



TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER UPDATE
APRIL 2017

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1. WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY
Training Course 2017 – Droitwich

A free introductory course for volunteers wishing to explore Workplace Chaplaincy. The next courses in May - June 2017 are on the following dates:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| May 3 rd | Why be a workplace chaplain? |
| May 10 th | The Chaplain as Presence and Pastor |
| May 17 th | Understanding the context of Chaplaincy |
| May 24 th | The Chaplain as critical friend |
| Dates TBA | Organising for Chaplaincy |
| June 21 st | Chaplaincy and the Church |

Most sessions will be held at Droitwich Methodist Church from 7.15 - 9.00 p.m.

For more details or to book a place contact Dick Johnson 01527 61936 OR 07946 655450 dickjohnson@faithatwork.org.uk

**2. UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
BIG DAY OUT 2017**

20th May at Warwick Castle - Includes access to the Castle and attractions, speakers and Worship. For late

bookings contact feastsandfestivals@urc.org.uk (020 7916 8637) or simon.peters@urc.org.uk

**3. PILGRIMS IN THE PARK
2018**

As part of "Walking the Way – living the life of Jesus today", we are planning an event for spring 2018.

Plans are at a very early stage. It is proposed to invite people to share in a pilgrimage in one of the Synod's Parks, with a choice of a longer and a shorter pilgrimage. Both will include pauses for prayer and end together with a picnic. It is planned to walk to a Synod church for "Songs of Praise".

The event would begin at around 11am and end by 4pm. It is not possible to book the Park this far in advance but we are hoping that the event might take place on Saturday 19th May (Pentecost weekend).

If you would be interested in sharing in the planning of this event, please contact the Synod Office on 0121 783 1177/admin@urcwestmidlands.org.uk or Marion Thomas hathaway.bear@btinternet.com or Stuart Scott tdo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk. A meeting to take this further is to take place at 11am on Tuesday June 6th in the Synod Office.

**4. WESTMINSTER COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE**

<http://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk>
01223 330633
admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk

IN THE COMPANY OF...

Book yourself in to stay at Westminster, or come as a day visitor. Stay for as long as you like. Be part of the Westminster community, share the life, good food, relaxed company and the chance to be inspired, refreshed and challenged!

A conversation will be arranged with a member of teaching staff at the beginning of your time to help you focus and to make sure you have some good resources, not least through the library. At the end, someone will talk with you to help you take things onwards.

EMBRACING ELDERSHIP:
5th - 7th July 2017 or 7th - 9th July 2017

Identical courses running on Eldership. Choose the date that is best for you! Come and join elders from around the URC to explore what it means to exercise the ministry of Eldership today. Whether you are a new elder or have had many years of service, there will be something for you to offer and receive in this three-day event.

Leaders: Val and Rod Morrison

LAY PREACHERS:

14th – 16th August 2017

16th - 18th August 2017

6th - 8th September 2017

8th - 10th September 2017

Due to their immense popularity this runs four times a year now. This year the theme is 'Celebrating our Reformed Identity'.

Leaders: Westminster Teaching Staff
For More information including costs please see online leaflets

To book: complete the form online and return to Claudia on admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk, or by post to Tutorial Office, Westminster College, Cambridge, CB3 0AA

5. LUTHER KING HOUSE, MANCHESTER

<http://lutherkinghouse.org.uk/2017/02/10/lay-preachers-conference/>
0161 224 6404
reception@lkh.co.uk

Conference for Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders'

Come and Explore Wisdom 20th – 22nd April 2017.

Luther King House hosts Northern College's popular Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Conference. The theme will be Exploring Wisdom. This will be done through Scripture and in a variety of creative and practical ways.

Day Workshop led by Jan Berry
22nd April 2017 - 10.00am - 4.00pm
A day workshop exploring feminist images of Wisdom/Sophia using creative writing, liturgy, images and symbols. This day workshop can also be included as part of the Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Conference

Dementia Friendly Church

13th May 2017 - 9.30am - 4.30pm
A day conference exploring ways in which churches can offer welcome and

hospitality to people living with dementia and their carers. The main speaker will be Revd Gaynor Hammond, plus a selection of workshops.

A full programme and further information will be available on the website.

To book: please contact – 0161 249 2504 – use the online form or download and return it.

6. STAFFORD TO LONDON PRAYER PILGRIMAGE



After prayerful discernment of a God-given picture, pilgrims are walking from Stafford hospital to London during the national 10 days of prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

As a compassionate 'agent of healing' the National Health Service is truly an expression of God's Kingdom. This Pilgrimage of Prayer is for the NHS and the thousands of health care workers under mounting pressures and with increasingly low morale. It is NOT a political demonstration, but a **move of prayer**, recognising God's heart. It is intended to worship and pray at each hospital on the route.

The Vision:

- To pray for the NHS as an instrument of God's Kingdom in our nation
- To bless and encourage all who work in health and social care
- To express thankfulness for our own health and healing

The Route:

Stafford – Cannock – Walsall – Birmingham – Solihull – Coventry – Rugby – Northampton – Milton Keynes – Luton – Hemel Hempstead – Harrow – London

How you can help:

It is the hope to connect with local churches ecumenically along the route and invite local Christians to join their 'leg' of the walk. These are needed:-

- Prayer support from local churches
- Local contacts to coordinate arrangements in their area
- Your involvement in planning and leading worship with your local hospital chaplaincy
- Local churches to offer hospitality (food and accommodation) for those pilgrims walking the whole route.
- Further information, route plans and worship resources – www.nhsprayerwalk.co.uk

Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God – Micah 6:8

7. SYNOD MINISTERS SUMMER CONFERENCE

Places are still available for the Ministers Summer Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire from 19th to 22nd June. The theme is "Missional discipleship and social media" with input from Bex Lewis, an expert in the field of social media and Francis Brienen, Deputy General Secretary (Mission) for the United Reformed Church. Please book as soon as possible and preferably by the end of April. Details and booking forms are available from the Synod Office. Rowan Williams will be one of the speakers at the 2018 Ministers Conference, a national event taking place from 30th April to 3rd May at Yarnfield Park, Stone.

8. LOCAL MINISTRY AND MISSION REVIEW (LMMR)

At the Spring Synod, the Moderator emphasised the importance of the Local Mission and Ministry Review process in assisting churches and focussing on the tasks and responsibilities of mission. To enable the scheme to work more effectively in this Synod, more appraisal partners are needed. Training sessions for potential partners will take place on Saturday 8th and Tuesday 25th July in the Synod Office. To book or find out more, contact the Synod Office or Stuart Scott

9. MINISTERS QUIET DAY

24th May at Barnes Close. "Radical Grace" let by Pat Marsh. Full details and booking forms have been circulated – contact Marion Thomas

(hathaway.bear@btinternet.com) for further information.

10. BIG CHURCH DAY OUT

Christian Music Festival 2nd - 3rd June at Capesthorne Hall, Cheshire. "Worship, family fun, music and celebration" .Full details at www.bigchurchdayout.com

11. GRANTS

Ministers are eligible for grants through EM2 and EM3. Application forms are available from the Synod Office or from Stuart Scott. There is also provision through General Assembly and the Synod for training for lay preachers, elders and others.

Contact Stuart Scott for further information 0121 442 6325
tdo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk