church is looking to lease some worship space and meeting space back in a reconfigured building.

Farnworth URC

22 The sale of the building is nearing completion and expected to take place in early October. Jason Bracegirdle of JPS Projects intends to convert the church building for community space, with the option of the church leasing back an area for worship. It is the intention of the church to partner in developing working relationships with the community groups who come to use the building. The church will be working on a plan for mission to respond to this changing situation.

Stand URC

23 Church members voted to proceed towards the sale of the church building at a Church Meeting in May. A local community group has been granted permission by Bury Council to register the church as a Community Asset and put together a business plan to be considered for the possible purchase of the building.

24 Financial limitations and suitability of the building for current church mission have led to the decision to consider selling it.

Elders and church members are considering plans for developing mission in the area.

Ministerial Retirements

25 Rev John Piper retired from full time stipendiary ministry in July. This was a little later than planned due to John's injury that meant he required a period of sick leave, prior to his "formal" retirement. John and Marilyn will continue to reside in the Synod and we wish him a long and healthy retirement, with grateful thanks for all his service within the life of the Synod. John continues to serve the wider URC in his role as Deputy Treasurer of the denomination.

Meeting of Central Area Retired Ministers

26 This continues to be coordinated though the committee and grateful thanks go to Gill Bates for taking on the role of coordinator. The last meeting took place on 5th June at St Andrew & St George in Bolton when there was an opportunity to catch up with developments in the Synod and to share lunch together.

Thank You

27 My thanks go to all members of Central Area Pastoral Committee for their time and prayerful commitment to helping steer this period of transition for central area churches of the Synod.

28 It remains a time of exciting challenge but of uncertainty in how missional partnerships will work and how local church mission will evolve. We pray for all the churches in the Synod as we continue our journey, placing the future in God's hands, knowing he will lead us and encourage us as His people.

SOUTH AREA PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Convener: Kirsty Thorpe

Committee Membership:

1 Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe (Convener); Mr Philip Jones (Secretary); Prof Christopher Whitehead (Reviews Co-ordinator); Mr Eddie Allman (Lay Preaching Commissioner); Rev Paul Frampton (Ecumenical Officer); Rev Alison Termie, Mrs Eula Mesquita (Co-opted Members); Synod officers (Ex-officio)

Membership

2 South Area Pastoral Committee covers 32 churches within a wide range of settings including Cheshire towns, Manchester's rural hinterland, inner city and suburban congregations and one church based at a university chaplaincy. Through our dealings with one another we often discover how much these diverse Christian communities have in common, despite their varied contexts. It is good to identify with one another's experiences and share resources, insight and expertise.

3 Brian Woodhall and Eddie Allman will retire from the committee in March 2019 after serving two terms. We express our thanks for their contribution to the life of the South Area churches. This means we are now looking for people to cover the area finance role and to be the link with lay preachers. Once we have recruited a new area property person and some other new members we look forward to hearing their perspectives on the life of the churches in the area.

Missional Discipleship

4 Dave Fraser organised a successful event in March, bringing together people from across the area to share what they're doing in new styles of worship and service of their communities. The next one will happen in Christ Church, Parrs Wood, on Saturday October 20 from 10am to 1pm. Sessions on leadership skills for local churches and encouraging/enabling worship leaders have also been held and more are planned.

Missional Partnerships

5 Spring roadshows took place, though the March snow affected attendance at them, and a suggested extra session did not transpire. Manchester South missional partnership, with eight churches has been declared as a missional opportunity on the national vacancy list seeking two full time ministers. At the request of Synod Pastoral Committee Dave Fraser has convened the Steering Group and initial meetings have taken place. Work on the pastoral profiles is nearly complete.

6 The forming of the Steering Groups for East Cheshire and Derbyshire Border Missional Partnership, and Greater Manchester South and Cheshire Missional Partnership, will take time between now and early 2019. SAPC has discussed the importance of communication sharing, while this process unfolds at different speeds in different places. Understandably, each local congregation and existing minister has their own clear view on what is happening.

