

UPTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

44 HEATH ROAD, UPTON BY CHESTER, CH2 1HX

Telephone 01244 373854

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



AT

WWW.UPTONURC.ORG.UK

EMAIL

INFO@UPTONURC.ORG.UK

Dear Friends

In the next few weeks we will welcome Simon Peters as our new minister. We have been praying for this day to come for some time now and it's finally upon us.

We stayed strong and positive during the vacancy and enjoyed and benefitted from some excellent services from visiting preachers as well as members of our own congregation. I believe we discovered that we had many talents and gifts to offer here at Upton United Reformed Church. A blessing indeed!

We are now stepping into a new chapter in the life of our Church, leaving the past behind and looking forward with faith. Simon will not and must not carry the work alone, instead everyone of us, each member, will walk along with him and offer our unique gifts to share.

How welcoming are we? How can we give Simon our best welcome? Certainly there will be physical, tangible acts of kindness and hospitality that we can show; for example making "The Manse" as comfortable and pleasant a home for Simon to settle into. A welcome card or a gift of a cake, an invitation to our homes for coffee or a meal, some of the things that would make Simon feel welcomed. But

Firstly, let us commit to praying for our new minister every single day as he settles into lead us at Upton URC. Let's use Simon's arrival as an opportunity to see our congregation through a fresh set of eyes; take the initiative to assume the best for him, because in doing so we'll create a climate of trust that will make for a good transition.

Let us show grace and patience and give our leader time to learn names, grow accustomed to our ways and come to understand our community. Let's open our hearts and welcome Simon with the love and grace our Church family is known for. Help him to become familiar with the congregation. Introduce yourselves to him repeatedly, because we will have one name to learn and Simon will have many.

Let's take time to get to know our new minister, let's try to understand that he doesn't yet know our traditions, our values and customs and neither do we know his ways. It takes time to build a friendship and beginning with an attitude of grace enables both the congregation and the minister to create space for that learning to take place.

Therefore, let's receive Simon as a person of peace and offer him the best hospitality and help him be the best. Let's echo these words, "welcome to our Church family, Simon. We are blessed to walk this journey of faith with you".

Thank you and many blessings

Mary Carter (Elder).



THANK YOU

I would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers and members of the Church family for the cards and many messages of best wishes, encouragement, and positivity after my recent surgery. Hopefully, I will be back driving and serving teas soon.

Best wishes to you all.

Niall

Please note that Phil and Celia Jones no longer have a landline. Can you please contact them on their mobile phone numbers

Philip Jones 078188555983

Celia Jones 07895066815

Dear Church Reps

Thank you all for your continued support for Christian Aid week this year. You have all worked so hard in many creative and resourceful ways to raise funds for Christian Aid during the week. Thank you for all sending in your donations and information. There were 18 churches involved in this year's collection.

Together we raised a total of £12,449.09 with a further £1818.16 to claim from Gift Aid. This gives an amazing total of £14,267.25.

Please pass on our thanks to all your church members and congregations.

Thank you also for the fundraising events you organise for Christian Aid throughout the whole year, your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you all again,

Best wishes

Rose Johnson

Treasurer

Chester Christian Aid Group



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed

Dear Ministers, Interim Moderators, Church Secretaries, Elders and anyone else this reaches

The Church Development Programme is finally here! We have listened to suggestions and comments from churches and have come up with a programme that will hopefully be helpful and beneficial to churches.

Everyone is welcome to the CDP sessions, it may be of most use to Elders, but do not let this put people off. There is no limit to the number of people from each church - I just ask you could encourage people to sign up through Ticket Source, please. This helps me with the organisation. www.ticketsource.com/urc-mersey-synod.

Each topic will have 4 sessions in different locations at either 1.30 or 6.30 pm. The sessions will be:

Governance Matters - Lorna Griffiths, Synod Clerk Lorna will cover the URC Resources Hub that has been launched on the back of the Church Life Review, the Helpdesk, Synod resources, compliance and so on.

Green Matters - Richard Pearce, the Green Apostle and Eco Champion

Richard will explore simple ways to live greener and help the church. Packed with hints, tips, and easy actions, we'll see how small steps can make a big difference.

Funding Matters - Helen McCormack, Grants Officer Helen will unpack the Church Life Fund and other funding opportunities. Teeming with practical advice, success tips, and application guidance, this session will help you take the next step from idea to action.

Discipleship Matters - Revd Geoff Felton & Revd Stuart Radcliffe
Geoff and Stuart will lead a discussion on where to actually start with discipleship personally and as a whole church. They will be exploring how growing in faith, investing in others, and leading with purpose can make a lasting impact in your church and leadership. Come ready to learn, reflect, and be encouraged and inspired!

