



# Developing Lay Preachers in 2011

Assembly-Accredited Lay Preachers in the United Reformed Church may claim up to £200 per year for their ongoing development towards the cost of courses and events organised through the four Resource Centres for Learning of the United Reformed Church, or Training for Learning and Serving (TLS). Further details of any of the courses here can be obtained by contacting the particular Resource Centre for Learning. Lay Preachers who wish to claim for the cost of the courses should contact the relevant training officer in their Synod at an early stage, so that their attendance at a course or event can be authorised for re-imburement. Up to 50% of the development allowance may be used to buy relevant books and resources from any source.

## **The Windermere Centre**

015394 44902

E-mail: [windermere.centre@gmail.com](mailto:windermere.centre@gmail.com)

[www.windermere.urc.org.uk](http://www.windermere.urc.org.uk)

Check the website for further details of the courses described below and also:

- Website in a week: 11-14 November 2010
- Knit One, Pray One: 12-14 November 2010
- The sky's the limit - Designing a website from the ground up: 18-21 November
- Winter Peaks – Guided Walking Holiday: 20-26 February 2011
- Project Planning: 28 February-3 March 2011
- Painting in Spring: 14-18 March 2011
- Church Secretaries Course: 18-20 March 2011
- Website in a week: 4-7 April 2011

## **2010**

**26-28 November: A Weekend of Folk and Faithfulness** with Malcolm Fife and Lawrence Moore. Folk music has always been one of the most popular and enduring ways of expressing faith because it is the means by which people set their lives to music, The music of the protest movement, country and western music and gospel all have roots within the folk tradition, and that is what you will be exploring this weekend. Come and bring your voice and/or your instruments – there will be plenty of chance to participate. Cost £130.

**6-9 December: The Imitation of Christ, Advent Retreat** with Lawrence Moore and Lis Mullen. The Imitation of Christ is a classic of Christian spirituality. Written in 1418 by Thomas a Kempis, and one of the greatest manuals of devotion in pre-Reformation Catholic Christianity. Its fans, however, have not been only Catholic. John Wesley and John Newton both list it as a book that influenced their conversions. Still published today it remains a 'must-read' for those people who want to relate the spirituality to following Jesus of Nazareth. The book will be the focus of the Advent retreat, offering themes to be followed in various ways in a time for rest, relaxation, refreshment and deep engagement with God through Jesus Christ in preparation to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Cost: £180

## **2011**

**14-16 January: Evangelism, the Bible & the URC** with Lawrence Moore. If we're not engaged in calling people to follow Jesus, we are failing to be the Church. This is evangelism for the whole United Reformed Church – evangelical, liberal, traditional or catholic. Explore what evangelism is, why we do it, how we do it and how we become comfortable doing it, both personally and as churches. Cost: £125

**17-20 January: A year with Matthew's Gospel: Worship, Preaching, Prayers and Liturgy with Lawrence Moore.** Matthew is the Lectionary gospel for 2011. Come and discover what's between the covers, how Matthew's story 'works', themes for preaching, prayers shaped by the gospels and ideas for worship. Cost: £180.

**9-12 February: Thinking Ahead: Pentecost and Church Anniversaries with John Campbell, Wendy White and Linda Rayner.** Plan your Pentecost and Church Anniversary as occasions for evangelism. Create your "look", message, and publicity material. Generate ideas and a programme. See how easy it is to do gentle, accessible, attractive evangelism through inviting friends and members of your community to your big event. Cost: £190.

**14-17 February: Singing Allowed with John Bell of the Iona Community.** A time to look at the importance of music, and particularly song, in the life of faith and its role in public worship. There will be reflections on the purpose of congregational song, how to enable and improve it, and how to deal with the age-old lament about insufficient resources and resistance to change. This course is especially aimed at worship leaders and musicians.

**21-24 March: Inclusive God, Inclusive Church with Lawrence Moore, Peter Noble and Jim Coleman.** "Inclusivity is not an optional extra for Christians. It has nothing to do with being liberal and is 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).

