



The Windermere Centre Programme of Events

2012-13



New World, New Church?

Getting to Grips with Fresh Expressions

22-25 October 2012 £190

11-14 February 2013 £190

With Linda Rayner

Changing church for a changing world!

'Fresh Expressions' describes the planting of new congregations or churches that are different in ethos and style from the church that planted them, because they are designed to reach people who are not 'into' traditional church. There is no single model to copy but a wide variety of approaches for a wide variety of contexts and constituencies. The emphasis is on planting something that is appropriate to its context, rather than cloning something that works elsewhere.

So how do we share Good News in a culture that has no knowledge of Jesus and with people who have grown up with no exposure to the Bible and would never consider even stepping over the threshold of 'traditional church'? Are new ways of being church really possible? If so, what might they look like?

Genuine 'fresh expressions' of church are far more rare than is sometimes claimed. That is largely because what might be 'fresh' for people who have been lifelong church members (ie for over 75% of URC members!) is not anything like as fresh or different to people who have become disengaged from traditional church (for whatever reason).

This is an opportunity to engage with the Fresh Expressions movement and to work out the why and how of your church and Fresh Expressions! You'll go home with a clear idea of what is possible, what is desirable and how to get from 'here' to 'there'.

Linda Rayner is the Fresh Expressions Co-ordinator for the NW Synod.



All Kinds of Stories

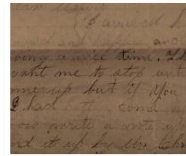
12-15 November 2012 £180

With Jack Dyce

Story and storytelling have considerable power for learning, for building community and for expression of deep emotions as well as simply being fun – to offer and receive. In our course/workshop, we shall explore the potential for the use of story in such areas as

- Biblical storytelling
- Narrative preaching
- Reminiscence work and life story
- Intergenerational storytelling
- Story creation and review in pastoral care
- Stories that harm and heal community

The Revd. Dr. Jack Dyce is the Principal of the Scottish College.





Inclusive God, Inclusive Church

18-21 February 2013 £190

With Lawrence Moore, Peter Noble and Lucy Berry
'Inclusivity is not an optional extra for Christians, it has nothing to do with being liberal, it's not a churchy version of political correctness. It's a gospel imperative,

fundamental to the nature of God and at the very heart of the mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (Giles Fraser).

The United Reformed Church has committed itself to exploring and promoting radical welcome within its churches. The term, 'radical welcome' was coined by Stephanie Spellers, a black American Episcopal priest, to differentiate between churches that are inclusive (attempting to find as many people 'like them' as possible) and radically welcoming (actively seeking people very different from them).

Come and explore Radical Welcome – its biblical and theological roots, its practice, its capacity for transforming churches and its significance for evangelism.

Lawrence Moore is the Director of the Windermere Centre

Revd Peter Noble is Lead Chaplain to the Cardiff Bay Lightship

Revd Lucy Berry is the Minister of Bethnal Green United Reformed Church, the pilot church for Radical Welcome in Thames North Synod.



Receptive Ecumenism for Local Churches

22-24 February 2013 £125

With David Tatem

Hang on! What is receptive ecumenism?

It is the principle that we can benefit by receiving from other traditions many gifts, insights, habits and practices that can enhance the life and witness of our own. If each tradition is practicing this that also means that others receive from us, and the life and work of the whole church benefits.

The weekend will therefore explore a number of themes: what is receptive ecumenism? How can it work at the local church level for us? What can we offer from our tradition to others? How can a spirit of receptive ecumenism be encouraged and developed at the local level? The weekend will contain a significant element of sharing experiences together and creating new ideas.

Revd. David Tatem is the United Reformed Church's Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, and has worked in a variety of ecumenical appointments, most recently as Free Church minister in the 5-denomination Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes.

Church Communications: Grabbing Opportunities, Avoiding Pitfalls

8-10 March 2013 £125

With Gill Nichol, Kay Parris

& Lawrence Moore

In this course we'll be looking at the many opportunities churches have to communicate positively with those around them – and the steps we can take to ensure our communication efforts don't backfire. We'll be looking at the message(s) your church is already communicating, both to those who attend it and those who live and work in the community in which it is situated. What is your church saying – and how? Is that the message you want to communicate? How can it be improved?

We'll be covering three key areas: media relations, print and publications, and websites. The course will include plenty of practical sessions to help you sharpen your skills, as well as theoretical input and lots of time to think and talk about your church and its stories!

Gill Nichol is the URC's Press & Media Officer

Kay Parris is Editor of REFORM

Lawrence Moore is the Director of the Windermere Centre



Craft Heaven

2-6 July 2012 £250

Tapestry? Knitting? Weaving? Needlework? What's your craft? Chances are, you'll have a number of unfinished projects lying around the house, and a long list of things you'd love to be able to try your hand at. If that's you, then Craft Heaven is for you! It's a creative space in which things can happen, and a gathering of people with similar passions. It's your chance both to learn and share ... or maybe even teach! Come and relax in a friendly atmosphere. Bring your own craft, your U.F.O.s (Un-Finished Objects), or learn something new: quilting, beading, lace-crafts and much more. Or simply come and be. There will be an optional small charge for a new project kit, and if you can bring a new idea to the group, please offer.



General Card Making

10-14 September 2012 £250

Card Mania

8-12 April 2013 £250

(prices include all materials)

With Barbara Aspinall

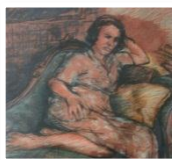
This is a creative and friendly workshop-style course, suitable for novice and expert card-makers alike. The group meet to learn and share a very broad



range of techniques that can be used to make cards for any occasion: weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, bereavement, special events, or just to bring a smile to the recipient's face!

The leader, Barbara, brings all the materials you'll need, and provides tuition that is both patient and inspiring, ranging from demonstrating a new skill to working closely with individual participants.

If you enjoy crafting, good company and good food, then this is the course for you – come and join in the fun!



Painting in Autumn

17-21 September 2012 £250

With Sarah Edwards

This is a painting course for everyone, with any level of experience and ability: Sarah creates an atmosphere of fellowship, patience, and light-hearted fun, as well as

allowing space for participants to work on whatever interests them.

This autumn the tuition will have a particular focus on painting and drawing portraits and figures, with attention paid to ways of handling proportions, features, and on how to use colour to your best advantage.

Sarah is a qualified art teacher, and has been teaching painting and drawing for the past ten years, both for Cardiff Adult Education and independently. Her Windermere Centre courses are becoming increasingly popular, so book now to be sure of securing your place!



Beyond Point & Shoot

12-15 November 2012 £195

12-14 April 2013 £135

With Nina Claridge

The majority of mobile phone users know how to send text and make calls; most of the other features of the mobile are wasted and unused. Most owners of digital cameras know how to point and shoot, zoom in and out, and upload their photos to their computer. This course will introduce you to the features and possibilities of your digital camera. It assumes very little knowledge of photography, and a very basic digital camera. If you have a digital camera and you want to begin to explore and use its features in a non-threatening environment, then this course is for you.

Nina Claridge is a professional photographer (to find out more about Nina, visit her website, www.ninaclaridge.com). We will start by building up by confidence around the Centre and then move out into the Lake District to do some scenic work and landscape photography. This course is also the opportunity to ask all the questions you've always wanted to ask.

We will cover the following:

- Macros
- Architectural photography
- Landscape photography
- Using HDR (multiple images)
- Basic photo editing
- Creating panoramas (photo-stitching)
- Exploring the possibilities on your doorstep- your camera and your environment.

Knit One, Pray One

21-23 January 2013 £125

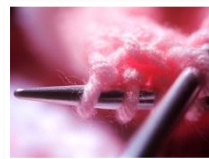
With Anna Briggs

Do you knit? Do you pray? How about spending some time knitting prayer shawls and developing an effective, exciting new ministry for you and/or your church?

Shawl ministry is a simple way of showing people they are cared for and reminding them of that care and love when they are alone. Shawls are made to be given to people who have suffered or are suffering a trauma or a very stressful time. They're to let them know that their prayers and good wishes of the maker and of many other people surround them, even when – especially when – they feel alone. When things are difficult you can feel very cold and shivery – so the prayer shawl can bring warmth in more than one way!

