

Newsletter

Merry Christmas



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For your Prayers



Welcome to the final issue of the North Western Synod newsletter for 2022. In this edition we have several interesting articles from our Synod churches and events.

We are always looking for news of interest and events so, if you have any items that you would like to be included in the newsletter, please send them to office@nwsynod.org.uk Please remember that if you are including photographs, you need to gain the permission of the people in them for it to be shared.

The Synod office will be closed from 4pm on Thursday 22 December and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January. Telephone messages can be left but will not be dealt with until the Synod re-opens in January. However in the event of an emergency please contact Claire MacIntyre on 07553 743 262.

Ryhana our Finance Clerk (financeclerk@nwsynod.org.uk) will be doing her last payment runs on Tuesday 20th Dec and Thursday 22nd in order to ensure that you get paid your expenses claims will need to be in by Monday 19th Dec 5pm. This should give us enough time to ensure that they are authorised.

On behalf of everyone in the Synod office we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Forton URC

Yesterday the 11th, we were given a treat by our music team. Brenda and her grandson Tom played duets for the carols. Revd Irene led the service but the star was Tom playing the carols on his cornet.

As with all our Advent services tea , coffee and mince pies followed.



Hallfold URC

Our morning worship at Hallfold on the second Sunday of Advent was led by the ladies of our church on the theme of 'Comfort and Joy' .

We celebrated over 100 Shawls made and given by our Knit and Natter group as part of Shawl Ministry.

This group was formed by two of our lady members who were inspired at the Big Day Out in Blackpool several years ago. The shawls have been sent out to friends and family in many parts of the UK and also as far as North America.

A presentation of flowers was made to Brown Owl Pam Matthews who retired after thirty years involved with the Brownies and Rainbows.



Worsley Road URC

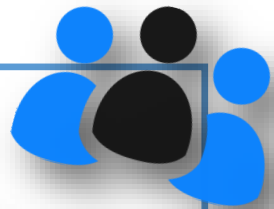


Like many churches this year we at Worsley Road felt it was time to celebrate, we had the Queen's jubilee and the URC 50th anniversary, it was decided to plant 2 trees in the grounds. With advice 2 Amber Gold trees were ordered and importantly arrived.

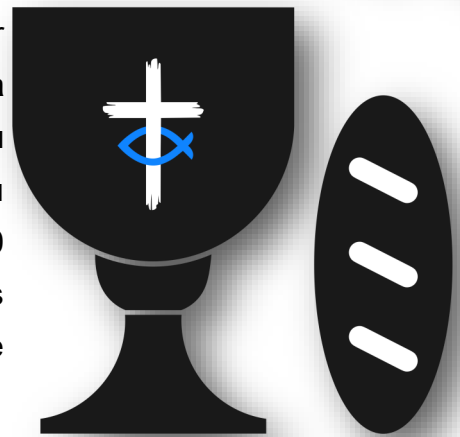
On 20 November, the congregation and Sunday school gathered round whilst the trees were planted. A prayer written by one of our oldest members and read whilst the children buried the time capsule and planted the trees.



Sacrament (Communion Training) 11th January 2023 (Zoom)



On **11 January at 7 p.m.**, Rev. Jacky Embrey and Rev. Dr Rob Hoch, Training and Learning Mentor, will be offering a **Sacrament (Communion) course by way of Zoom**. If you have not had any prior training in communion sacraments, you are required to attend this course. The course limit is for 20 people. This course will satisfy the requirement that Elders have "refresher" training. Please RSVP as soon as possible with Kerry Later at office@nwsynod.org.uk.





The North
of the United Kingdom

ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Eco Church Training



Tuesday 15th February 7pm

Organized by the United Reformed
church Northwestern Synod. Open
to all.

On zoom

Meeting ID: 886

8206 2324

Passcode: 872016

For churches moving
forward with Eco Church

Moving from bronze-silver or silver-gold.
What is the best way forward for your church
and our planet?

Please email us to let us know you are coming.



liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk
daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk



07740 112 628



<https://nwsynod.org.uk>

New date for URC anniversary service



Following on from the postponement of the original event due to rail strikes, we have been working hard to find a new date to celebrate the URC's 50th.

You will no doubt appreciate that finding a revised date which works for those leading the service and the availability of Methodist Central Hall has not been an easy task. Our initial hopes for May 6 were scuppered when the new King chose that date for his Coronation!

