

Upton United Reformed Church

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God's Love is for All
Our Mission is to Show it,
Share it, Live it



October 2026

44 Heath Road, Upton By Chester, CH2 1HX
Telephone 01244 373854



Visit our Website at:
www.uptonurc.org.uk
Email:
info@uptonurc.org.uk

**Ordination of Simon Peters
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
and
Induction to the churches of Chester North
Pastorate**



**Led by Rev. Geoff Felton, Moderator of
Mersey Synod**

at

**Upton-by-Chester United Reformed
Church**

19th September 2026

How good it was to see such a full church for the induction of Simon Peters to the newly formed North Chester Pastorate on Saturday 19th September.

The three churches of Blacon, Upton and Vicars Cross have worked together to create a profile which attracted Simon to Chester. A great deal of effort has been put in by members of the different congregations with the invaluable help and guidance of our interim moderators – Revs Alan and Anthea Wickens. They provided a constant source of encouragement and common sense to our situation.

The service was attended by people from all over the country. Not only were there friends and family, but we were also able to welcome the Sheriff of Chester. For those who were unable to attend the service in person, the proceedings were streamed live by Spire, who were able to respond at short notice. The results are still available to those with internet connection using the link

<https://www.spirelivestream.co.uk/standalone/simon-peters/>

Now we must work together and support each other and Simon to show that God's Love is for all.

Richard Sykes

Hope House

As you may remember, Hope House was supported by the church via Saving to Share as the local charity.

Anne and I were recently invited to an open day there for regular supporters. The visit took the form of a presentation about the work that they do before being shown around the place to see the facilities for ourselves.

Hope House, which has a sister house in Conway called Ty Gobaith, is based on the south side of Oswestry in a quiet rural setting and provides for children with various severe health issues as well as end of life care.

At Hope House there are therapy rooms, sensory play areas, a hydrotherapy pool as well as 6 residential rooms, one of which is a self contained suite which can be used by families when a child has died.

Here are some numbers for 2025.

It cost £10 million pounds a year to run Hope House with only 10 weeks paid for by statutory funding and the remaining 42 weeks by donations. This provided support for 313 children, with 1640 therapy sessions. It also provided help to 114 families and 92 brothers and sisters. 141 children were supported by their community nurses.

There were 594 volunteers who donated 79,450 hours to help at the house as well as manning shops and other fundraising activities.

Richard Sykes

Friendship Group

The Friendship group meets at 14.00 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the United Reformed Church on Heath Road in Upton by Chester.

We enjoy listening to talks and presentations from a variety of speakers, and we play quizzes and puzzles.

Chatting over a cup of tea is always welcome at the end of our meetings, which provide friendship and fellowship for all.

Everyone is welcome, please do come and join us.

Would you like to chat about coming to a Friendship Group meeting?

Sheila Dunbar can be contacted on: 01244 378528, or 07834 160789.

You can leave a message on either number and I will call you back. 😊



Churches Together in Upton (CTU)

The AGM is over and we still have some vacancies on the committee. Upton by Chester URC is looking for another person to join the group. In particular, we still need a Treasurer, and a Secretary. Neither role is onerous and the Treasurer role will not involve dealing with great amounts of money.

Please speak to Sheila Dunbar if you would like to know more about CTU.



The next CTU event to be held at our church is a service of reflection at 4.30 pm on Remembrance Sunday. I would appreciate idea, thoughts and contributions on this.



Friday 30th October 2026

7.00 p.m. at St Columba's Hall

Plas Newton Lane/Newhall Road

Teams of six to eight

Bring your own drinks and glasses

Table nibbles provided

Raffle

£3 per person at the door

*Proceeds to the Hospice of the
Good Shepherd*

Mersey Synod



*Moderator: Revd Geoff Felton
Synod Clerk: Lorna Griffiths*

Mersey Synod Meeting

Saturday 10th October 2026
from 9.30am (for a 10am start) to 4pm
at: West Kirby URC, Meols Drive, Wirral, CH48 5DA

The theme “Living Faith: Equipping the Church”

- Mission Discipleship Enabler Role – celebrating the successes and to consider the future model
- Ministry and Mission Fund Review – to collate our current thinking
- Church Development Programme – launching our new model and approach
- Church Life Fund – plans, opportunities and current position
- Committee Reports – receiving the updated developments, initiatives and plans

All attendees will also be able to vote in our **Christmas Card Competition for 2026**. Shortlisted entries will be displayed in the foyer for **you to view and help choose the winners**. There are **two categories: one for young people and one for adults**.

Winners will be announced on the day and winning entries subsequently professionally printed, with 30 copies sent to all churches. Please encourage your church to submit entries: please see attached flyer for entry guidance.

To help us, please share this letter across your congregations as anyone can book a place to attend the Synod meeting!

How To Book Your Place

Booking is essential via: www.ticketsource.co.uk/urc-mersey-synod. Attendance will be in person only. Your designated church representatives only can vote on resolutions, but all are welcome to attend, join conversations and vote in the Christmas Card Competition. For voting eligibility on resolutions, please see the attached membership information sheet. If no-one from your church can attend, please send apologies to the Synod Office at synodoffice@urcmerseysynod.org.uk.