Shawl ministry works on so many levels: for those who receive them, they're treasured long after the crisis is over; for those who make them, they're a simple and immediate way of saying you care. Knitting groups build up friendship for lonely people and make people feel purposeful again. Sometimes shawls are handled and prayed for by the whole group, or blessed in the church on a Sunday. There is something very contemplative about making a shawl as you think of the recipient – truly working a prayer into every stitch.

Anna is an experienced knitting and craft teacher and enabler, and has been involved in Shawl Ministry in the UK since 2007, passing on hundreds of shawls to individuals as well as to groups of people in trouble.



Rag-Rug Making

8-10 March 2013 £175

With Elizabeth Grubb and Jenny Barnes

This ancient craft is currently experiencing a revival given the need to recycle. Rag rugging meets the criteria, as it uses a wide variety of pre-used fabrics; it is certainly a case of reclaiming, reforming and recreating.



This will be an opportunity to work with two experienced tutors who will share their enthusiasm for rag rug making.

During the course Jenny and Elizabeth will cover

- history of rugging
- canvas preparation
- hooking
- prodding
- design [traditional and contemporary]

All materials and tools will be provided.

During the course you will be encouraged to work on a design of your own inspired by examples available, the area itself or your own life experiences, creating an individual piece. There will also be support and advice available if you're hoping to create something for your church.

A word of warning, though: rugging can become addictive!

Jenny and Elizabeth have been creating hooky and clippy rugs for a number of years. They use traditional and contemporary designs often inspired by their travels. Both have their work in a variety of galleries and have exhibited work at various events across Yorkshire in recent years.



Painting in Spring

18-22 March 2013 £250

With Sarah Edwards

This is an art course for everyone; you'll be most welcome, whatever your level of experience and ability!

Sarah is a very patient teacher, and the prevailing atmosphere is one of fun and creativity. As well as being able to benefit from the tuition on offer, participants can opt to work on their own projects whilst enjoying the fellowship of other artists.

This spring the course will have a particular focus on creating urban landscape scenes: using drawing as a foundation to working in watercolour and other media, Sarah will help participants to learn to work accurately with perspective, to create realistic-looking walls and buildings, and to represent effectively doors, windows and other features of town- and cityscapes.

Sarah is a qualified art teacher, and has been teaching painting and drawing for the past ten years, both for Cardiff Adult Education and independently. Her Windermere Centre courses are becoming increasingly popular, so book now to be sure of securing your place!

Advanced Amateur Photography

29 April – 2 May 2013 £195

With Nina Claridge

This course is the next step for those of you who have attended the 'Beyond Point & Shoot' course with professional photographer, Nina Claridge. It is also for people who know their way around their camera and want to explore advanced amateur photography under professional guidance. You will need a camera that has manual mode.

We will cover

- Manual mode
- Filters and lenses
- Photo composition
- Landscape and outdoor photography (Lake District photo shoots)
- Photo editing (Photoshop Elements or its equivalent)

Whether you want to learn how to take specialised photos for worship, or simply to become more expert in using your camera, this is a course not to be missed.



Re-imagining Faith

14-16 September 2012 £130

With Howard Sharp

A lot of energy is being put into re-imagining church with new manifestations and fresh expressions emerging all the time; but what about re-imagining the faith of the church? Is it time to rethink some of our beliefs? This weekend, influenced by the thinking of people like Marcus Borg, Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren and Walter Brueggemann, will look at some of the challenges to rethink our understanding of God, and to look again at what we mean by God, sin, salvation, redemption and Christian ethics.

The course will be led by Revd. Howard Sharp, Moderator of Mersey Synod.



A Year with Luke's Gospel

21-24 January 2013 £180

With Lawrence Moore

Forget trying to digest the entire history of the Ancient Near East, or become an expert in New Testament Greek! If you're a preacher, a Bible study leader or someone who wants to get to grips with Luke's story of Jesus, you need to immerse yourself in the story.

Luke is the Lectionary gospel for 2013 (Year C). This is an opportunity to explore the story Luke wants to tell us about Jesus. We will pay attention both



to the story itself and to the way Luke narrates it: its narrative structure, content, major themes and message. The aim is to introduce you (preachers, worship leaders, disciples and Bible study leaders) to the richness of what is probably the most popular of the four gospels.

