1: **New Website and Photos of our congregations**

As you know we have been working on putting together a new website for the Synod which would be useful to people outside the church to understand us a little better and to be a resource for our churches. The website is now live the normal web address can be used. We have some photos still to put up (and could do with many more!).

Please give any feedback to Andy Braunston via clerk@nwsynod.org.uk

We need high quality photographs – in digital format – of our congregations for our new Synod website. Please email a picture of your congregation to Andy Braunston via clerk@nwsynod.org.uk.

2: **Moderator’s snapshot**

Last weekend it was a pleasure to be involved with the Ministers and Lay Preachers’ Winter School with a good mix of people attending. We met at the Windermere Centre and on the Saturday were able to use Carver Church with its wonderful open space for seating around tables. We had a range of sessions which seemed to dovetail beautifully (although none of us had collaborated). Ann Morisey led 2 sessions on Growing Older Disciples (picture); Lawrence Moore led a Bible study on the texts of Simeon and Anna, and also Good Friday; while I led a couple of sessions on Art and Worship (focus on Lent and Good Friday), and a Communion Service on Friday evening which enabled us to reflectively journey through the whole of Holy Week [as I write this it is one week now until Ash Wednesday]. In addition a whole range of art materials, including clay, were available during Saturday for engaging in some reflection and the creation of art picking up on a focus of “hands”. The fellowship during the weekend was good with plenty of time to eat and talk together. A couple of those present offered to take the lead in organising next year’s Winter School – so do watch out for notice of the dates!
Devotions for Lent Following the success, and wide take up, of the Advent and Christmas devotions sent out by the North West Synod Andy Braunston and Lis Mullen are working together to get a team of people from the North Western and Northern Synods to write some daily devotions for Lent. These will be sent out by email to those who sign up and also placed on the Northern Synod website. They will run from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday (we hope to have another set for Easter to Pentecost).

If you would like to sign up for these please go to [http://eepurl.com/bKR8mz](http://eepurl.com/bKR8mz) and fill in the form.
Luther King House

MA WINTER SCHOOL

SPIRITUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

MON 8TH—THUR 11TH FEBRUARY 2016
9.30AM—5.30PM

LED BY JAN BERRY,
GLEN MARSHALL, AND GRAHAM SPARKES

£150 PER PERSON
(MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION ARE NOT INCLUDED)

During this course we will explore and assess many different forms which spirituality takes today. We will look at spirituality in art and in film, spirituality in the urban context and embodied and feminist expressions of spirituality. The week will include a film showing, a city-centre retreat and will integrate experience and reflection with analysis and discussion.

Meals can be purchased on-site or you are welcome to provide your own. If you require accommodation, please contact Reception on 0161 224 6404 or by e-mail at reception@lkh.co.uk. This course can also be taken as a module towards the MA in Contextual Theology (at an additional cost). To register, please visit our website and complete an online Module Registration Form. Alternatively, contact our Registry Office using the details below.

Luther King House, Brighton Grove
Rusholme, Manchester M14 5JP
0161 249 2504 learning@lkh.co.uk www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk
Registered No: 4065581 Registered Charity No: 1082375
WHITLEY LECTURE 2016

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: POST-SOVET BAPTISTS AFTER THE UKRAINIAN REVOLUTION

MONDAY 14TH MARCH 2016
7.30PM—9.00PM

Dr. Joshua T. Searle grew up in Northumberland and studied History at Oxford University and Theology at the International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS) in Prague. He was awarded a PhD from Trinity College Dublin for a thesis on the interpretation of biblical apocalyptic texts. Throughout his doctoral studies, Joshua taught at universities and seminaries in the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland and Ukraine. Upon completing his studies, Joshua worked as a missionary in Donetsk, Ukraine.

Our theological lectures are open to all. They are free of charge to attend, and there is no need to book—just turn up!

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EXPLORING FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY
A Programme of Open Learning

OPEN LECTURE SERIES 2015-16

SHARING GOOD NEWS? THE CHALLENGE OF EVANGELISM IN EUROPE TODAY

MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2016
REFRESHMENTS FROM 6.45PM
LECTURE BEGINS AT 7.30PM

Francis’ lecture will be based on work she has been doing for a book on teaching evangelism in Europe (including the UK), which will be published towards the end of the year.

Francis Brienen is Deputy General Secretary of the United Reformed Church with special responsibility for Mission. She is from the Netherlands and has lived and worked in the UK for 25 years. Prior to working for the URC, she was on the staff of the Council for World Mission where she was responsible for education in mission, various youth in mission programmes and the programme on the community of women and men in mission. She has published articles reflecting on contemporary missiological issues and has recently contributed to a World Council of Churches handbook on teaching evangelism in Europe.

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USING SPACE AND SYMBOL IN WORSHIP
SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2016

Part of our Conference for Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders.

This workshop, led by Jan Berry, will explore ways in which we can use space and symbol, colour and imagery, to focus our prayers, inspire our imaginations and enhance our worship.

This workshop runs from 10am until 4pm and cost £30 including teas & coffees and lunch when taken as a standalone workshop. If you would like to book overnight accommodation, please contact Luther King House Reception on 0161 224 6404. For further information, registration details and for prices for the entire Conference for Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders, please contact our Registry Office using the details below, or visit the Events section of our website.

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Luther King House

EXPLORING FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY
A Programme of Open Learning

FRESH EXPRESSIONS & CAFE CULTURE

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2016

Led by Mike Walsh (URC Pioneer Minister) and Linda Rayner (URC Co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions)

In the morning we consider why churches need to respond to changing society, and how new expressions of church develop. In the afternoon we focus on Mike Walsh’s Pioneering work in Chorlton, including an introduction to Pioneer Ministry, stories of real encounters and conversations, and exploring how we might learn from the theological and missional insights Mike has uncovered in our local churches.

Our workshops run from 10am until 4pm and cost £20 including teas and coffees. Buy a meal in our dining room (approx. £5.50) or bring your own lunch. For further information, or to book, please contact our Registry Office using the details below.

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Registered No: 4065581 Registered Charity No: 1082375
CONFERENCE FOR
LAY PREACHERS AND
WORSHIP LEADERS
(NORTHERN COLLEGE AT LUTHER KING HOUSE)

THURSDAY 5TH—SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2016

WITH ROSALIND SELBY, KATHY WHITE, NOEL IRWIN &
GRAHAM SPARKES

The Bible is full of ‘word pictures’ - such as the metaphors of its poetry -
that weave through the history of the people of God and which we
continue to thrill to today.

We’ll be looking at the heavily-imaged language of Daniel and
Revelation and thinking about how this works when the
commandments say ‘you will have no false images’. Along the way, we’ll
also be looking at the word pictures of John’s Gospel and thinking
about art, spirituality and music.

There are three options for attendance. Bookings include lunch and
dinner (Thursday/Friday) along with lunch on Saturday; and tea/coffee
throughout the days.

Thursday—Saturday  Residential—£230  Non-Residential—£130
Thursday—Friday  Residential—£150  Non-Residential—£100
Saturday only  £30 (including lunch)

To book a place please contact Luther King House Registry Office using the
details above, or visit our website (www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk) to register
online. A full programme is available from our website.

Reduced fees are available for refugees, asylum seekers and those in receipt of
income-based benefits. Please contact Luther King House Registry (0161 249
2504—learning@lkh.co.uk) for the discounted fees if this applies to you.

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0161 249 2504  learning@lkh.co.uk  www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk
Registered No: 4065581  Registered Charity No: 1082375
5: **Edgeley Community Church job advert** Children and Family Worker

Based in Stockport, South Manchester.

16 hours per week.

Edgeley Community Church is a church that is committed to the community where we worship and love God. We seek to serve and share God’s love in all we do.

We need a highly motivated team player to drive forward our work with children and families:
To develop our existing work, and build strong relationships with families.
To explore ways to engage with non-church families.
To help children and families grow in faith and become an integral part of the church family.

Salary from £8,320 per annum (£10 per hour)
Closing date 22nd February. DBS applies

For an informal conversation, and further information contact and an application pack contact Rev Richard Parkes on 0161 432 2925
email: richard@revrparkes.co.uk

Edgeley Community Church is a Methodist/United Reformed Church Congregation

**Job advert (2)** Seniors Worker

Based in Stockport, south Manchester.

16 hours per week.

Edgeley Community Church is a church where we worship and love God. We seek to serve and share God’s love in all we do.

We need a highly motivated team player to drive forward our work with seniors and their families:
To develop our existing work, and build strong relationships with seniors and their families.
To explore ways to engage with non-church families.
To help seniors and their families grow in faith and become an integral part of the church family.

Salary from £8,320 per annum (£10 per hour).
Closing date 22nd February. DBS applies

For an informal conversation, and further information contact and an application pack contact Rev Richard Parkes on 0161 432 2925
email: richard@revrparkes.co.uk

Edgeley Community Church is a Methodist/United Reformed Church Congregation

6: **Welcoming Communities Conference - Churches responding to refugees and asylum seekers**

Wednesday 10th February 2015, 10am – 4pm @ Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP

Churches and Christian communities; individuals, parish groups, voluntary organisations, local authority workers and anyone concerned about refugees and asylum seekers are invited.
The programme includes refugees’ experiences, understanding the Asylum System and Workshops on

- Being a welcoming church
- Refugee status – the journey to sanctuary
- Hosting asylum seekers
- Understanding Muslims
- Helping people with their asylum case
- Mental health issues

The current situation nationally and locally will be discussed and there will be first hand experiences with asylum seekers personal stories. This is a joint Boaz Trust, Revive and Caritas Diocese of Salford conference.

Cost: £10 booking fee covers the costs of the conference and a buffet lunch.