Agenda, Book of Reports and Information

The Book of Reports will be published two weeks prior to the meeting so please do take the time, if you can to read before the day. When booking you can also request a printed copy to be mailed out to you or to collect on the day if you prefer. The Book of Reports will also be published on the [Mersey Synod website](#) for easy access and sharing, with Wi-Fi available at the venue.

The Synod team look forward to seeing you again. With best wishes,

Lorna Griffiths - Synod Clerk

Extract from Reformed Magazine

The Christian charity JustMoney Movement launched a campaign in May calling on Christians to avoid the online retailer Amazon. JustMoney Movement aims to challenge Amazon's tax practices.

The charity says that Amazon “has been accused of avoiding paying billions in fair taxes globally, including an estimated £2 billion over the last five years in the UK alone. The company, founder Jeff Bezos remains the largest individual shareholder, has also been heavily criticised for its record on workers’ rights and environmental practices”.

JustMoney Movement invites people to sign a pledge to shop ethically at justmoney.org.uk. Later the charity plans to organise supporters to talk to their MPs about the matter.

The Church’s Joint Public issues team welcomed churches discussing questions of corporate tax and workers’ rights, while saying they would not want people to face undue pressure if they have no viable options but Amazon.

Copy date for the November newsletter is
18th October

Contributions to Margaret Hainsworth, please.

Christmas Coffee Morning



Saturday 28 November 2026

10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Stalls this year will include:

Cakes/Home Produce

Tombola

Books and jigsaws

Raffle

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Children's Craft Activities

and

FATHER CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the Sanctuary and church halls for the event. The decorations will remain in place over the Christmas period.

Please see Carole Mellor or Debbie Ormerod if you would be able to contribute by decorating a window in the Sanctuary.

Church Diary

October 2026

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service/Meeting</u>
Thurs	1	10.00 am 1.00 pm	Thursday Ladies Group Food 'n' Fun
Fri	2		
Sat	3		
Sun	4	10.30 am	Chris Kellet
Mon	5	10.30 am	Monday Men's Meeting
Tues	6	10.00 am 2.00 pm	New Tuesday Group Friendship Group <i>Gentle Mobility - Sandra Clarke</i>
Wed	7		
Thurs	8	10.00 am	Community Coffee Morning
Fri	9		
Sat	10		
Sun	11	10.30 am	Kathryn Lamport – Leprosy Mission
Mon	12	10.30 am	Monday Men's Meeting
Tues	13	12.00 noon	Friendship Group
Wed	14		

Thurs	15	10.00 am	Thursday Ladies Group <i>Coffee at Weston Grove</i>
Fri	16		
Sat	17		
Sun	18	10.30 am	Revd Simon Peters
Mon	19	10.30 am	Monday Men's Meeting
Tues	20	10.00 am 12 Noon	New Tuesday Group Friendship Group <i>Beetle</i>
Wed	21		
Thurs	22	10.00 am	Community Coffee Morning <i>With Bring and Buy Stall</i>
Fri	23		
Sat	24		
Sun	25	10.30 am	Sheila Dunbar
Mon	26	10.30 am	Monday Men's Meeting
Tues	27		
Wed	28		
Thurs	29		
Fri	30	7.00 pm	Churches Together Quiz St Columba's Hall

Extracts from “Unity through Prayer”

A Prayer Diary for the Churches in Upton

4 October	Pray for the residents of Garth Drive, Liverpool Road and Ennerdale. For the Church Hall Secretaries and Electoral Roll Secretary. for those who come to our church halls, that they will find fellowship.
11 October	Pray for the residents of Old Mill Court, Mill Lane, Mill Close and Deans Close. For all those involved with the upkeep of our church buildings and church grounds.
18 October	Pray for the residents of Marle Heyes, Upton Park and Delvine Drive. For the magazine committee, newsletter editors, distributors and those who run the bookstalls in our churches. For a deepening of our faith through the written word.
25 October	Pray for the residents of Upton Drive, Pine Gardens and Bache Avenue. For the British Legion, Golf Club and Village Hall Committee, and all who use their facilities. For those who have served their country.

Car Ferry

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



November 1	Sue Pearson
November 8	Phil Mason
November 15	Niall Ormerod
November 22	Sue Pearson
November 29	Phil Mason

Flower Rota

October 4	Janet Cliff
October 11	Beryl Frost
October 18	Wendy Lenihan
October 25	Jean Corns
November 1	Rhiannon Morgan
November 8	Debbie Ormerod – Remembrance Day
November 15	Vivien Ellis
November 22	Ivison Family
November 29	Anne Sykes



Minister

Revd Simon Peters

revdsimonpeters.urc@gmail.com

07876172953

Secretary

Mrs Carole Mellor

07946 063847

c.p.mellor0@gmail.com

Treasurer

Richard Sykes

01244 303305

uurc.treasurer@gmail.com

Church Hall Bookings

Debbie Ormerod

07580088720

uurc.halls@gmail.com

Web Support

Dave Nichols

info@uptonurc.org.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