We will be spending time exploring how Luke operates as a story-teller and looking at the material unique to his gospel, rather than an extended historical exploration. Narrative approaches to the study of the gospels open up the text to ordinary readers and transform our 'conversation' with it. Expect to have your eyes opened to new insights and to be excited by what you discover.



Discovering Bibliodrama: How to do Bible Study in Bare Feet

12-14 April 2013 £125

With David Tatem

Bibliodrama brings the whole person - body, mind, heart and soul - into an engagement with the stories and characters of the Bible. It is a group activity into which we bring many different facets of our lives in an exploration of texts that uses spontaneity, improvisation in movement, drama, art and music along with the sharing of experiences and reflections with one another. This weekend workshop will provide an introduction into the experience of Bibliodrama as well as an idea of ways in which it can be used. No particular skill or experience is necessary, only the willingness to have a go. It is 'serious play' so for this workshop there is a lower age limit of 16.

Bibliodrama developed largely in Central Europe in the 1970's as the result of a co-operation between dramatists, creative artists, theologians and psychodramatists. It is mostly unknown in the UK.

Revd. David Tatem is currently the Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and trained as a Bibliodrama Facilitator at the Evangelische Akademie in Hamburg. He is a member of the secretariat of the European Bibliodrama Network.



Walk and Talk

4-11 August 2012 £399 or £65/day

With Alvene & John Costello

It's hard to beat the Lake District for good walking! Whether you're walking at 3' or 3,000', you'll be refreshed and renewed. Walk & Talk combines the best of two things: walking and good fellowship. John

and Alvene are URC elders who are experienced walkers and wonderfully hospitable hosts. Come and join them for anywhere from a single day to 6 days' walking in the hills and mountains, while enjoying good company and conversation!

Book your stay at the Centre for £65 per day, including full board and transport. You may book for as long or as short a period as you wish, on whichever days you wish. Plan your Walk & Talk to suit you. After all, the Windermere Centre is *your* place!

Autumn Peaks

21-27 October 2012 £365 or £65/day

With Peter Farrand and Nick Andrews

Walkers and climbers pour into the Lake District each season in their thousands to spend time on the fells and mountains. This is your opportunity to spend time in the Lake District with experienced guides and perhaps attempt walks you might not be confident of doing on your own.

There are two walks offered each day: a high level walk (up to 3,000' of ascent and about 10 miles in distance) and a lower level walk (up to 1,200' of ascent and about 7 miles in distance). Evening activities include films and lectures on mountain safety and similar topics.

Choose your length and time of stay during the period, or come for the whole time.



Winter Peaks

10-16 February 2013 £365 or £65/day

With Peter Farrand and Nick Andrews

Your last chance to get cold feet!

This is the last Winter Peaks ever. It's the end of an era: Peter Farrand has led the Winter Peaks course for many years now, and is retiring. Come and be part of this final expedition on to the winter mountains in the Lake District.

There are two walks offered each day: a high level walk (up to 3,000' of ascent and about 10 miles in distance) and a lower level walk (up to 1,200' of ascent and about 7 miles in distance). Evening activities include films and lectures on mountain safety and similar topics.

Choose your length and time of stay during the period, or come for the whole time.



Walking the Cumbrian Way

3-10 May 2013 £tba

With Nick Andrews

Please keep watching our website for more information about this course: <http://windermere.unc.org.uk>





Older Folks' Fellowship

20-24 August 2012 £320 (including transport)

With Kathie Bennett

For people who want to take life a little more slowly and enjoy good company, good food, good outings and time for prayer, reflection and fellowship: come and spend a

few days in the Lake District at one of the best times of year.

Kathie Bennett is an ordained minister with a special ministry to older people.



NetGen Connections

25-27 January 2013 £62.50

This is the NetGen Connections weekend for the connected generation. Being post-FURY age but still classed as 'young' is sometimes quite challenging within the URC! It can be hard to find a peer group and to identify and keep in touch with colleagues. Being

'NetGen' is about being people who spend a lot of time on the internet, relying on it for information, entertainment, and for social contact.

This weekend is designed to create an informal, friendly space in which those of us in the 24-35 year-old age-bracket can get together, share experiences, enjoy each other's company, and make connections that will hopefully enhance the lives and ministries that we'll return to when the weekend's over.