To confirm your place visit Tickets available from https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/welcoming-communities-responding-to-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-training-conference-tickets-5358820376 or contact Katy Flowers, Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street Salford M3 6DP  T: 0161 817 2267  E: k.flowers@caritassalford.org.uk  W: www.caritassalford.org.uk

PROGRAMME

9.30 Registration and Coffee
10.00 Welcome and introduction to the day
10.15 Theology of the Stranger
10.40 Understanding the Asylum System
11.10 Break for refreshments
11.25 Workshops 1
12.25pm Current situation nationally and locally
12.45 Lunch and networking opportunities
1.45 Asylum Stories
2.15 Workshops 2
3.15 Break
3.20 Group work - Q & A sessions
3.35 Panel feedback
3.50 Closing prayer
Choice of Workshops

- Being a welcoming church
- Refugee status – the journey to sanctuary
- Hosting asylum seekers
- Understanding Muslims
- Helping people with their asylum case
- Mental health issues

A joint Boaz Trust, Revive and Caritas Diocese of Salford conference

Cost: £10 booking fee covers the costs of the conference and a buffet lunch

Target audience: Churches and Christian communities; individuals, parish groups, voluntary organisations, local authority workers and anyone concerned about refugees and asylum seekers

7: Radicalisation within Young People

I want to draw your attention to an event that is taking place at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK that may be beneficial to your communities. I had sent this email out a week ago but am conscious that it may not have fully explained its purpose:

Steve Chalke (Oasis UK Founder) is launching INSPIRE; “a peace making initiative designed to support young people in finding a positive narrative for their lives; a sense of identity, worth, direction and belonging which will enable them to live peacefully” on 12th February at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK.

This event is raising awareness on how to tackle the growing issue of radicalisation within young people and their communities, and how to help them find a positive purpose to their lives.

As you are practitioners working with young people in a variety of contexts I want to personally invite you as I believe this will be beneficial to our whole community. This is going to be a great insight into good practice with young people at risk of radicalisation, and something I believe that will help and encourage you in what is a rather difficult and hidden issue.

The outline of the day will look like:

Refreshments from 9.30am

INSPIRE – 10am – 12pm

If you are interested in attending, or know of anyone who would benefit from this launch please do contact me with your / their name and email address.
Oasis Media City - Inspire

Inspire
Inspiring a generation of peacemakers

Friday 12th February 2016  9:30am (for a 10:00am start) to 11:30am

Oasis Academy MediaCityUK, King William Street, Salford, M50 3UQ
Exploring the rise of extremism and the pathway to peace

We would like to invite you to join us in 'exploring the rise of extremism and the pathway to peace', an open discussion about the issues behind the current vulnerability of our young people to the lure of gangs, violence, extremism and terror.

The discussion will form the backdrop against which we launch INSPIRE, a peacemaking initiative for young people, designed for use in all schools across the UK and beyond. Inspire will support young people in finding a positive narrative for their lives, a sense of worth, direction and belonging which will enable them to live fulfilling, peaceful lives immune to the lure of gangs, violence, extremism and terror.

Join us as Steve Chalke MBE will also be launching his new book 'Radical', an easy and accessible guide to the complex and challenging issue of radicalisation and how to tackle this growing problem.

RSVP to lizzy.wilding@oasismediacityuk.org as soon as possible to secure your place.
I hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be a fascinating morning’s discussion.

📅 Friday 12th February 2016  ⏰ 09:30am (for a 10:00am start) to 11:30am
📍 Oasis Academy MediaCityUK, King William Street, Salford, M50 3UQ
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Launching in February 2016, the Inspire programme is a peacemaking initiative for young people, designed for use in all schools across the UK and beyond.

Inspire will support young people in finding a positive narrative for their lives; a sense of worth, direction and belonging which will enable them to live fulfilling, peaceful lives immune to the lure of gangs, violence, extremism and terror.
‘Each and every one of us lives in search of a convincing story that explains to us who we are; an overarching narrative that supplies us with a sense of worth and direction; a sense of purpose that wakes us up’

Steve Chalke
Do any of the following aims interest you?
If so then come to this event.

Saturday February 20th 7.15 for a 7.30 start until 9.00 at the Oasis Academy, Media City UK, King William street, Salford M50 3UQ

Organised by GEAR there will be worship, an encouraging Biblical message and prayer for the URC and others. All are welcome.

For more details contact Andrew Willett on 01925487851 or andrew.era@gear.org.uk
10: **Safeguarding sessions** The sessions last approximately 2.5 hours. Leo says “It is the responsibility of the Synod to make safeguarding training available and accessible. It is the responsibility of local churches to ensure that they avail themselves of it; and the legal, and possibly financial, consequences of NOT doing so are potentially severe should an incident occur. So PLEASE try and ensure that Elders and workers are aware of sessions”

More workshops will be announced as venues offer themselves. If your church would like to offer itself as a venue for the area – particularly in **South, Lancashire or Cumbria**, please contact Leo on cydo@nwsynod.org.uk

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<th>Area</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>04/02/16</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>Red Lane URC</td>
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<td>Central</td>
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<td>Chorley URC</td>
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<td>St Anne’s URC</td>
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<td>Central</td>
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**It is important that you book in to a session** so that Leo can ensure he has enough resources for each session. Please email him (using the email address above).