15 April 2023

We're delighted to announce that the new date is **Saturday 15 April 2023**. In an ideal world, we would have opted for a longer gap after Easter, but we hope that as many members and friends of the URC will be able to join us for our delayed anniversary celebrations.

The Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, will also take place on April 15 from 10am-12 noon.

Tickets

If you have a ticket and are able to come to the event on April 15, please do nothing - your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order.

If you are no longer able to attend, please <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others. Or email 50@urc.org.uk and we can cancel the order for you.

Anniversary Choir

If you would like to sing in the Anniversary Choir, you can find out more details and the dates of the rehearsals by visiting <https://bit.ly/urc50-choir>

Stewards and enquiries

If you are able to volunteer as a Steward at the service, please email 50@urc.org.uk which is also the email address for any enquiries relating to the new date.

Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG)

Come and hear more about
Leading Your Church
Into Growth

A Mission & Discipleship
Network meeting on Zoom
open to all

Tuesday 31st January 2023

7.30pm

Meeting ID: 898 5129 3330

Passcode: 053406



On November 11 people from NW Synod along with people from the other 4 northerly Synods attended the LYCIG Conference in Leeds.

LYCIG originated in the Church of England but is now used by many different URCs in many different Synods. The people that went from NW Synod got a lot from it. Here are comments from two people who attended:

"[LYCIG] showed me how to pull together the things about church growth that I already knew and make them work effectively"

"Martin Luther once said: "If only I could pray like my dog longs for meat! His thoughts are focused solely on the meat." May God grant us the same passion in prayer for growth."

On Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 7.30pm you are invited to hear more about LYCIG at a meeting of the "Mission and Discipleship Network" This meeting will take place on Zoom.

Revd Ashley Evans from Yorkshire Synod will be leading us and sharing more insights on LYCIG and the work he does with LYCIG across the URC and beyond.

If you want further information please contact me on the details on the poster. The Zoom details are also on the poster.

Revd Richard Bradley , Convenor of the Synod Mission and Discipleship Network.

For more information on LYCIG please look at the website: <https://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/>

Advent reflections

"He has filled the hungry with good things."

A short series of advent reflections using resources from the Joint Public Issues team (Churches working together for Peace and Justice)

All sessions on zoom 7pm-8pm. Please register for the zoom details.

Contact: liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk
tel.07740 112 628

Liz Delafield: Mission and Discipleship Mentor, NorthWestern URC Synod (South area)

Session 1: Advent in Palestine: Tuesday 29th November

Session 2: A liberationist reading of Luke 1:53: Tuesday 13th December

Session 3: A vision for transformed development: Tuesday 20th December



Epiphany—A quiet afternoon of reflection

E P I P H A N Y

A QUIET AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION

Hazel Grove/Short Street URC Church

Saturday 7th January 2023

1:30pm-4pm

Contact liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk 07740 112 628 for details
and to book a place.

Joint Bethlehem Carol Service

Sunday 18 December, 7pm

Sunday 18 December is not only the date of the World Cup Final! Following that event, at 7pm, **yourchurch** is hosting a joint carol service on Zoom, where the preacher will be the Revd Dr Munther Isaac, Dean of Bethlehem Bible College and Assistant Pastor at the Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church Bethlehem. Munther will preach from the ancient cave beneath the church - the closest thing to the stable in which Jesus was born.

The service will include carols from both Bethlehem and the UK (in Arabic and English). We will hear from the Women's Ministry of the Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church. The virtual offering will be sent to the church as a donation to this ministry.

Munther is a sought-after international speaker and preacher. He is also the Director of Christ at the Checkpoint. This year, the title of the annual conference was, "Am I My Neighbour's Keeper?" (<https://christatthecheckpoint.bethbc.edu/>).

Join us using the Meeting ID 879 6279 1794 and the Passcode 993141, click on the link <https://bit.ly/BethlehemCarolService> or use your camera to scan the QR code below.

A festive red and gold bokeh background with a torn paper effect revealing a photo of a checkpoint wall. The wall is covered in graffiti and has a watchtower on top. The background is decorated with gold and red bokeh lights and a white starburst pattern.