This is going to be different from the Windermere Centre's usual courses, with less structure and a more relaxed atmosphere. Family and friends are welcome (kids under five stay for free), all activities are optional, and the emphasis will be on sharing and connecting, rather than on conventional learning.

You'll be offered bibliodrama, a trip out, Bible study, and a film to reflect on. Oh – and lots of good times together. The best thing of all is that it's all at half price! Yes, you read it right – we've sorted out a sponsorship deal so that you get the weekend for £62.50 instead of £125. So connect with us – book now!



WCCN Event

11-13 August £60

With Rebecca Gudgeon

This is the annual gathering of the Windermere Centre Contact Network. The Windermere Centre aims to have one Contact in each church, someone

who will act on our behalf, sharing our news and helping to publicise our work. This event is designed to enable Centre staff and Contacts to get together to discuss how best to promote the Centre, as well as to socialise and, of course, to get first-hand experience of the Centre itself! If your church or organisation doesn't yet have a Contact, but you know someone who might be interested in becoming one, please get in touch with Rebecca at the Centre (rebecca.wincen@gmail.com or call 015394 44902) for more information.

Church Secretaries' Weekend

5-7 October 2012 £130

With Lawrence Moore and Linda Rayner

Have they inveigled you into taking on the post of Church Secretary? Are you thinking about it and wondering what it might involve? Have you been a Church Secretary for years and found the role changing under your very nose? Or are you a Church Secretary who would welcome the refreshment, encouragement and fellowship of people in a similar role? If the answer to any of the above is 'yes', then this course is for you!

The Church Secretary plays a key role in the Church. An elder, the Secretary is most commonly the first point of contact with the Church for anyone outside. These days, you'll be deluged with information, requests, appeals, suggestions, forms, questionnaires – and that's just from within the URC! How do you create practical boundaries for the job? How do you sift and evaluate information? How do you keep an eye on all the balls that you're required to juggle? How do you create an effective working relationship with your minister? How do you troubleshoot the job and Church life? How do you act as a Christian leader within the Church as well as an admin expert?

These are the areas and questions we'll be covering during the course.



Church Treasurers' Weekend

2-4 November 2011 £130

With John Ellis and Lawrence Moore

"God's Mission and our Money"

Come and discover why being Church Treasurer is a wonderful job – yes, really!

Join other new and experienced treasurers to:

- Explore the Bible's fascination with money
- Discover where all that M&M money really goes
- Unpack the financial possibilities and challenges ahead for the URC
- Share good ideas for encouraging local giving
- Build budgets that inspire exciting discipleship
- Offer your experience to help colleague treasurers

John Ellis is the Honorary Treasurer for the United Reformed Church.



Come and Sing

30 July – 2 August 2012 £200

With Martyn Smith

If you love music, you can be sure to enjoy this week, which will be packed with both learning and fun. Martyn Smith, the leader, is an elder at Burnley United Reformed Church, and has a real passion for sharing the joys of music. He will



be bringing a wide range of music, both sacred and secular, and it is his hope that everyone will learn something new while they are here, as well as getting even more out of some of the old favourites. There will also be some free time to explore the local area, and of course to relax in the Centre and enjoy our hospitality. There's no need to be shy – everyone is really friendly! Come and sing with us, and enjoy the fellowship of the group and the beauty of the Lakes too.



Finding Your Voice

26-27 November 2012 £60

8-10 February 2013 £130

With Andrew Wood

We may not all be involved in preaching, but many of us are asked to contribute to worship by reading bible passages or prayers.

This course will develop your vocal abilities, help you dramatise passages and readings and encourage you to go forth and do likewise.

Andrew Wood is the Head of Operational Services at the Windermere Centre. He has a background in education and amateur dramatics, and contributes to worship as an elder at Carver United Reformed Church.



Church in the Digital Age: YouTube and Your Church

13-15 July 2012 £130

8-10 February 2013 £130

With Kevin Snyman

"Founded in February 2005, YouTube allows billions of people to discover, watch and share originally-created videos. YouTube provides a forum for people to connect, inform, and inspire others across the globe"

That's from YouTube's 'About' page. The question is, is your church on there? Have you got something to inform, inspire or connect with people? The genius behind YouTube is that it's the video equivalent of blogging: everyone can do it! This is your opportunity to learn how to shoot, edit and upload your very own movie.