Come and explore United Reformed Church identity in preparation for the campaign of evangelism and radical welcome as we look at some key contemporary theological texts. Cost: £190

**28-31 March: Telling the URC Story with Roberta Rominger and Lawrence Moore.** If you're thinking about being part of the URC's evangelism, marketing and identity campaign, this is

something you mustn't miss. Our story is a great one – a Church called into being to live out a radical, obedient faith. That's why we're here and why we're taking the extraordinary step of marketing the Church to people who want to make connections between their own spirituality and discipleship of Jesus Christ. Cost: £180

**21-25 April: Adventures in Faith: Easter Retreat with the URC Retreats Group.** Faith ought to be vital and exciting! We're often content to spend our lives in the shallows and miss the depths. Come and refresh and revitalize your faith, immersing yourself in the Easter story as you spend time in prayer, study, contemplation and conversation. You won't be the same afterwards. Cost: £240

**23-26 May Adventures in Faith: Spiritual Direction with Mark Argent.** Serious about following Jesus Christ – 'seeing him more clearly, loving him more dearly, following him more nearly, day by day'? Spiritual Direction is a well-kept secret in our Reformed tradition that could literally change your life! Whether you're keen, curious or apprehensive, but open to God doing new things, come and learn and experience what's possible through spiritual direction. Cost: £180.

*The programme for the rest of 2011 will be available from January.*

## **The Scottish College**

0141 332 7667

E-mail: [scottishcollege@urcscotland.org.uk](mailto:scottishcollege@urcscotland.org.uk)  
[www.scotland.urc.org.uk](http://www.scotland.urc.org.uk)

An extensive brochure of one-day courses which are organised by the College in different parts of Scotland can be obtained through the contacts given above. Residential courses in **2011** include:

**3-5 May: Beside the Lake with Revd John Arthur.** Small wonder that the natural beauty of the Lakeland region around Windermere nurtured and attracted poets as well as painters – Wordsworth, Coleridge, Tennyson and more.

We have time together in the heart of the lakes to read and listen to some of that poetry and to explore its background and setting. The poetry not only reflects something of the wonder of the area but also the political, religious and social issues confronting society then and now. Based at the Windermere Centre. Cost: £155 (excluding admissions and local transport).

**17-19 May: *Joy in the Moment – Ministry with people with dementia.*** At the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh. The Revd Fran Ruthven, associate tutor of the College, and minister with special responsibility for ministry with older people at Morningside church will lead this course. It will help participants to think through and find positive ways of working with the challenges of ministry with those who have dementia, looking at spiritual care, worship and the social context. Cost: in the region of £250, including materials.

## **Westminster College**

01223 741084

E-mail: [admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk)

[www.westminster.cam.ac.uk](http://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk)

**20-23 June 2011 *Renewing Preaching: 'A conference to celebrate preaching'*.** For all those who are passionate about preaching. Main speakers: Joe Aldred, Anna Carter Florence, Sam Wells. Also... workshops, drama, discussion and worship. Some of the sessions will be held at other Cambridge venues. Cost: £260

### ***Lay Preachers & Worship Leaders Conferences***

*Choice of dates:*

*Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 or*

*Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011 or*

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010*

Organised and led by Westminster College teaching staff. This year's broad theme is 'Identity: human, Christian, Reformed, URC'. There will be sessions on the Bible, on contemporary theology, on preaching and worship. The aim is to resource and encourage lay preachers and worship leaders in their ministry, with a welcome to those with only a little or with many years of experience. A time for worship, reflection, good food and friendship.

Costs: to be confirmed (approx £110 including full board; reduced rate for non-residents with lunches/dinners).

## **Northern College**

0161 249 2504 (Learning at Luther King House)

E-mail: [learning@lkh.co.uk](mailto:learning@lkh.co.uk)

[www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk](http://www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk)

Northern College tutors contribute to shared short courses which are offered through Luther King House and delivered ecumenically, thus offering a wide variety of theology courses for personal interest. Mostly midweek, 30-hour courses, through 10 weekly 3 hour sessions. Please enquire for more details about the range of courses on offer. Course fee: £105 (excluding meals or accommodation, which are bookable through Luther King House reception: 0161 224 6404, [reception@lkh.co.uk](mailto:reception@lkh.co.uk))

### ***21-23 June 2011 Lay Preachers' Conference: Rejuvenation for Preachers and Worship Leaders***

A mid-week event (from lunchtime on Tuesday to lunchtime on Thursday) involving Bible engagement, discussions and activities intended to intrigue, stimulate and refresh preachers and worship leaders and start new ideas growing and developing.