7 The committee remains concerned as to how the Missional Partnership initiative can be explained to, and fit comfortably within, the nine Local Ecumenical Partnerships of South Area. We are trying, through ecumenical officer Paul Frampton, to identify the nature of the URC presence in these varied settings and details of any existing understandings/agreements about ministerial provision.

8 **Other news:**

- Mike Walsh's Special Category Ministry post in Contemporary Spirituality has now been successfully reviewed. Some recommendations and renewal of focus have resulted.
- Wilmslow URC's Undercroft refurbishment has been completed and the new space is being well used.
- Sacrament training is offered annually to those seeking authorisation to preside at baptism or communions.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Woodward Trust covers the North Western Synod and the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church and the Congregational Churches within these boundaries. It pays out grants to retired ministers who served in these areas.

Trustees – Rev G. Tolley (Chairman/Secretary), Dr. B. Woodhall (Treasurer), Rev R. Canham, Mrs J Edisbury, Mr N Mackensie, Mr S. Murray, Rev K. Summers (appointed May 2016), Rev L. Talbot.

The Trustees met once during the year and decided to not increase the grants given this year over the payments given in 2016. Our investments are managed by Mr. Jason Paul of Investec.

The Accounts for the year are presented overleaf. Investment income decreased by £529 and donations from Churches increased by £679 compared with 2016. Donations were received from 18 Churches (13 last year), 13 from the North Western Synod and 5 from the Mersey Synod.

With an excess of payments over receipts of £1978 and an unrealised gain of £11642 on our investments our Total Assets increased by £9664.

Brian J. Woodhall
11 Rydal Place,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire SK11 7XU

Report of the Independent Examiner

I have examined the receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities of the Woodward Trust related to the year ended 31st December 2017 in accordance with the general directions issued by the Charity Commission for the independent examination of the accounts of smaller charities. Nothing has come to my attention in connection with my examination which gives me cause to believe otherwise than that the accounts accord with the accounting records of the charity and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Charities Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.



R A Rutherford

Independent Examiner

THE WOODWARD TRUST CHARITY NUMBER 1019820

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

2016(£)	RECEIPTS	2017(£)
11074	Investment Income	10545-19
<u>1051</u>	Donations from Churches	<u>1730-00</u>
<u>12125</u>	Total Receipts	<u>12275-19</u>

	PAYMENTS	
12755	Grants to Retired Ministers	12095-00
1578	Investment Management Fees	1706-74
<u>342</u>	Expenses	<u>451-85</u>
<u>14675</u>	Total Payments	<u>14253-59</u>

EXCESS PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS = £1978-40

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT DECEMBER 31 2016

2016(£)	ASSETS	2017(£)
985	Santander Account	2098
22649	CAF Cash Account	21264
<u>228822</u>	Investments at Market Value	<u>238757</u>
<u>252456</u>		<u>262119</u>

REPRESENTED BY

23027	Endowed Fund		
	Balance 1.1.17	23027	
	Plus unrealised Gain		
	On Investments	<u>1062</u>	24089
	Expendable Fund		
	Balance 1.1.17	229429	
	Minus loss on year	<u>1978</u>	
		227451	
	Plus unrealised Gain		
	On Investments	10580	<u>238031</u>
<u>229429</u>			<u>262120</u>
<u>252456</u>			

How to find us:

By car: The postcode will take you to King William St, however the car park is on Broadway. There are a set of gates set back from the road on Broadway with an Oasis Academy sign next to it. Drive up to the gates and press the button to gain access to the car park.

Once parked go up the stairs/ramp in the far end and go through the gate using the press button. Once through the gate turn right and follow signs to the Church and Hub.

By foot: The entrance to the Church and Hub space is on Trafford Road. Look for signs which should lead you through a gate to the left of the Academy reception.

By Metrolink: Use Anchorage tram stop. Turn right at the roundabout and walk up the hill (Broadway). When you get to the traffic lights at the top of the hill turn right and look out for signs to the Church and Hub (on Trafford Road). (Approximately 5-minute walk from Anchorage to the Church and Hub).

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