You don't need expensive equipment and software. Of course, if you have the equipment, well and good – bring it with you. But the focus of this course is that we'll use a Smartphone and Microsoft and Apple's free movie-editing programmes to learn how to make videos of church life that will be worth putting up on YouTube (or anywhere else you might want to use them!).

Come and learn the process: from working out your plot, through storyboarding, planning your various shots, blocking, editing it all on your computer and then publishing it to YouTube.

Hey there all you aspiring Steven Spielbergs - sign up now! You'll seldom find something so useful that's this much fun!

015394 44902

<http://windermere.urc.org.uk>

iChurch Foundation Level

18-19 November 2012 £40

With Rebecca Gudgeon

If you're heading to the Windermere Centre for our iChurch Level 1 course this November, but are worried that you might get 'caught out' by some of the basics, then you can prepare yourself by joining Rebecca on this short course that we're running in advance of the Level 1 training.

We will be looking at web-browsing and how to get the most out of some popular internet tools, as well as helping to demystify some of that 'techy' terminology which sounds so scary but is actually much easier than you think - honest!

Our aim is that you will be ready to embark with confidence on your journey as a new iChurch webmaster.



iChurch Level 1

19-22 November 2012 £290

With Lawrence Moore and Rebecca Gudgeon

Needing a Church website? Don't have a resident expert or a big budget? If you can use Word, you'll be able to use WordPress – the software platform on which your out-of-the-box, URC-designed website is built. Get a domain name, free hosting for life and unlimited bandwidth. Learn your way around it and have your site up and running by the end of the course. For more details, check out <http://ichurch.urc.org.uk>. Places limited!

You will need: a wireless-enabled laptop running XP, Vista, or Windows 7, or a Mac running OSX. You will also need to be a proficient computer user.



iChurch Level 2

27 February – 1 March 2013 £120

With Lawrence Moore and Rebecca Gudgeon

So you've got your iChurch site up and running on the awesome Wordpress platform. It's doing more than you expected or hoped – but now you want to extend its functionality further. You will do so

- With plugins – learn about the thousands of Wordpress plugins designed just for your needs!
- With sidebars and widgets – learn how to use different sidebars on different pages and your footer to display information
- With shortcodes – there's a whole world of specially designed goodies for you: buttons, columns, drop caps, sliders, boxes, toggles ... all just a click away!



- With social networking – connect with Facebook and Twitter to increase traffic
- With statistical feedback – from Feedburner, Google Analytics and Jetpack
- With galleries – make the most of the gallery features to display your photos.

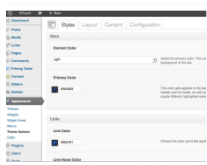


Webmasters' Weekend

1-3 March 2013 £125, or just £62.50 if you're staying on for Level 2 or Level 3 training!

With Lawrence Moore and Rebecca Gudgeon

In the world of iChurch, the webmasters' weekend is as geeky as it gets! This is an opportunity to get together and share tips, tricks and discoveries; delve deeply into the possibilities afforded by the iChurch 4.0 template; and, most importantly, to become au fait with the Support Forum. If, by the end of the weekend, you discover a vocation to become a forum moderator, we'll be delighted to have you on board. This is a time to indulge your geeky tendencies unapologetically in the company of fellow enthusiasts. Saturday night will be given over to popcorn, refreshments and *The Matrix* (with some optional theological reflection). Come and plug yourself in to the iChurch network!



iChurch Level 3

4-6 March 2013 £120

With Lawrence Moore and Rebecca Gudgeon

It's time to wade in and learn some of the tricks of site design to make your site look just as you want it to. Discover the capabilities of the iChurch template and learn how to tweak and customise your site. Learn about

- Custom fonts – you have hundreds of different fonts at your disposal!
- Custom copy – what makes for good copy that will bring visitors to your site again and again
- Custom design – portfolios, design choices, basic photo editing
- Custom tweaks – how to edit your site files when you just can't achieve what you need to; FTP; basic HTML and the wonders of Firebug!
- A new theme – we'll give you a new theme to take away and use as you like!