Led by the staff of Luther King House, including David Goodbourn (ideas about adult learning), John Campbell (bringing the Bible alive), Kathy White (Hebrew Bible for today), Jonathan Tallon (New Testament topics) and Andrew Pratt (liturgy, worship and hymns). All in the relaxing comfort of Luther King House, South Manchester – a leafy oasis in the city with an extensive and up-to-date theological library right there in the middle.

Costs: £185 residential (including all meals and accommodation); £ 90 non-residential (including lunches and evening meal)

### ***Church Saturdays (see overleaf)***

Day events costing £10 for the day (overnight accommodation may be available but needs to be booked separately – please enquire). Please book in advance.

November 27<sup>th</sup> 2010: **“God at the Movies? – Contemporary Film and Popular Spirituality”**, with Luther King House Baptist tutor Revd Glen Marshall: What does cinema teach us about spirituality today? Can film be a means of spiritual encounter?

January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011: **Thinking ahead about Easter**, with Revd John Campbell, Principal of Northern College. (Morning session will focus on preparing for Holy Week. Afternoon session will focus on preparing for Easter).

March 19<sup>th</sup> 2011: **Creative prayer: an opportunity to explore how we can use words, images and symbols to help us in our prayer, worship and spirituality** with URC minister Revd Jan Berry, Luther King House MA Programme Leader. We'll introduce ideas and resources for use in corporate worship or private prayer at any time, but with a particular focus on Easter and Pentecost.

June 18<sup>th</sup> 2011: **God in The City – An Urban Retreat**, with Luther King House Baptist tutor Revd Glen Marshall. A chance to explore what it means to seek the presence of God in the city. Includes a time of retreat in Manchester city centre. (Bring or buy your own packed lunch.)



Your involvement with TLS does not have to end with the completion of Gateways into Worship. TLS strengthens knowledge, discipleship and service in the church through home study units, residential weekends, tutorial meetings, and practical engagement. Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers may use their £200 annual development allocation towards the fees for any of the one year courses.

### **Performing Arts in Worship**

Use performing arts to enrich your experience and/or leading of worship. Make a selection of disciplines from drama, dance, movement, mime, music and speaking to increase your confidence

and group performance to inspire worship and invigorate outreach. No previous experience in the performing arts is assumed.

### **Gateways into Prayer**

For Prayer Group leaders or potential leaders, and for those involved in creating or conducting Worship who wishes to deepen their spirituality. Participants will be enabled to apply insights from a wide range of past and present expressions of spirituality to their own experience and to equip them to help others to do likewise.

### **Gateways into Pastoral Care**

For anyone seeking to add depth and skills to their care of people. The course seeks to deepen each individual's understanding of themselves, others and the gospel and to turn new insights into active love and care.

### **Developing Community Experiences**

Your church may be involved in community work or wish to be so, or you may be serving within a voluntary organisation and wish to enhance both the work of the organisation and your own contribution. You will gain confidence and skills in the field of community development work, stimulating practical engagement in such work from a faith basis.

### **Gateways into Evangelism**

For people who are, or wish to be, involved in looking at mission/evangelism. Relevant for people who see opportunities for expressing and embodying their faith evangelistically but are not sure how to take steps in this. The year will be of interest to those who consider that finding fresh expressions of church is a crucial contemporary issue. The course offers the opportunity to gain a deep and broad understanding of evangelism informed by Christ-like integrity and the search for holistic outcomes.

### **Where to apply**

The prospectus and application form can be obtained from the TLS Administrator: Mrs H Skidmore, 27 Yew Tree Road, Elkesley, Retford, Notts, DN22 8AY.

Full details of all TLS courses and an application form are also available on the URC website [www.urch.org.uk](http://www.urch.org.uk)