**joint
Bethlehem
carol
service**

Meeting ID: 879 6279 1794
Passcode: 993141

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER
7.00 PM UK TIME

REVD DR MUNTHUR ISAAC
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS CHURCH, BETHLEHEM

Three circular inset images: a portrait of Revd Dr Munther Isaac, a shepherd with sheep, and lit candles.

Youth Mental Health First Aid



Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn to support young people

- Gain an in-depth understanding of mental health and factors that can affect wellbeing in the youth sector
- Develop practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Feel confident to step in, reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhance your interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening and learn to champion self-care

For more info and to book, contact:



Children's & Youth Development Officers
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

Visit the MHFA England website at mhfaengland.org
Find us on social media @MHFAEngland

www.bit.ly/november-mhfa



30 Nov - 1 Dec 2022
URC Church House,
London WC1H 9RT

www.bit.ly/february-mhfa



2 Feb - 3 Feb 2023
Northern College,
Manchester M14 5JP

At General Assembly 2022, the United Reformed Church passed a resolution brought by URC Youth Assembly encouraging all local churches to enable someone in the congregation to undertake Mental Health First Aid Training.

A certificated, 2 day course, run by two registered trainers, is being offered to URC participants at Luther King House in Rusholme in February (2nd/3rd). The course is being run at cost - £27.50 to ensure finance is not a barrier to participants to access the training. This payment covers the cost of the accompanying course manual. The course will focus on those who work with young people.

You can book your place on the course at www.bit.ly/february-mhfa

Youth Leaders Gathering

YOUTH LEADERS' GATHERING



A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ANYONE INVOLVED IN ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, YOUNG ADULTS OR CHILDREN IN THE URC



A SPACE TO LEARN, SHARE AND GROW TOGETHER AS WE EXPLORE HOW WE
LOVE GOD
LOVE OTHERS AND
LOVE OURSELVES WELL

JAN 27-29, 2023

£119 ALL-INCLUSIVE

WHITEMOOR LAKES, STAFFORDSHIRE
ALONGSIDE URC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

THE GATHERING IS DELIBERATELY LESS OF A TRAINING EVENT AND MORE OF A SHARED LEARNING IN COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
BOOK YOUR PLACE CONTACT BY EMAIL
CHILDREN.YOUTH@URC.ORG.UK
OR CALL 020-7916-8683

Leaders are invited to join us at the Youth Leaders Gathering 2023 for a dedicated programme alongside URC Youth Assembly at Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire between 27-29 January. We will follow this year's children and youth work theme 'Love is' in our own dedicated space.

We will explore this theme by reflecting on the greatest commandment – 'Love God and Love others as yourself'. There will be space to share, learn, reflect, worship and relax together as a community. Join with others so that you might be both encouraged and recharged for your ministry with young people.

The Gathering is deliberately less of a training event and more of a shared learning in community experience – with great coffee, cake and the chance to hear about the latest resources and initiatives from within the URC and beyond. You bring your experience and stories to share with others so we that we all contribute.

North Western Synod will cover the conference fee. A creche is available for any children aged 0-5 that are accompanying you.

For more information or to book your place contact by email children.youth@urc.org.uk or call 020-7916-8683"

Talking About...Outdoor Church

26th January 2023, 7-8pm on Zoom

What is church? Where is Church?

The first is a question we sometimes ask ourselves, or each other, and get a wide array of answers.

The second has only one answer: church is anywhere we might be when we are worshipping or learning about God.

Of course being church outside, not constrained by architecture and furniture, provides many opportunities to worship in a different way.

In this session we will explore some of the 'new' expressions of being church in an outside space - including Muddy Church and Forest Church.

We will be led in our discussions by Jo Hopkins who has a wealth of experience of 'doing church outside'.

You can book your free place on www.bit.ly/TAoutdoorchurch

TALKING ABOUT... OUTDOOR CHURCH

Exploring the
opportunities of
worshipping outside



Thursday, 26th January 7-8pm on Zoom

Book your free place at: bit.ly/TAoutdoorchurch



For your prayers

In each newsletter we would like to share peoples situations and Churches who you might remember in your prayers. If you have any prayer requests to include in this section please send them to office@nwsynod.org.uk.

This week we invite you to pray for:

- For the congregations of churches which have decided to close, and for all those who are facing difficult decisions about the future of their fellowships and buildings