Recovery from Divorce and Separation

16-18 November 2012 £135

With Erik Castenskiöld

The Recovery from Divorce and Separation (RDS)

Course is for any person who is going through, or who has gone through, separation or divorce at any time in the past. People can be at any stage in the process – they may have recently separated or they may have been divorced for many years.

The course is also for people who have not been married but have had civil partnerships, cohabiting or committed relationships that have ended.

Britain has one of the highest divorce rates in Europe with around forty percent of all first-time marriages ending in divorce. It is often said that relationship breakdown is one of the most stressful events in a person's life.

Divorce is a painful reality in our society, but the church has a message of hope: that individuals can find healing and recovery as they encounter God's love in communities of grace and not judgment. This course is a tool for the church to offer support to those going through separation and divorce.

The Recovery from Divorce and Separation Course's vision is to support and empower people to move forward from their relationship breakdown to live a full life free from the impact of past issues.

The wider vision behind the development of the RDS Course is to provide everyone going through relationship breakdown the support, knowledge and practical tools to give them hope of a successful recovery. The aim is to enable people to be healed of a broken heart, learn from their relationship breakdown and grow strong, deep, meaningful relationships in the future.

Erik Castenskiöld is the originator of the RDS Course. It has helped thousands of people over 20 years and has been developed by divorcees and professionals at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB). Whatever your situation, background or belief it gives you emotional and practical support to recover in a safe, non-judgemental environment.



Advent Retreat

29 November – 2 December 2012 £190

With Lawrence Moore, Lis Mullen & Dorothee Bүүрма

'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us' (Luke 2: 15)

Luke tells us that the birth of Jesus is the most wonderful Good News. It is so good that God sends a heavenly choir of angels to warn a bunch of shepherds not to miss out on the dramatic events taking place in a Bethlehem stable.

Come and be part of the story. Immerse yourself deeply into this time of waiting for the birth of the saviour. We will use some of the insights of bibliodrama as a way of entering into Luke's nativity story. That will enable us



to shape the retreat – times of prayer and different ways of praying, study, reflection, creative activities and outings.

Come expecting a rich time. Don't expect to leave as the same person who arrived. You will have your prayer diary to take home with you, and good, nourishing memories – particularly of the closing Communion service in the stable!

Lawrence Moore is the Director of the Windermere Centre

Revd. Lis Mullen is a minister in the South Lakes Group pastorate

Dorothee Bührma is an ordinand from Northern College, on placement at Carver and with a keen interest in bibliodrama.



Adventures in Faith: Spiritual Direction

3-6 December 2012 £190

With Mark Argent

Spiritual Direction is often spoken of as something more associated with Catholic and Anglican traditions.

Someone from the URC training in spiritual direction or attending a conference is likely to be in a small minority. Yet there are things in the Reformed tradition which look remarkably like "spiritual direction by another name", ranging from the model of ministry in Richard Baxter's *The Reformed Pastor* to what we tend to talk of as pastoral care.

We'll be bring together people who give direction, people who would like to explore training in this area, people who receive direction, and people who are wondering about looking for a spiritual director. The aim is not to propose a URC-specific model of spiritual direction, but rather to explore spiritual direction in a Reformed context. That's both about exploring the riches we bring to the ecumenical encounter, and naming some of our strengths in a way which makes it easier to receive from others.

This is run as a group event, using group process and drawing on the encounters which happen between people in sessions and in social time. There will also be times of silence and experiences of giving and receiving individual spiritual direction, and reflecting on the process.

It's likely to be helpful, though not essential, to include walking in the prayer experience, so it's worth bringing waterproofs.

On previous occasions this event has been enriched by having some participants from outside the URC, so ecumenical friends will be most welcome.



"Visual Bible" Retreat

14-17 February 2013 £185 or £65 per day

With Lawrence Moore and Elizabeth Gray-King

Come and immerse yourself in the Bible in ways you might never have done before. This retreat focuses on visual means of engaging with the biblical texts. It's primarily 'right brain'

stuff! We'll use imagination, story, colour, art, space and silence as means of opening up spaces to meet and hear God.

The general pattern of the day will be to spend time together engaging communally with the text and exploring different ways of 'getting into' the Bible stories. There will be a silent period during the day for deep personal engagement, and an opportunity to spend time with Lawrence and Elizabeth on a one-to-one basis.