Connection Matters - Steven Mitchell, Children & Youth Development Officer

Steven will explore simple and meaningful ways to build relationships across generations, creating spaces where everyone can grow in faith together. He will share ideas for strengthening connections through existing relationships to help everyone feel welcomed, valued, and connected.

The first sessions begin in September with Governance Matters.

Governance Matters

Ready to strengthen your church's foundations? The first four CDP sessions will provide practical tools, essential templates, and clear guidance on policies and procedures. You'll also discover how the URC Resource Hub and new online portal can save time, streamline administration, and support your ministry.

Led by Lorna Griffiths, Synod Clerk

Tuesday 8 September	6.30 pm	Allerton URC L187HD
Monday 21 September	1.30 pm	Middlewich URC, CW10 9AR
Tuesday 29 September	1.30 pm	Elmwood URC WA1 3TX
Thursday 15 October	6.30 pm	Heswall URC CH60 7SE

Eco Matters

Join us as we explore simple ways to live greener and help the church. Packed with hints, tips and easy actions, we'll see how small steps can make a big difference.

Led by Richard Pearce, Eco Champion Mersey Synod

Monday 19 October	6.30pm	Blundellsands & Crosby, 123 3AR
Wednesday, 21 October	1.30pm	Churchtown URC, PR9 7NG
Monday 2 November	1.30pm	Over URC, Winsford, CW7 1JE
Wednesday 11 November	6.30pm	Peasley Cross URC, St Helens WA9 3BE

Please reserve a place

www.ticketsource.com/urc-mersey-synod

Please contact me if you have any questions

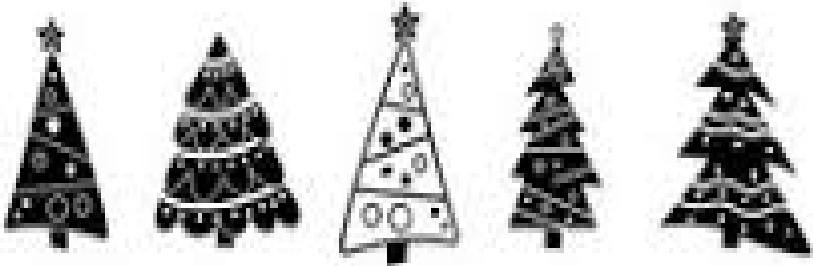
Thanks

Dr Emma Howarth

Training and Development Officer

The United Reformed Church, Mersey Synod, 1 Fingall Road, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 9JE

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

28 November 2026

10.00 am – 12.00 noon

***IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP IN ANY WAY, PLEASE SPEAK
TO CAROLE MELLOR OR DEBBIE ORMEROD***

HARVEST 2026

We will be decorating the church for harvest on Saturday 26 September from 10am. Please come along with any contributions of flowers, foliage and fresh produce, and to help prepare the church for our festival service.

Our Harvest Festival Service will take place on 27 September. Please bring along any donations of tinned and packet foods which will be distributed to the Foodbank and Save the Family.

The service will be followed at 12 noon by a buffet lunch. If you would like to stay for lunch please sign the list on the whiteboard in the foyer by 20 September.



***The Mersey Synod of
the United Reformed Church***

cordially invites you to

**The Ordination and Induction of
The Revd Simon Peters**

**As Minister of Word and Sacraments to
Chester North Pastorate
(Upton, Vicars Cross and Blacon URCs)**

at 2.30pm

on

September 19th 2026

at

Upton-by-Chester URC

The service will be followed by refreshments



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 9th September 2026

2.30 p.m.

at the United Reformed Church,
Heath Road, Upton





CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

You are warmly invited to enter the URC Christmas Card Competition for Christmas 2026. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we invite people of all ages from across our Churches congregations and Church communities to create a design that reflects the hope, joy, peace and love of Christmas.

The competition has two categories - under 16's and adults (16 and over) with one winning design selected from each to become the official URC Christmas Card for Christmas 2026.