Prayers will be shaped by imagining ourselves into the lives and roles of characters in the stories.

This is a retreat – a time to set aside space to encounter the Bible rather than to learn 'about' it. Don't expect to leave the same person as you arrived.

Lawrence Moore is the Director of the Windermere Centre and a Bible teacher.

Revd. Elizabeth Gray-King is an artist and 'visual theologian' who 'thinks in colours'

Come for the whole event, or join us for as much time as you can spare.

Mind, Body & Spirit: The Windermere Refresher!

24-27 June 2013 £210

With Lawrence Moore & Lis Mullen



Come and be refreshed in body, mind and spirit! The Windermere Centre is your place, so why not take advantage of it? We run the Windermere Refresher course for ministers, who are eligible for one every 7 years. It is so enthusiastically received that we thought it time to extend it more widely.

Your time at the Centre will include:

- Bible study and prayer
- Dry stone walling
- Environmental activities in the woods
- Walking in the Lake District (at whatever level you find comfortable)
- Evening prayers at Castlerigg Stone Circle
- A visit to the Theatre by the Lake
- Excellent food
- A bus tour and lake cruise
- A lakeside Communion service

Windermere Online: Between the Covers

Cost: £60

Between the Covers of the Old Testament

30 August – 4 October 2012

(Thursdays, 7.30-9.00pm)

£35 as a separate course

Between the Covers of the New Testament

17 January – 21 February 2013

(Thursdays, 7.30-9.00pm)

£35 as a separate course

With Lawrence Moore

Perhaps you 'know' the Bible as a series of disconnected stories – you know the stories but would struggle to put them into any sort of order. Perhaps you know and love the stories of Jesus, but have no sense of which stories are included in (and which excluded from!) each of the gospels. Perhaps the Old Testament is a closed book of half-remembered (and maybe best-forgotten) events and stories. Maybe you've found Bible studies either inaccessible or boring (or both!) and have a sneaking feeling that things ought to be different. Or maybe you have never got to grips with the Bible and would love to start!

If you want to discover what's between the covers of the Bible from within the comfort of your own home, Windermere Online: Between the Covers is for you. You'll need a computer, headphones (simple 'buds' will do) and a microphone (if you've got a built in mic – which most computers do – you're fine) and a Broadband connection to the Internet.

The course is a 12-unit exploration of the contents of the Bible, led by Lawrence Moore. Using GoToMeeting, you can sign up for a series of either all 12 x 1.5hr sessions (£60) or for either just the 6 Old Testament or 6 New Testament units for £35. The format will be a 'webinar' – i.e. an online seminar. Lawrence will give input and there will be space for discussion. You can participate as little or as much as you wish.

You'll see the course will run on Thursday evenings, from 7.30 to 9.00pm, meaning you can hopefully fit it around work and other commitments.

This course would cost you £240 to do if you came to us, as well as the time and travel. Windermere Online is a way of bringing the teaching and mission resources of the Windermere Centre to you.



From the Director:

Without wishing to be overly dramatic, I believe that the United Reformed Church is at a *kairos* moment. That is probably true of the Christian Church as a whole in these islands, but I believe it is certainly true for us as a denomination. A *kairos* is a God-moment; a decision time. The decisions we take now will determine not only what our future is going to be but whether or not we will have a future.

These sorts of moments can be quite terrifying, but they are also very exciting. We are faced with both the challenge and the opportunity to make a difference for Christ's sake – to do something that really matters. That takes courage, imagination, inspiration and information – probably perspiration, too! If our faith means what we say it does, though, and if we are going to respond, we need to put the time and effort in. That is what we've committed ourselves to doing.

The Windermere Centre programme is offered to you as a resource. It has been shaped around Vision 2020 – the mission priorities we have identified and adopted. Look at it as an individual. What sort of resourcing do you need in terms of your faith, gifts and calling? Ask yourself the same questions about your church and its members. Remember: if you're feeling too recession-hit to come, the Hannah Fund is here to make it possible. Similarly, there's nothing to stop you ringing up and accessing the Hannah Fund on behalf of someone else who might need it.

So come on - sign up! We look forward to welcoming you to the Centre. After all – it's *your* place!

Lawrence



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