Entries to Sheila Dunbar, please by 20 September

or Rebecca Wilson at

<communications@urcmerseysynod.org.uk, by 27 September

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

	Date	Time	
Tues	1	2.00 pm	Friendship Group – Clumps
Wed	2		
Thurs	3	1.30 pm	Food & Fun
Fri	4		
Sat	5		
SUNDAY	6	10.30am	Rev Ceri Gardner JOINT SERVICE AT UPTON
Mon	7	10.00am	Monday Men's Meeting in room 3
Tues	8	10.00am	New Tuesday Group
Wed	9		
THURSDAY	10	10.00am	Community Coffee Morning
FRIDAY	11		
Sat	12		
SUNDAY	13	10.30am	Rev Sarah Simpson
Mon	14	10.00am	Monday Men's Meeting in room 3
Tues	15	2.00 pm	Friendship Group
Wed	16		

Thurs	17	10.00am	Thursday Ladies Group
Fri	18		
Sat	19	2.00pm	Ordination and Induction of Rev Simon Peters
SUNDAY	20	10.30am	Rev Simon Peters
Mon	21	10.00am	Monday Men's Meeting in room 3
Tues	22	10.00am	New Tuesday Group
Wed	23		
Thurs	24	10.00am	Community Coffee Morning
Fri	25		
Sat	26		
SUNDAY	27	10.30 am	Rev Ron Reid HARVEST
Mon	28		Monday Men's Meeting in room 3
Tues			
Wed	30		

FLOWER ROTA

SEPTEMBER

6 September	Mary Carter
13 September	Joan Perkin
20 September	Eleanor Hornsby
27 September	Flower Box - Harvest



OCTOBER

4 October	Janet Cliff
11 October	Beryl Frost
18 October	Wendy Lenihan
25 October	Brenda Bentley

CAR FERRY

SEPTEMBER

6 September	John Hainsworth
13 September	Sue Pearson
20 September	Niall Ormerod
27 September	Phil Mason



OCTOBER

4 October	Niall Ormerod
11 October	Sue Pearson
18 October	Phil Mason
25 October	Niall Ormerod

EXTRACTS FROM “UNITY THROUGH PRAYER”

A Prayer Diary for the Churches in Upton

6 September Pray for the residents of Daleside, Meadowsway and Queensway.

For our junior and infant schools; Acresfield, Upton Heath, Mill View, Westlea, Dorin Park and St Werburgh's & St Columba's and St Theresa's. Also, schools in Newton, Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford. For the teachers and pupils that they will be open to the Christian teaching they receive. For our local clergy as they lead assemblies.

13 September Pray for the residents of St Christopher's Close, Dale Drive and Heath Road.

For the Treasurers, Finance Organisers and the Gift Aid Recorders.

For those who are responsible for the financial affairs of our Churches.

20 September Pray for the residents of Lawn Drive, Earls Oak and Windmill Rise. For Dorin Park School.

For all who are physically or mentally disabled, their teachers and families.

27 September Pray for the residents of Church Lane, Nield Court and Grangeside.

For the church organists and music leaders, for the ministry of music in our worship.



COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Enclosed with the newsletter you will find the Commitment for Life envelopes. Commitment for Life is the URC's support for Christian Aid's projects for developing countries. The envelopes should be handed in with the September collections.

Thank you

John Hainsworth

God's Love is for All

Our Mission

is to Show it,

Share it, Live it

FLOWER ROTA

There are vacant Sunday dates for providing the
Church Flowers.

If you would like to provide flowers, or the money
for someone else to purchase the flowers on your
behalf, please contact

Margaret Hainsworth

Johnhainsworth42@hotmail.com

Or

01244 381396

It is with sadness we report that Megan Jones
passed away on Monday, 17 August, 2026

Her funeral will take place at Blacon on
Tuesday 1 September at 10.40 am

SAFEGUARDING

There is a Combined Foundation and Intermediate Hoole URC on 21 September. This session will combine both Foundation and Intermediate modules for those needing training to an intermediate level. This course can be completed as one training INSTEAD of completing the e-learning Foundation course and the Intermediate course. The next available sessions are:

Face to face sessions: Monday 21 September 2026
11.am - 1.30 pm at Hoole URC Hoole Road, Chester
CH2 3NT.

Online sessions Wednesday 26 August 2026 1.00.-3.30
pm

Monday 7 September 2026, 6.00 – 8.30 pm

Book through Pat Cansfield at Mersey Synod Office

Copy date for the October newsletter is

13 September, 2026

Contributions to Richard Sykes, please



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Please contact Church Secretary, Carole Mellor, for any enquiries

SECRETARY

Mrs Carole Mellor

07946 063847

c.p.mellor0@gmail.com

TREASURER

Richard Sykes

01244 303305

rasykes@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter Editors

Mrs Margaret Hainsworth

01244 381396

jm@johnmarg.plus.com

Richard Sykes

01244 303305

rasykes@tiscali.co.uk

Church Safeguarding Coordinator

Sheila Dunbar

07834 160 789

Web Support

Dave Nichols

info@uptonurc.org.uk

Church Hall Bookings

uurc.halls@gmail.com

Hall Bookings Secretary Deborah Ormerod

07580088720

